

ON STAGE



Airings

THE VOICES OF OUR YOUTH

By AMY KEPFERLE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016

When dancer, educator and creative whirlwind Pam Kuntz started exploring the concept of bullying among middle and high school students to collect material for her latest community collaboration, “Airings...The Voices of Our Youth,” she was surprised to find there was a lot more the teenagers she spoke to wanted to discuss.

“While bullying was certainly talked about, almost everyone interviewed talked about gender, identity, sexuality and LGBTQ issues,” she says. “Another common thread in every interview was persistence, never giving up and rising above.”

EVENTS

TODAY

THE LIFE OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH

⌚ 7:00PM | MOUNT BAKER HIGH SCHOOL

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

⌚ 7:00PM | BAAY THEATRE

CARMEN

⌚ 7:30PM | MCINTYRE HALL

GLASS ART SALE

⌚ 10:00AM | GLASS MOUNTAIN STUDIOS

LUMMI ISLAND HOLIDAY STUDIO TOUR

⌚ 10:00AM | LUMMI ISLAND

HARVEST HAPPENS

⌚ 10:00AM | BELLEWOOD ACRES

NEW MUSIC/NEW DANCE

⌚ 7:30PM | PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BAYSHORE SYMPHONY

the Firehouse Performing Arts Center, audiences can get a behind-the-scenes look for themselves at the pressures young people face during the years when they're in the sometimes painful process of morphing from kids to young adults.

Like the pieces that came before it, "Airings" combines the talents of professional performers with community members' stories through movement, text, sound and visual art. Kuntz believes the dance part of the equation is important in that it puts the stories not only in the bodies of the performers, but also in the bodies of the audience members.

"I am not knocking the brain," she says. "I am just pointing out that in our culture I think we aren't as practiced at experiencing our world, learning about our world, with our body."

That said, "Airings" also promises to make audiences think, whether it's about the scary fact that suicide is on more than a few teen minds, or the positivity many students exhibited with Kuntz, even while acknowledging they had to deal with much more than they should have at a young age, typically because of something adults in their lives had either done or allowed.

"I was surprised by all that these kiddos know and have already experienced," she says. "I was surprised by all the living already done. I was surprised at their resilience. I was surprised by their generosity in sharing something so personal and in some instances horribly painful."

She also has something to say to the students—and other community members who have shared their stories over the years.

"Thank you for your generosity," she says. "Thank you for sharing. It is not easy to share aspects of your life with anyone, let alone with a stranger, who then wants to make a dance about it or have you dance about it. Thank you for your openness and your trust in me and the other collaborating artists in the process."

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RABBIT RIDE

⌚ 8:00AM | FAIRHAVEN
BICYCLE

DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN BOYS

⌚ 2:00PM | NANCY'S FARM

NookChat

⌚ 3:00PM | EVERSON
LIBRARY

Moon Walk

⌚ 4:00PM | WHATCOM
COUNTY

NATURE OF WRITING

⌚ 4:00PM | VILLAGE BOOKS

MYSTIC MUSIC

⌚ 5:30PM | PICKFORD FILM
CENTER

THE GATEWAY SHOW

⌚ 8:00PM | UPFRONT
THEATRE



TOMORROW