Los Feliz Ledger

[Eastside Eye] March Arts Madness

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Artful traditions abound in Los Feliz and three important local cultural institutions have news to share. Since 1929, the Nine O'Clock Players have entertained local children: weekends in March the group will present The Emperor's New Clothes. In Barnsdall Park, the ongoing Hollyhock House restoration will soon be finished with an exciting major update. And Hollywood Boulevard's La Luz de Jesus Gallery—inside Wacko, on Hollywood Boulevard— presents its 28th annual group show Laluzapalooza that showcases more than 100 works many from emerging artists.

Nine O'Clock Players presents The Emperor's New Clothes

The classic folk tale of the Emperor's New Clothes has been adapted into an original musical production to be performed on March weekends by the Nine O'Clock Players at the Assistance League Playhouse (1370 N. St. Andrews Place, next to the East Hollywood Home Depot). For 85 years, the Assistance League of Los Angeles Children's Theatre has presented two plays annually and welcomes more than 13,000 students each year for weekday performances. "It's really a community treasure," said Los Feliz's Kitty Ogilvy, a member of the 17-character cast. Ogilvy notes that all members of the cast are women—even the Emperor—and all are volunteers. "We want children to believe in the magic of theater," said Ogilvy, a veteran actress who relishes the young audience's joy and enthusiasm. Adults are welcome too. Weekend matinee performances are at 2 p.m. and are suitable for all ages. After each performance, cast members mingle with the crowd. The original book and music is by Carol Weiss, Todd Nielsen is the director and Jerald Sternbach, the musical director. "It's the classic story come to life and audiences will find some connection to today's fashion obsession," according to Ogilvy. Spoiler alert: the Emperor is not naked but in his underwear. Theatre for Children, 1370 N. St. Andrews Place, (323) 469-1970. http://nineoclockplayers.com/

Laluzapalooza, La Luz de Jesus Gallery at Wacko

Gallery director Matt Kennedy and owner Billy Shire have selected more than 100 pieces for La Luz de Jesus' 28th annual group show, which runs March 7th – March 30th. Recognized for introducing emerging artists, the group show was originally entitled Un-commercial Art by Commercial Artists and that outsider sensibility still pervades the selections. Exhibited salon style in the gallery, the no-theme show is an opportunity to sample a wide-range of contemporary art from emerging and well-known artists. La Luz de Jesus Gallery at Wacko, 4633 Hollywood Blvd., (323) 666-7667. http://laluzdejesus.com/laluzapalooza-2014/

Hollyhock House to re-open this summer

After a multi-year closure and extensive restoration and preservation work, Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House in Barnsdall Art Park is scheduled to re-open this summer. In addition to the newly painted and repaired exterior – easily visible to park visitors—renovations include new hardwood floors and doors in the loggia and restored outdoor water features. Most exciting and a decades-old dream of Hollyhock House volunteer docents and supporters is the restoration of the house's former garage, soon to be a bookstore and house museum. Now fronted by glass doors, which read "Crown Jewel" most aptly, the bookstore will sell Frank Lloyd Wright-related books and gift items. http://hollyhockhouse.net/