

TODAY'S FOCUS: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrating, remembering at Day of the Dead event



Top: Juan Francisco Via Sr. plays the drums as he walks down Main Street in Lake Elsinore Nov. 1 during the second annual Day of the Dead Parade. Above: Members of Lake Elsinore Ballet Folklórico warm up outside the Lake Elsinore Cultural Center before the start of the parade. The event featured face painting, art vendors and performances from several local acts. ANDREW FOULK PHOTOS

‘SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL’ PRESENTED BY BROADWAY STARZ

Fun, quirky performance is a musical amalgamation of famous Dr. Seuss books

KIRSTEN SILVEN
• SPECIAL TO THE U-T

The Broadway Starz Family Performer's Theatre Academy in Temecula has opened its run of "Seussical the Musical."

Performances will be held at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15; and a closing matinee at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16.

This fun and quirky musical first debuted on Broadway in 2000 and was created by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. The play's storyline is a colorful musical amalgamation of many familiar themes and characters found in Dr. Seuss' most famous books, such as "Horton Hears a Who!," "Horton Hatches the Egg" and "Miss Gertrude McFuzz."

"It's a fun musical about friendship, family and community that is full of Dr. Seuss' wonderful characters, including the Grinch," Theresa Halvorsen from Broadway Starz said in an email interview.

In the adaptation of the classic Seuss tales, the Cat in the Hat tells audiences the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust that contains a community of Whos, including one misunderstood child named Jojo who is sent off to military school for thinking too many "thinks." As the story unfolds, Horton's strange behavior regarding the



speck of dust and caring for an egg laid by Mayzie LaBird elicits a barrage of taunts and accusations from other members of the animal kingdom, but in the end Jojo's many "thinks" will save them all.

One of the unique things about the Broadway Starz is that everyone who auditions gets a part in the production. Whether it is a big role or a smaller part depends on the quality of the audition, but the leads are always changing, which allows new talent to develop.

"The cast is made up of children and young adults, many of whom have been in more than a dozen plays with us," Halvorsen added. "There are some amazing singers and actors in this group."

The theater is operated entirely by volunteers.

"We're in this because we love the theater and love helping children and adults learn about it, whether it's on stage or backstage working on costumes and sets," Halvorsen said.

Tickets start at \$12 and are available online or at the door. Visit www.broadwaystarz.com to purchase tickets or call 951-595-7615 for more information.

CALENDAR

MENIFEE

Nov. 15
Learn to Paint
3 p.m., Latonja's Art Studio, 3830 Agave Place
Learn to Paint with a Professional Artist: Wine and Jave Paint Hive will take place at Latonja's Art Studio on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays in November. The cost to register is \$60 for ages 54 and younger, \$55 for ages 55 and older. For more information, visit www.latonjafineart.com, call 213-703-7477 or email Latonja@LatonjaFineArt.com.

TEMECULA

Nov. 15
'The Memories Concert'
8 p.m., Pechanga Resort and Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway
The Pechanga Resort and Casino presents "The Memories Concert," a performance by Kim Chang Wan Band and Lee Jung. Tickets are \$70 to \$150. For more information, visit www.pechanga.com or call 714-443-3500.

Nov. 20
Jazz at The Merc: Jennifer Leitham Trio
7:30 p.m., Old Town Tem-

ecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St.

The Old Town Temecula Community Theater presents Jazz at The Merc, a performance by Jennifer Leitham Trio. Tickets are \$15 and are available at tickets.temeculatheater.org. For more information, visit www.temeculatheater.org or call 866-653-8696.

Nov. 21
Lily Cai Chinese Dance Co.
8 p.m., Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St.

Lily Cai Chinese Dance Co. will perform at the Old Town Temecula Community Theater. Tickets are \$25. For more information, visit www.cityoftemecula.org.

Nov. 22
Inland Valley Symphony performance
2 p.m., Grace Mellman Community Library, 41000 County Center Dr.
Members of the Inland Valley Symphony will perform at the library. For more information, call 760-318-0460 or visit www.inland-valleysymphony.org.

Nov. 23
Pan and Lo Thanksgiving Concert
3 p.m., Pechanga Resort and Casino, 45000 Pechan-



Dec. 6
Brian Regan comedy tour
9:30 p.m., Pechanga Resort and Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula
The Pechanga Resort and Casino presents a performance by Brian Regan. Tickets are \$55 to \$85. For more information, visit www.pechanga.com. BRIAN REGAN

ga Parkway
The Pechanga Resort and Casino presents Thanksgiving Concert, a performance by Pan and Lo. Tickets are \$48 to \$108. For more information, visit www.pechanga.com or call 626-964-4747.

Nov. 29
Comedy at the Merc
8 p.m., Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St.
Comedy at the Merc has

been scheduled at the Old Town Temecula Theater. Tickets are \$12 for ages 18 and older and \$8 for students 13 to 17. For more information, visit www.temeculatheater.org.

Nov. 30
Paris By Night Live Show Thanksgiving Concert
2:30 p.m., Pechanga Resort and Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway
Paris By Night Live Show Thanksgiving Concert has

been scheduled at Pechanga Resort and Casino. Tickets are \$50 to \$120. For more information, visit www.pechanga.com or call 714-894-5811.

Dec. 5
'The Breakfast Club'
7 p.m., Temecula Valley High School, 31555 Rancho Vista Road
Temecula Valley High

School has scheduled performances of "The Breakfast Club." Admission is \$7. For more information, visit www.tvusd.k12.ca.us.

ESCONDIDO

Nov. 21
'1940s Radio Hour'
8 p.m., Patio Playhouse, 201 W. Grand Ave.

The Patio Playhouse presents "1940s Radio Hour," a performance by Walton Jones. Tickets are \$20 for adult, \$18 for senior/military/student, \$12 for ages 16 and younger. For more information, visit www.patioplayhouse.com.

MURRIETA

Nov. 22
Bark For Life of Murrieta
8 a.m., Town Square Park, 24701 Jefferson Ave.

The American Cancer Society will hold its Bark For Life of Murrieta fundraiser for the society's canine caregivers at the Town Square Park. For more information, visit www.business.murrietachamber.org or email kristine.crothers.murrietarfl@gmail.com.

Have a news tip or an event you'd like to see in print? Send details to Temecula@UTSanDiego.com