

Feature Performing Arts Events

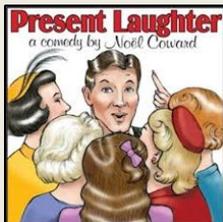
Present Laughter

By Noël Coward

April 12 - 13, 2018

SPI Convention Center

Present Laughter is a comic play written by Noël Coward in 1939 and first staged in 1942. The play's title comes from a song in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, which urges *carpe diem* ("present mirth hath present laughter"). The plot follows a few days in the life of the successful and self-obsessed light comedy actor Garry Essendine as he prepares to travel for a touring commitment in Africa. Amid a series of events bordering on farce, Garry has to deal with women who want to seduce him, placate both his long-suffering secretary and his estranged wife, cope with a crazed young playwright, and overcome his impending mid-life crisis. The play has enjoyed numerous revivals in Europe and North America – including a limited run revival on Broadway in June and July 2017, when Kevin Kline reprised his portrayal of Essendine and earned 2017's Tony award for best actor. The revival also earned a nomination for best revival of a play in 2017. Come enjoy watching our local EPAF thespians in this "mirthful" comedy jewel of a play.



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Members' and Sponsors' Event

June 7, 2018



If you're planning to support El Paseo Arts' 13th Season of Events as a member or sponsor, mark your calendar now for the special Member, Sponsor, and Volunteer Appreciation Event on June 7, 2017, at the SPI Birding and Nature Center. El Paseo's local thespians will create an animated "wax museum" of their favorite characters from past shows. You will enjoy a fun evening as you tour the museum, see the characters "come alive", and you'll also have a chance to get to know others like you who help make El Paseo Art's season of quality programs possible. Enjoy

complimentary wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres. Major Sponsors will be honored with a special gift of unique art, and we will announce the Volunteer of the Year.



Educational Programs

Supporting and promoting arts education is a major part of El Paseo Arts Foundation's mission.

Each spring, El Paseo Arts and its patrons have been honored to award scholarships to graduating seniors who wish to continue advanced study in the arts. For the past two years, El Paseo has been able to make the scholarships renewable for a second year if the students are successful in their first year of advanced study.

The Foundation sponsors the Port Isabel Library's summer art camp which has grown from one camp session to four different age group camps in 2017. The Foundation also awards scholarships for students to attend summer art camps at ArtSpace. In 2017, six scholarships were awarded. Finally, each year the Foundation provides complimentary student tickets for selected events and sponsors a professional arts performance for the Point Isabel School District. The performances chosen for the students not only introduce them to high quality performing art but focus on learning skills as well.

Last year the Foundation offered two acting workshops and this fall, on the afternoon of **October 28, 2017, El Paseo Arts Foundation will offer a Flamenco Dance Workshop at the former Padre Sunset Nightclub.** The workshop will be presented by A'lante Flamenco's Artistic Director Olivia Chacón and Music Director Isá Chacón.



Get Involved With the Arts

If you are an El Paseo Arts patron, you are already expressing your appreciation for the arts. However, if you think you might want to play a more active role in expressing your creativity and supporting the arts in our community, there are a variety of ways for you to become an El Paseo Arts volunteer.

House Management: For every event El Paseo Arts sponsors, our House management team plays an important role. We always need volunteers to greet our guests, take and sell tickets or serve as ushers, passing out programs.

Production Crew Members: Our local productions require a lot of work that the audiences never see. We need volunteers to help paint sets, move set pieces and construct the sets. We need help finding props that are needed for the show, and we need help with costuming. We also need individuals who are interested in learning how to run the lighting and sound systems. If you really want to see what it takes to put on a show, join us backstage during the productions to help the cast with props and costumes. All of these roles are essential to a successful production, will involve you closely with the cast, and make you part of the EPAF Tech Crew.

Performers: Do you think you'd like to try acting, singing in a musical or using your musical talent to play for a production? Auditions are open to everyone and we are always looking for new performers. It's hard work, but it's so much fun that if you do it once, you'll come back again and again.

Special Committees: We always need help with publicity, membership and sponsorship. We are also looking for people who want to help us grow and improve our educational programs.

Become a Member or Sponsor: It's easy to join. Visit our website at elpaseoarts.org and click on Membership to become a member or Donate to become a sponsor.

You can get involved. Just contact us via email at info@elpaseoarts.org or talk to one of our board members.



P.O. Box 1185
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Performing Arts Events and Programs
In the Lower Laguna Madre Area

2017-18

Celebrating our

13th Season



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