Registration open for theater program geared for seniors

Week-long classes begin June 20 at Cabrillo

By ERIK CHALHOUB
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — The organizers of Stagebridge believe that it is never too late to rekindle creativity, and to prove that, the national theater group's first foray into Santa Cruz County is quickly drawing interest.

Registration is now open and filling up quick for Stagebridge Santa Cruz, said Producing Director Lynn Knudsen. The program offers a multitude of performing arts workshops at Cabrillo College during its summer Extension session from June 20-26.

The 50 and older theater arts program is the first of its kind in the county, Knudsen said.

Founded in 1978 in Oakland, and later expanding into Los Angeles, Stagebridge is known as a nationally recognized theater arts program for seniors, Knudsen said.

Last summer, Knudsen attended some classes Stagebridge offered in Oakland, and she said she found herself "blown away" by them.

"Since we didn’t have anything like that here in the Santa Cruz area, I thought, well, let’s see if we can create something,” she said.

Knudsen and others negotiated an agreement with Stagebridge to establish a Santa Cruz branch of the group. They then brought the idea to Cabrillo College and Cabrillo Stage, who embraced the concept.

“They decided it would be a great way of bringing theater arts to the community without having them be registered at the college,” she said.

The nine classes offered focus on topics such as singing, acting, improvisation and more.

All the teachers are the “best in their fields,” Knudsen said.

“Every one of them is a known professional and a known performer,” she said.

In addition to the classes, other workshop opportunities include a meet and greet with Stuart Kandell, founder of Stagebridge, and a singalong session with the cast of Cabrillo Stage’s upcoming production, “Oklahoma!”

The classes cost $148-818 each, and can be purchased in a series. To register, visit www.cabrillo-extension.org.

For information about Stagebridge, visit www.stagebridge.org.

Stagebridge Santa Cruz offers theater arts classes for seniors.

Photo by Stuart Kandell