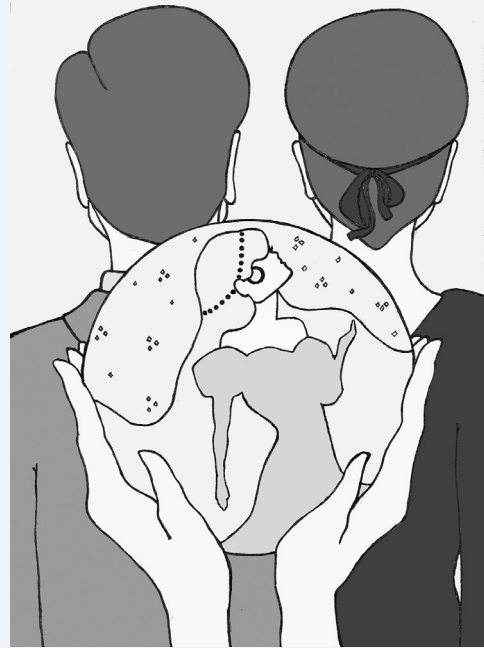


ACT 1 Theatre Presents

# Blithe Spirit

by Noel Coward



**April 8-10**  
**April 15-17**  
**April 22-24**

7pm Fridays & Saturdays  
 2pm Sunday matinees

**Tickets online:**

Adults \$15  
 Students, Seniors, Military \$10

**Tickets at the door:**

Adults \$20  
 Students, Seniors, Military \$15

[www.Act1TheatreProductions.com](http://www.Act1TheatreProductions.com)

## GRAY

From Page 3

She was back on course for her goal again and a short time later made debuted at ACT 1 with ACT 1 with *The Last Five Years*.

In retrospect, she now says that that play with its cast of only two actors let her get her feet wet again before diving head first into a full-length, multiple-actor show.

The longer the play, she explained, the more there is of everything with which she has to work.

Her greatest challenge, she determined, was going to be organizing her involvement in the many aspects of a play for which a stage manager is responsible — combining into a cohesive performance the props and costumes with the human involvement of actors, directors and technicians.

How well are they all coming together? Is everyone getting along?

Before stepping back from *The Fantasticks* earlier than expected, Gray insisted on one principle with the director about what to do when all isn't going quite right and people are stressing out:

"Don't give them your number. Give them my number."

That message was later conferred to the entire crew: Let Kelly handle it.

She said she intended to be "always in the middle. Everything comes through me."

Now as rehearsal begins on *Blithe Spirit* she finds herself not "in the middle" but up front as the director.

As a stage manager she said she had found her focus in the movements and pace of the play, watching for the cues that contributed to the play's progress. As director she finds herself working with the seven actors in interpreting the play

and their roles in it.

She also has found there are divergent ideas emerging through those interpretations and they're not necessarily "right or wrong."

Asked her idea of what *Blithe Spirit* is all about, she points to one line from the play that she believes captures its essence:

"It's discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit."

By the end of the show she notes that all in it are telling the truth. And chaos ensues.

As she continues down the path toward her theater career, she carries with her dreams of varying magnitude.

One of her bigger dreams is to get a master's degree in theater management or directing.

Her biggest is to study for and fulfill that dream in London.

Re-awaken your  
 imagination



**ACT 1**  
 Theatre

**Studio of Theatrical Arts**  
 5814-152nd Ave. Ct. E., Suite 104\*  
 Sumner, WA 98390

\*Next to Fred Meyer Gardening Center

**ACT 1 Theatre is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible**



Donations are always welcome.

Please visit us on Facebook or at [ACT1TheatreProductions.com](http://ACT1TheatreProductions.com)

Re-Awaken  
 Your Imagination

FREE • TAKE ONE

**ACT 1**  
 Theatre



**AD LIB**  
 Newsletter March 1, 2016

MOTHER GOOSE TELLS ALL

# Take a gander at our bi-lingual tell-all



Photo by CLIFF ROWE

Mother Goose playwrights are: Grace Velzy, Caroline Knote and Michelle Larsen

By Cliff Rowe

Give three high school seniors an opportunity to step into the shoes of Mother Goose and what do you get?

From three would-be playwrights at Sumner High School you get:

- An opportunity to revisit four popular fairy tales, three of them well known (*Cinderella*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *The Princess and the Pea*) and one not so well known (*Little Ida's Flowers*)
- Presented in a multi-generational frame (flashbacks from *Big Cinderella*, and new perspectives from *Little Cindy*, for example)
- Told through two languages (English and Spanish) by (among others) Mother Goose herself as well as Tia Gansa (Aunt Gansa)
- Dancing flowers, a royal wedding, a

princess, a castle, a fairy godmother (of course) and a witch (another of course, of course)

The playwrights who came up with all this are Caroline Knote, Michelle Larsen and Grace Velzy. They have titled it, *Mother Goose Tells All*.

As rehearsals began, they stepped from behind their laptops into front-row seats just off-stage. There, in conjunction with Director Jessie Glancey and Stage Manager Andrew Arends (who also plays Prince

See **MOTHER GOOSE**, Page 2

**PRINCIPAL CAST**

<b>Mother Goose</b>	Emily Klemkow
<b>Tia Gansa</b>	Spud Stevens
<b>Cinderella</b>	Savannah Bryant
<b>Charming</b>	Andrew Arends
<b>Little Cinderella</b>	Michayla Bryant
<b>Step-sister</b>	Marissa Jones
<b>Step-sister</b>	Kiera Glancy
<b>Fairy Godmother</b>	Mika Magbanua
<b>Little Charming</b>	Kaden Stevens
<b>Step-mother</b>	Emily Mayberry
<b>Little Ida</b>	Ashleigh Heineman
<b>Hansel</b>	Joshua Morberg
<b>Gretel</b>	Jayden Hansen
<b>Witch</b>	Jessica Carlson
<b>Big Ida</b>	Stephanie Larsen
<b>Queen</b>	Destinee Jones
<b>Thomas</b>	Linkin Wilson
<b>Flowers</b>	Sophia Morberg Sophie Orozco Elizabeth Carlson Audrey Glancy



Join us for ACT 1 Theatre's

# GRAND WEBSITE RELAUNCH PARTY

complete with visits from

The Rhubarbarians **AND** The Synchronized Land Swimmers

both under the direction of Petra Karr

ACT NOW! Youth IMPROV **AND** The Sumo Orchestra

under the direction of Kelly Ann Gray

under the direction of Taylor August Giles

Two Nights: **APRIL 1&2** at 7p.m.

Tickets \$20 online & \$25 at the door

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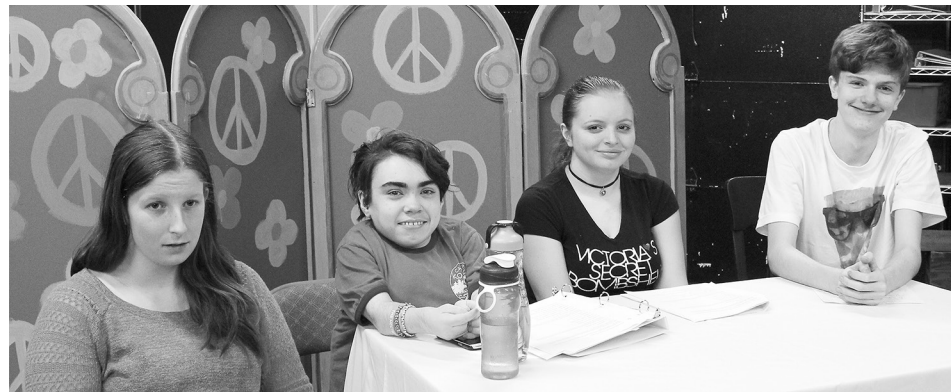


Photo by CLIFF ROWE

*Starring in Mother Goose Tells All are: Emily Klemkow as Mother Goose; Spud Stevens as Tia Ganza; Savannah Bryant as Cinderella, and Andrew Arends as Prince Charming.*

## MOTHER GOOSE

From Page 1

Charming) they have helped bring their script to life.

At their disposal is a cast of 23 youngsters ranging in age from 5 to 19.

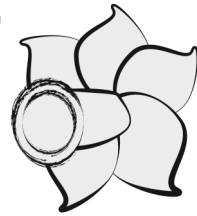
This ensemble approach seems appropriate to the retelling of *Mother Goose*,

who, through the centuries, has embodied no one in particular and everyone in general in transforming the vigor of imagination into the power of story telling whether in book, song, film or onstage.

ACT 1 Theatre gives over its stage to *Mother Goose Tells All* and company March 11, 12, 13. Show times: 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. All tickets: \$10.

### STRUT YOUR STUFF

Time for  
a jaunt  
with the  
jonquils



**D**on't just watch the world pass you by. Strut your stuff.

It's Daffodil Parade time again and ACT 1 Theatre is looking for people young and old to join our Synchronized Land Swimmers unit for all four cities of the procession.

Sporting 1920s-style swimwear, goggles and old-time fabric swim caps, you will "swim" to the Broadway classic "There's No Business Like Show Business."

We will add some spectacular water moves this year, and employ the use of tarps around the crew to suggest water.

The rehearsals will be as follows:

**March 12** from 1-4 p.m.

**March 26** from 9-noon

**April 2** from 9-noon

**The parade is on April 9** and it is mandatory that you attend at least two of the three rehearsals to perform. Better yet if you can attend all three.

No experience required - just energy, stamina, and a desire to be a part of a local, historic tradition in the Northwest.

We need to be in downtown Tacoma no later than 7 a.m. - swim through Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner and wrap up the day at about 7 p.m. at the fantastic community party in Orting. If you've never experienced the Orting party, you've never truly experienced the Daffodil Parade.

It's long. It's fun. It's taking ACT 1 to the streets.

For more information, please call 253-447-4139.

## Her road to a theater career has detoured through Sumner

By Cliff Rowe

**S**ince the first of 2015, Kelly Ann Gray has taken sizable steps along her chosen path toward a theater career.

As 2016 dawned, she was preparing to stage manage *The Fantasticks*, which was presented in February at the Sumner theater and also staged at Wesley Homes in Des Moines – the latter without Gray.



Photo by CLIFF ROWE

*Kelly Ann Gray's pursuit of a career in theater started out in Texas and along the way has taken a detour through the ACT 1 Studio in Sumner, Wash.*

Circumstances had abruptly bumped her from that path.

First, job commitments denied her sufficient time for theater involvement right

then. she was also preparing to direct ACT 1's April production of *Blithe Spirit* about the same time, and directing youth improv ACT Now.

Gray's preparation for a behind-the-scenes theater career began about the time she graduated with a theater major from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Diploma in hand, she found her first job out of school in an entertainment store in Denton, Texas, merchandising stock that included books, recordings, video and other entertainment products.

When the store closed down last year, Gray moved to Puyallup to live with her grandparents and other family. There she learned that ACT 1 Theatre in Sumner was in the market for a stage manager and met the theater's artistic director, Petra Karr.

### Kelly Gray's ACT 1 repertoire is vast

As one of many key ACT 1 Theatre volunteers, Kelly Ann Gray also works with the theater's development committee on funding and directs ACT 1's youth improvisational team: ACT Now.

She also teaches two theater classes at the Sumner YMCA and has part-time jobs elsewhere in the community provide additional income.

"This [theater] is what I love to do, and I would do it for no money," she said, "but I have to survive."

Through theater she said she also finds an "opportunity for giving back to the community, or showing those in the community something they haven't seen before."

"Perhaps we can get them thinking about critical societal issues," she said. "Maybe we can help create some justice if they see a play that really touches them."

See **GRAY** on Page 4