



# Driftwood Players

P.O. Box 1956  
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## Time Now for *The Last Five Years*

Theatre lovers have many opportunities in Driftwood's production of *The Last Five Years*, which opens April 27, to blissfully geek out.

Director Sara Henry, along with Co-Director and Musical Director Alex Eddy, has scheduled talkbacks after the Sunday matinees on May 6 and May 13. The audience will be invited to stay after the performance for a Q-and-A session with the actors and directors to discuss the process of working through the roles and developing the show.

Sara has provided two casts for the two-character show: Jerrod Phelps and Tamara Helland (as Jamie Wellerstein and Cathy Hiatt) and Christian Fruto and Kendall Cavin will alternate performances throughout the run (see schedule at right). Sara says we're going to see different shows and that we should see both. The actors understand the singular "goal of the show" that she gave them, but "it's being done differently because they are four different actors." The distinct performances will give the audience a chance to rethink their opinion of the characters and perhaps to achieve a deeper understanding of the story.

The musical itself, written by Jason Robert Brown, employs an unconventional storytelling technique. The story examines the five year ro-

mantic relationship of a successful writer, Jamie Wellerstein, and an aspiring actress, Cathy Hiatt, from beginning to breakup. Sara says that time is the third character in the show, and Jamie and Cathy sing their stories separately, in inverse chronological order: Cathy begins at the end and moves toward the beginning, while Jamie starts at the beginning and sings to the end. The characters only interact directly in a touching wedding duet in the middle of the play. The songs, however, relate the characters thematically across time; for example, at one point Jamie sings about his success as a writer at the beginning of the relationship, while Cathy is struggling as an actress near the end.

There is minimal dialogue in the show, resulting in what Sara describes as an 80-minute marathon for the singers, who are accompanied solely by Alex on piano. The simple accompaniment mirrors the simplicity of Julanyne Fleury's set design, which approximates a black box set and has no defined locations.

Tickets for *The Last Five Years* are \$15. Rush tickets are available at the door only for \$10 with a student ID. For this production, Driftwood has also added two special, pay-what-you-can performances, on Thursday nights, May 3 and May 10. As Alex shared recently on social media, for

those two shows "if all you can afford to spend ... is a buck, we'll take it! Similarly, if you've always thought the tickets for Driftwood are severely underpriced, feel free to come and lay down a fifty!"

We think this show is gonna be worth fifty bucks.

### Play Dates and Cast Schedule

Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.  
Jerrod Phelps and Tamara Helland

Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.  
Christian Fruto and Kendall Cavin

Thursday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Christian Fruto and Kendall Cavin

Friday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.  
Jerrod Phelps and Tamara Helland

Saturday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Christian Fruto and Kendall Cavin

Sunday, May 6, 1:30 p.m.  
Jerrod Phelps and Tamara Helland

Thursday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Jerrod Phelps and Tamara Helland

Friday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Christian Fruto and Kendall Cavin

Saturday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Jerrod Phelps and Tamara Helland

Sunday, May 13, 1:30 p.m.  
Christian Fruto and Kendall Cavin

# ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 7

The Driftwood Players annual members meeting is at 6 p.m. Monday, May 7, in the green room at the Playhouse.

Members are invited to hear reports from the board, participate in board elections, and choose this year's service award winners.

## Board election

An appointed nominating committee (Sara Henry, Julayne Fleury, Debbie Scoones, and Kathe Rowe) has recruited the following candidates for the officer and trustee elections:

### OFFICERS

President - Terry Rogers  
Vice President - Debbie Scoones  
Secretary - Bryan Blackburn  
Treasurer - Ben Hohman

### TRUSTEES

Costumes - Kathe Rowe  
Front of House - Valerie Parker  
Lights and Sound - Alex Eddy  
Make-up - Sara Henry  
Newsletter - Cliff Green  
Programs - Terry Rogers  
Props - Jordan Wolfe  
Sets - Julayne Fleury  
Social Media/Website - Bri Bonell/  
Larry Tingwall

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor for any of the

positions listed above. Any member in good standing for one season, or who has participated in the production of two shows in the 2017-18 season, is eligible to run.

## Service awards

Nominations for Driftwood's two annual service awards will be made at the membership meeting. Any member in good standing can make a nomination and cast a vote.

The Mabs George Service Award is Driftwood's highest honor. It is awarded to a member volunteer who demonstrates excellence and dedication to the theatre.

The Betty Butler is given to a member of the larger Grays Harbor community who has gone above and beyond in support of the theatre.

## Awards Banquet

The Driftwood Players annual awards banquet is Saturday, June 2, at the Grays Harbor Country Club. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony and director roasts.

Tickets are \$29 per person. They can be purchased at the theatre during the run of *The Last 5 Years*, or by contacting Terry Rogers at 360-580-7530 or Sue Keltner at 360-532-8243.



Photo by Keith Krueger

**GOOD JOB** The audience enjoyed Driftwood's February and March production of *It's Only a Play*. Above, from left, front: Valerie Parker, Sara Henry, and Angel Howard; back: Dave Foscue, Jeff Rockwell, Jeff Rýser, and Cliff Green. Not pictured: Mentor Director Ben Hohman and Director in Training Christopher Logan.



Photo by Keith Krueger

**REMARKABLE** Business Manager Sue Keltner reports that the Christmas season production of *Nun-crackers* sold out every show to achieve 100 percent attendance. Above, from left, front: Monica Ewing, Debbie Scoones, and Patty Sundstrom; middle: Louise Hoover, Kathe Rowe, Bryan Blackburn, and Stacy Murphy; back: Sofia Da Silva, Michael Turpin, Jake Hammer, and Mikaela Murphy.

## Auditions Alert!

*Orphans* by Lyle Kessler  
Mentor Director: Ben Hohman  
Director in Training: Jim Patrick

May 8, 7:30 p.m., at Driftwood  
May 9, 7:30 p.m., at Driftwood

Needed:

Two young men who look in their 20s  
One man 50+

For scripts or the audition selections, contact Jim Patrick at [jamesthomaspatrik@gmail.com](mailto:jamesthomaspatrik@gmail.com).

## 5th Avenue Visits Driftwood

Children's theatre returned to Driftwood Playhouse on March 15.

The 5th Avenue Theatre's educational touring company performed two shows of the musical *Rosie the Riveter* for third graders from McDermoth, Robert Gray, Cosmopolis, Stevens, and St. Mary School.

Children's Theatre Trustee Val Sullivan says that the kids were mesmerized by their experience in the theatre and that the 5th Avenue actors appreciated the chance to perform for the kids in a real theatre, instead of in a school cafeteria.

Next year Val hopes to expand the program to include more Grays Harbor area schools.