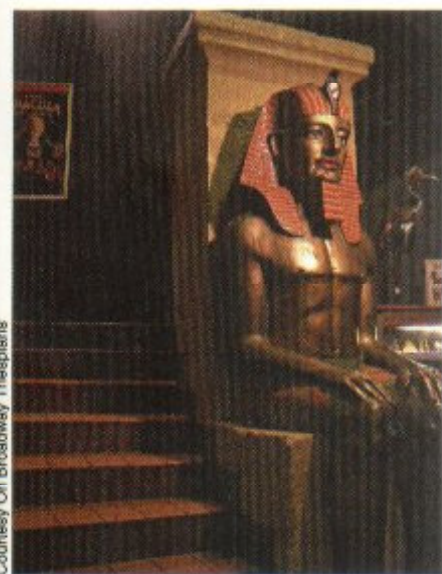


"It's the only game in town where people from all ages, colors, creeds, and walks of life work on one project together, where the only expectation is to have fun."

—Tommy Jones, Chetco Playhouse



Courtesy On Broadway Thespians

built in 1924. The Liberty follows the conventional styling of the popular vaudeville-movie-palace era of the early 1900s. It has been the home of Little Theatre on the Bay, one of the oldest community theater organizations in Oregon, since 1959.

"Theater is important in our community as a means of neighbors coming together to share a common experience," says Donald Williston, business manager.

The annual productions are *Little Ole Opry on the Bay* in July and *Country Christmas* in December. The theater group usually performs at least three other classic plays each year. (541-756-4336; www.ltoB.net)

year they showcased the talents of children and professional, semi-professional, and community actors with the U.S. premiere of *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter*, by Astrid Lindgren, who also wrote *Pippi Longstocking*. Their 39th original production, *American Folk Tales*, premieres in August, and includes puppets and live actors. The production features several famous folktales, including *Br'er Rabbit*.

The Oregon Coast Children's Theater started in Nehalem in 1990, then moved to Toledo in 2001. They are moving to a new, yet-undetermined, location this year, but remain dedicated to staying in Toledo. "We're very excited about being in Toledo, with the really strong arts scene," says Adrian. "That's why we decided to move here." (503-790-0952; www.oregoncoastchildrenstheatre.com)

NORTH BEND Little Theater on the Bay

A historic theater in the bay area is the Liberty Theater Building,

www.northwestmagazines.com

COOS BAY On Broadway Thespians

The On Broadway Thespians recently moved from the On Broadway Theater into their new digs—the historic Egyptian Theatre and Gussies Dinner Theater.

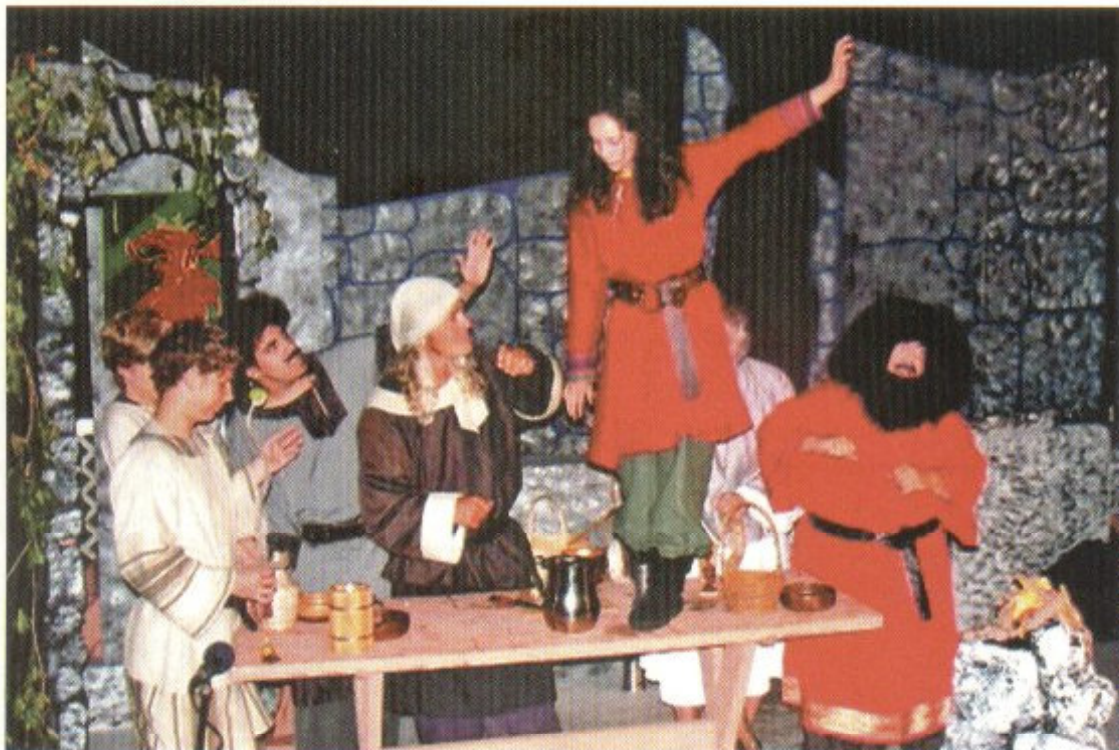
Dramas, comedy, musicals, and children's theater are all fair game for the Thespians, and they perform with extraordinary professionalism. They plan on offering seven shows this year.

The classic Egyptian Revival style of the 83-year-old Egyptian Theatre is reason alone to see a play there. Eight-foot tall pharaohs stand guard at the stairways, wrought-iron ceiling lights in the form of hooded cobras stand ready to strike, and columns at the stage contain hieroglyphic writing.

"We were told that the last performance of a live play at the Egyptian was over 80 years ago, and we had the unique fortune to be able to use the painted drops for our background for three of our four shows," says Leatha Lewison Gonzalez, president of On Broadway Thespians. "At Gussies we will be able to focus on being a group that works well in a smaller, cozier, more intimate setting." (Egyptian Event Hotline 541-269-8650; www.onbroadwaytheater.com)

BANDON Sprague Theater

Since its opening production of *South Pacific* in 2000, the Sprague Theater has hosted a variety of events. The Sprague is the venue for local groups such as the Bandon



Courtesy Oregon Coast Children's Theater