



# • TAMÁSTLIKT •

CULTURAL INSTITUTE

72789 Highway 331, Pendleton, OR 97801 USA

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Charles Denight, TEL 541-966-1973, [charles.denight@wildhorsesort.com](mailto:charles.denight@wildhorsesort.com)



Native women grieve as Celilo Falls disappears behind The Dalles Dam on March 10, 1957. The falls were a primary trade and fishing site for Native Americans from throughout the region for thousands of years. A play, *The Ghosts of Celilo*, portrays one aspect of this story. The play comes to Pendleton March 15 and 16 at BMCC's Pioneer Theater.

NOTE: This is a low resolution image file. To download a high resolution file of this photo suitable for printing, please click on the following link and then click on the thumbnail.

<http://www.cleanpix.com/cleanpix/PublicViewSuitcase/2d0098b9484a341987c5b11e51d7b79f>

In yet another commemoration of an event that shredded the fabric of Native American culture in the Pacific Northwest, the drowning of the famed Celilo Falls 50 years ago, Tamástslikt Cultural Institute will present a new musical, *The Ghosts of Celilo*, on Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16, at 7 p.m. at the Blue Mountain Community College Theatre. School groups can reserve space for mid-day performances by calling 966-1913.

Marv and Rindy Ross, producers of the original work, and members of their bands,

*Quarterflash* and *The Trail Band*, perform in the orchestra. Rindy Ross was former lead singer for the nationally popular rock band, *Quarterflash*. The 24-member cast will also include guest actors and singers from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation as well as actors from Umatilla County, Portland and Seattle.

“To our knowledge, it is the first musical that combines Native American songs and musical theatre-styled tunes,” said Marv Ross, who initiated the work to create a context for Native American music to be appreciated by non-native audiences.

“People who enjoy seeing *West Side Story* or *The Sound of Music* will enjoy this play, and, at the same time, will walk away with a new appreciation and understanding of Native American music and traditions,” added Ross, “It’s a love story and a mystery rolled into one set against the backdrop of Celilo Falls.”

*The Ghosts of Celilo* was created by Marv Ross, Tom Hampson, and Thomas Morning Owl as part of the 2007 fifty-year observance of the inundation of Celilo Falls, which was flooded by The Dalles Dam on March 10, 1957. Ross, Morning Owl, Arlie Neskahi and Chenoa Egawa co-wrote and arranged the music. The script and music, which took ten years to finish, were based on interviews that Ross, Hampson, and Morning Owl conducted with people who had lived and fished at Celilo Falls. The play will open Artists Repertory Theatre’s 2007-08 season at the Newmark Theatre in Portland in September and was awarded a National Alliance of Musical Theatres grant.

*Ghosts* tells the story of two Indian boys kidnapped at Celilo Falls in the 1950’s and taken to a strict boarding school. There, they are eventually befriended by the daughter of the school’s administrator, and the three escape to catch a ceremonial ‘first fish’ before Celilo Falls is destroyed by The Dalles Dam. This story is ‘remembered’ by four ghosts, trapped for fifty years at the bottom of the Columbia River at Celilo, who reveal their deepest secrets in the hopes of being freed to ‘move on’.

The \$10 tickets are available at the BMCC Theater Box Office and at Tamástslíkt’s Museum Store. Discounts apply for CTUIR and Tamástslíkt’s Inwai program members. The play’s sponsors are Tamástslíkt, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, BMCC and Ross Productions.

Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is located at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton. From Interstate 84 take exit 216 and follow the signs five minutes to Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Coming from the north, take the Mission exit from Highway 11 just northeast of Pendleton and follow the signs for about ten minutes to the Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Tamástslíkt is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to exhibits telling the story of the three Tribes' history and culture, there is also a Museum Store and the Kinship Café.

For more information: 541-966-9748 or [www.tamastslíkt.org](http://www.tamastslíkt.org). Direct dial the museum store at tollfree 1-866-282-2022. Tamástslíkt is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

**Note: If you would like not to receive emailed news releases on Tamástslikt's events and activities please reply to this email and put UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject area.**