

By JAMI KUNZER – jkunzer@shawmedia.com

Williams Street Rep's 'I Love You' opens Feb. 10

Director Regina Belt knows of at least four reasons to see "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."

The show is among those coming up at the Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake, which promotes its mid-season lineup as "something for everyone in the family."

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" opens at 8 p.m. Feb. 10, with repeat performances at 4 and 8 p.m. Feb. 11. Tickets cost \$39, \$36 and \$33.

It's a must see, Belt said.

"It's a really good date show, which is perfect since Valentine's Day is coming up," Belt said. "It's hilarious."

It's a show everyone can relate to, because "everybody's either been through breakups or looking for love or in love or whatever."

And fourthly, "I think love is possible at every age, any age," Belt said.

This is the first time Belt, who has directed shows at the Woodstock Opera House as well as McHenry County College and Elgin Community College, has worked with Williams Street Repertory (wsrep.org).

And this is the local repertory's third production, having opened its inaugural season with "The Rocky Horror Show."

The repertory is the Raue Center's in-house company formed to "produce theatrical works that deal with contemporary issues that push the envelope."

The upcoming show, a musical comedy, features 58 characters performed by four cast members. The production dissects relationships and "admits everything you've been secretly thinking," a description reads.

"I just think the whole concept of having an in-house production company is really brilliant and well thought-out," Belt said. "For me, it's really a pleasure to work with a new company that has such high standards... It's professional talent in their own backyard, and I really believe that."

The Raue's mid-season line-up also includes children's shows and musical acts.

For information or tickets, visit www.rauecenter.org or call the box office at 815-356-9212 or visit 26 N. Williams St. in downtown Crystal Lake.

MORE RAUE EVENTS

"Freedom Bound"

When: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 3

What: Presented by Mad River Theatre Works. An original play that tells the story of a slave who escapes and travels the Underground Railroad. Supported by the Performing Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets: \$25, \$22 and \$19 (for ages 9-14)

"An Evening of Percussion"

When: 7 p.m. Feb. 25

What: Features performances by the Crystal Lake Striker's All Star Drumline. Mayor Aaron Shepley, Council Member Brett Hopkins and Raue Board Member John Jacobsen join forces for the third year to provide scholarship and stage time to local high school students and community members.

Tickets: \$12 for adults, \$5 for those 8 and older. Children younger than 7 are free

"The Tartan Terrors"

When: 8 p.m. March 10

What: A bawdy rock 'n' roll Celtic group best described as "Gaelic Storm meets Adam Sandler," and featuring the best in music, comedy and dance.

Tickets: \$38, \$35 and \$32 (ages 16 and older)

"Clifford the Big Red Dog - LIVE!"

When: 6:30 p.m. March 16

What: Just in time for Clifford the Big Red Dog's 50th anniversary. Celebrates the timeless values of Clifford's "BIG" ideas, from sharing to playing fair to believing in yourself and more.

Tickets: \$25, \$22, \$19

"One Night of Queen"

When: 8 p.m. March 17

What: Performed by Gary Mullen and the Works. Backed by a four-piece band, the show is described as "no cheesy Vegas show."

Tickets: \$65, \$62 and \$59 (ages 16 and older)

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