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ACMA's OLIVER! TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR BEAVERTON'S HOMELESS YOUTH

BEAVERTON, OR, Feb. 19, 2014—ACMA Theatre Company, now rehearsing for the March 7 opening of *Oliver!*, will not sugarcoat Charles Dickens' story of an orphan boy who encounters evil at nearly every turn. This is a dark story, and the audience will not be allowed to forget that.

Guest artist Gretchen Rumbaugh (the actress and singer whose long list of credits includes Mrs. Lovett in Portland Center Stage's 2012 production of *Sweeney Todd*), is working with Director Joel Morello to craft a show that stays true to the grittiness of Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, as opposed to the Disney-esque script of the musical. Rumbaugh, Morello, and choreographer Julana Torres remind the actors daily that while Dickens' characters are often funny, hunger is painful, poverty is brutal, and homelessness is anything but cute.

Their philosophy—to focus the young actors on the difficult issues in the story—moved the students in the company to make the first Saturday evening performance a benefit for Beaverton Second Home, an organization that finds host families for homeless students who want to finish high school. Ten percent of proceeds from the 7 pm March 8th performance will be donated to Second Home, and an information table will be open at all performances where patrons can learn about the organization and what they can do to help.

"Homelessness is not a relic of the 19th century, unfortunately. Hundreds of kids in Beaverton don't know where they'll sleep tonight. We were all excited to learn about Beaverton Second Home, and hope everyone who comes to see *Oliver!* will think about how they can help," says Chloe Duckart, who plays the undertaker's wife.

DATES: March 7, 8, 14 & 15 @ 7:00 pm; March 8 and 16 @ 2:00 pm
TICKETS: \$15/Adult and \$8/Student – cash or check only
LOCATION: ACMA Visual & Performing Arts Center
11375 SW Center Street, Beaverton, OR 97005

Learn more and watch the trailer at <http://www.acmatheatre.com>.
Beaverton Second Home: <http://www.emoregon.org/secondhome.php>

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