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Community

9th Street Gallery sponsors storytelling event at the Newport's Visual Art Center



Kate and David Adamson, the "Storyharmonics."

David and Katy Adamson, owners of the 9th Street Gallery, will sponsor an evening of storytelling for adults and mature teens on Thursday, at the Visual Art Center in Nye Beach. Lawrence Howard and Lynne Duddy, the Portland storytelling duo known as Storyharmonics, will weave their tales, both solo and tandem. The doors to this free event will open at 7:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and beverages being served. The story telling begins at 8 p.m.

The tellers will be in town for the 12th annual Stories by the Sea Storytelling Festival. All day Friday they will bring their tales to local area schoolchildren, grades K through 12, performing six shows at Siletz and Eddyville charter schools. Lynne and Lawrence have been telling stories professionally for about six years, ever since Lynne attended the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tenn. "She came back, and she was just on fire," says Lawrence. "She was so full of enthusiasm that it spilled over to me, too." Two weeks later, they were invited to tell at a Halloween coffeehouse event, and their careers were launched.

In addition to the work they do with children, they have a particular passion for telling stories to adults. "Adults are hungry for stories, starving, really," says Lawrence. "In this age of television and movies and electronic media, people have a longing, a deep need for that simple, heartfelt connection that you get when you listen to a storyteller in person." He likes to say that "the story is told face to face, eye to eye, and heart to heart."

Lynne created Portland Story Theater specifically to meet that need. Working in collaboration with other tellers, Portland Story Theater produces three to five shows per year, bringing quality storytelling to an adult audience. "We started out telling folktales and literary works, but over the last few years, we have shifted over to telling personal stories from our own lives," says Lynne. "That's what Portland Story Theater is known for now."

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The program they will present at the Visual Arts Center is called "Fish Got To Swim, Bird Got To Fly," a reference to a line from Kurt Vonnegut's classic novel, "Cat's Cradle" - "Fish got to swim, bird got to fly, man got to sit and wonder why, why, why."

"A big piece of what makes us human is the overwhelming need to make sense of things, to find or create meaning in the things we do and the things that happen to us," says Lynne. "Stories are the way that we find meaning in our experience."

Lawrence will tell "Night Blues," a personal story about the summer his older brother worked as a mate on a fishing boat out of Freeport, New York. Lynne will tell "The Adventures of Mega Chicken," a true story about terrifying encounters with ferocious poultry. Lawrence will tell "Bird in the Dojo," a tale from his long-ago days in the martial arts. And together they will tell "It's In Your Hands," a poignant folktale about the power we all have to make choices in our lives.

For more information call 9th Street Gallery at 265 8930.

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