

Pentangle Celebrates MLK Day with Warrior's Don't Cry

Last week we presented Theaterworks USA and the Bushnell Center for the Arts' production of *Warrior's Don't Cry*. Five hundred students from local schools (over two performances) sat in rapt silence as they watched and listened to this powerful one woman show based on Melba Pattillo's memoir recalling her battle to integrate Little Rock High School in 1957.

Some of the students could relate to the present-day protagonist Ya Girl, a teenager who can't cope with another school shooting or lead one more protest. Most could relate to her positive and negative relationship with her cell phone and social media, as she finds herself on the receiving end of racial slurs and personal attacks for her activism.

They were surprised when Melba Pattillo steps out of history and into Ya Girl's body via her phone to share her story of being a 15-year-old activist. They enjoyed watching Ya Girl begin to see herself in Melba, whose real voice was used throughout the performance. Dr. Melba Pattillo is alive and well at age 78.

In talking with students after the show many told me they came in more focused on their mid-terms, and left focused on the power of the performance. Many were impressed by the use of technology to project original footage of the 1957 protests outside Central High while Melba told her story.

After the performance there was a lively Q and A about the role of social media in society, and as a tool for positive change. Kids were also asked what issues were of concern to them. Responses ranged from LGBTQ Rights, Climate Change, and Abortion Rights to Protection of the Second Amendment and Freedom of Expression.

Our February line up is a tad lighter and geared for families to enjoy together.

Tickets are still on sale for **Mr. Chris and Friends, February 8th at 12:00 pm**. And No Strings Marionette Company's production of **The Snowmaiden, February 15, 2020 at 2:00 pm**. Stay tuned for a family friendly matinee as well (TBD).

In the Theatre

We continue to make improvements to our concession and theatre operation thanks to our generous donors. We've installed a double-sink to make clean up easier for our staff and soon will install a water cooler and ice machine in the Green Room to reduce the need to give performers plastic water bottles and to have ice available in case of injuries.

As we approach Town Meeting, we thank voters in advance for supporting our request for Town Funds. Funds that are critical to our ability to maintain and clean the theatre, the foyer and bathrooms; to pay for the cost of heating and cooling the theatre and Green Rooms, and the maintenance and upgrades to the digital projector, sound and light systems. We are deeply grateful for this support.

On the Big Screen:

Bombshell (Rated R)

When Gretchen Carlson (Nicole Kidman) slaps Fox News founder Roger Ailes (John Lithgow) with a lawsuit alleging sexual harassment, not a soul could predict what would happen next. Her decision leads to Fox News correspondent Megyn Kelly (Charlize Theron) coming forward with her own story, as well as multiple other women, inciting a movement that reverberates around the world.

Charlize Theron and Margot Robbie both received Oscar nominations for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress respectively.

Showtimes:

Friday, January 31 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 1 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 2 at 3:00 pm

Monday, February 3 at 7:30 pm

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