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Media Release

Bag & Baggage Productions Offers Hillsboro Students Professional Theatre Experiences

Through their Passport and Pre-Professional Training programs, Bag & Baggage is providing opportunities for students to participate in professional theatre both as audience members and as part of the production

September 4, 2014, Hillsboro, OR – Bag & Baggage Productions (B&B), Hillsboro’s only professional theatre troupe, has long provided free tickets to its performances to local high school students, thanks to the generosity of sponsors and patrons. With its current adaptation of Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*, however, B&B has taken its partnership with Hillsboro School District a step further by offering a “Pre-Professional Training” program for nine students from Glencoe and Hillsboro High Schools.

The training program is made possible by grants received from the Ritz Family Foundation, the Reser Family Foundation, and Hillsboro Arts and Culture Council. Students starring in the show include Glencoe’s Alexandria Morgan as Tituba, Emily Upton as Mercy Lewis, Maddie Ogden as Mary Warren, and Taylor Dixon as Sarah Good; and Hilhi’s Hanna Brumley as Susanna Walcot and Melory Mirashrafi as Betty Parris. Production crew members include Glencoe’s Sammy Sagar, Sound Designer; Ali Strelchun, Assistant Stage Manager; and James Eck, Lighting Board Operator.

“The young accusers in Miller’s play are crucial to the story and the plot,” said B&B’s Artistic Director Scott Palmer, who, alongside B&B Resident Acting Company member Cassie Greer, is providing professional training to the student actors. “Their fear of discovery, their jealousy, and their eagerness to take advantage of the hysteria surrounding their community for personal gain are a key part of the relevance of this story. The opportunity to work with six young actors who are the same age as the characters in Miller’s story is a unique challenge for everyone involved.”

The Crucible is also presented in honor of retiring Hilhi drama teacher Silverna Scott. Friends and colleagues of Ms. Scott have raised more than \$2,500 to sponsor an ongoing internship award in her honor, which will provide one student from Hilhi a paid internship with B&B each year.

The Crucible opens September 5 and runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. through September 28. The preview performance is September 4 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.bagnbaggage.org or by calling 503-345-9590. Through B&B’s Passport program, students from all high schools, online academies, tribal schools, educational districts, and those who are homeschooled in Washington, Columbia, Tillamook and Yamhill Counties are eligible to attend any B&B performance for free simply by showing a valid student ID card.

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Bag&Baggage Productions (www.bagnbaggage.org) is committed to provocative, innovative interpretations of classical works of American and English Drama. Through the use of major literary adaptations and inventive stagings, the company seeks to reconnect the great works of drama to new audiences. Bag&Baggage is the only professional theatre troupe in Hillsboro and is the resident in-house performing arts group at the historic Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro.

Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence

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