

## A spectacular take on Brothers Grimm

*Corbett group mixes, matches famous fairytale characters*

**BY ROB CULLIVAN**

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**Alex Agnes, 18, just graduated from Barlow High School and into complete insanity.**

No, it's not the prospect of attending George Fox University that could drive him mad, nor the recession-plagued job market for young men and women. It's the fact he's carrying around 10 characters in his head that he's going to portray this week in Corbett Children's Theater's "Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon."

"It's like a giant monologue, but with multiple people," he says, noting his characters include one of Snow White's dwarves as well as Cinderella. "It's really stretching the boundaries of who I am because I'm playing all these characters at once."

And yes, he looks fetching in Cinderella's dress.

"I'm enjoying being in a dress," he says with a chuckle. "But the actor I play doesn't want to do it."

If you're a little confused, that's the whole point, according to Angel Williams, director of "Spectaculathon," which mixes and matches 209 Brothers Grimm fairytales into one show, a la the "Shrek" movies.

"It's very tongue in cheek," she says. "There's several stories in here that none of us have ever heard about, and then they take the commonly known stories and add a twist to them."

Those commonly known stories include "Snow White," "Cinderella," and "Hansel and Gretel" as well as more bizarre, obscure stories like "The Devil's Grandmother" and "The Girl Without Hands."

The show calls for audience members to put themselves in the actors' shoes, she says.

"There will be opportunities for members of the audience to join us on stage," she says. "The actors will be speaking directly to the audience."

### So long seniors

"Spectaculathon" features the final Corbett Children Theater's performance of a number of graduating students from Corbett and Barlow high schools, Angel adds, including her son, Drew, who plays both a host and the father of a princess. It's Drew's last chance to work with his sister, CC, who will be a senior at Corbett this fall, Angel says, noting her daughter is one of the show's narrators.

Shylo Davis, 18, a Corbett graduate, plays a dirt merchant, a fitting role since her dad owns an excavation company. However, she stresses, she doesn't unearth any stage fright when she takes the stage.

"I don't get nervous before or during a performance," she says. "I get nervous after."

Christinna Winters, 14, who will be a freshman at Corbett High this fall, serves as the play's stage manager. She notes it's a mad, mad world off stage because the various actors have so many parts to play and can "get easily distracted."

"I take notes on everything that happens," she says. "If something goes wrong, it's my responsibility."



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Joshua Johnson plays a frog who could turn into a prince if only Kylee Turner, playing a princess, would plant a kiss on him in Corbett Children's Theater's "Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon."

She adds that as someone fresh out of middle school, she had to earn the respect of the older actors and crewmembers. Shylo and Alex certainly give the future freshman her props – literally and figuratively.

“It’s very stressful, and I think she’s handled the stress very well,” Shylo says.

“She has problem-solving skills,” Alex adds. “If a prop is missing, everybody comes to the stage manager first.”

The students believe the show will be a comedic hit with children and adults alike.

“If taking things too literally is hilarious, this show is side-splittingly funny,” Alex says.

### **Corbett play**

**WHAT:** Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, June 17-18, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, June 19.

**WHERE:** Corbett Schools Multipurpose Building, 35800 E. Historic Columbia River Highway.

**COST:** \$9 adults, \$7 children.

**INFO:** 503-695-2296, corbettchildrenstheater.com.

### **Seniors’ swan song**

The following Corbett Children’s Theater members graduated from high school this year.

**Corbett High:** Shylo Davis, MacKenzie Lenz, Jacy Clare, Morgon Purvine, Josiah Green, Jenny Layton, Joni Fisher, Kelsey Tullis, Megan McGown, Laken Higbee, Drew Williams, Joshua Johnson, Kylee Turner, Jake Cook.

**Barlow High:** Alex Agnes, Tim Chase.