

October 4, 2023

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cameron Jackson, Marketing Manager

Telephone: 541-684-6988 x 205

Email: cameron@octheatre.org

**Oregon Contemporary Theatre Announces Open Auditions for a New Musical:
RIDE THE CYCLONE by Jacob Richmond & Brooke Maxwell**

EUGENE, OREGON – Oregon Contemporary Theatre is holding open auditions for *RIDE THE CYCLONE* by Jacob Richmond & Brooke Maxwell on Saturday, October 28th. *RIDE THE CYCLONE* will be directed by Craig Willis with musical direction by Delos Leo Erickson. Auditions are by appointment on October 28th at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, 194 West Broadway in downtown Eugene. Those interested in auditioning can reserve their time by calling Mary at 541-684-6988.

In this hilarious and outlandish story, the lives of six teenagers from a Canadian chamber choir are cut short in a freak accident aboard a roller coaster. When they awake in limbo, a mechanical fortune teller invites each to tell a story to win a prize like no other — the chance to return to life. This popular musical is a funny, moving look at what makes a life well-lived!

Auditions will be held October 28th with time slots beginning at 10am. Those auditioning should expect to be occupied for at least 30 minutes. Auditioners are asked to prepare a one-minute contemporary monologue, as well as a musical selection (32 bars from a contemporary musical theatre piece or contemporary pop song). Auditioners should bring sheet music and or their own taped accompaniment for their musical audition. Callback auditions will take place October 29 beginning at 6pm by invitation.

Rehearsals begin the week of January 21, with performances March 1-17 (with a possible extension through March 24). Audition registration is open now—call Mary at 541-684-6988 for your audition time and registration form. Digital audition options are available for those unable to attend (in person preferred if possible). For audition-specific questions, email director Craig Willis at craig@octheatre.org.

Character Descriptions:

The Amazing Karnak (no age/gender restrictions): Non-singer, Non-dancer

The interactive narrator. Karnak is an advanced precognition machine whose proclivity towards predicting the deaths of carnival guests caused his owners to set him

permanently in Family Fun Mode. This had dire consequences. Male, Female or Nonbinary Identifying. Will be in a small box, seated onstage the entire show.

Catchphrase: *"Your lucky number is seven. You will soar to great heights. Be sure to ride the cyclone."*

Ocean O'Connell-Rosenberg (17): Belter, Alto/Soprano

The "most successful girl in town." President of both the St. Cassian High School student council and chamber choir, Ocean is a brilliant go-getter (or chronic over-achiever if you ask her peers) who strives for excellence in everything she does. Female Identifying.

Catchphrase: *"Democracy rocks!"*

Noel Gruber (17): Smooth cabaret voice, Tenor

The "most romantic boy in town." The only gay guy in all of Uranium, Noel yearns to leave his boring job at Taco Bell and the drab world of Saskatchewan behind for a life of glamour and extravagance. Male or Nonbinary Identifying.

Catchphrase: *"Being the only gay man in a small rural high school is like having a laptop in the stone age. I mean sure, you can have one, but there's nowhere to plug it in."*

Mischa Bachinski (18): Rapper/Folksinger, Baritone, needs a Ukrainian dialect.

The "angriest boy in town." A teenager recently adopted from Ukraine by parents who thought they were getting a toddler, Mischa maintains a strained relationship with his new family and reputation for angry outbursts. Male Identifying.

Catchphrase: *"My gangsta persona is just armor to conceal that I am a naked child wandering through the wilderness, holding in my hands my wounded fragile heart."*

Ricky Potts (17): Rock voice, Baritone

The "most imaginative boy in town." Suffering from childhood trauma and a self-imposed mute, Ricky copes by maintaining a vivid inner life of fantasy and self-expression. Male, Female, or Nonbinary Identifying.

Catchphrase: *"Level up!"*

Jane Doe (17): Classical/Operatic voice, Soprano

A mysterious, emotionless, deeply creepy headless girl who appears beside the Choir in limbo. Must wear a disturbing make up and might wear black contacts. Female Identifying.

Catchphrase: *"When the lioness has children, she stops making love to the lion. The lion gets jealous, sometimes so jealous he eats the children. You'd think this would upset*

the lioness; far from it. They make love again like the children never existed. I find that idea terrifying."

Constance Blackwood (17): Rock Voice Alto

The "nicest girl in town," Constance is a kind, considerate girl whose genuine affection for her hometown puts her at odds with her peers. Female Identifying.

Catchphrase: "*Sorry!*"

#

For more information, visit www.octheatre.org or call the OCT Box Office: (541)465-1506.