

The High Desert

PALETTE

September, 2020, Volume 1, No. 1

EXCLUSIVE

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Driven to Create
pg. 6



CINDY RAE

A Passion for Music,
Performance,
& Community, pg. 16

ART LOOK

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Amanda Berger
pg.28

FAR ABOVE THE DESERT

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Luke Kauffman
pg.24

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WELCOME TO:

The High Desert Palette

Willcox is full of creative artists and craftspeople. Almost any art media you can imagine – and maybe some you might not – is represented. People of all ages, inspired by their own imaginations, and by the natural beauty and heritage of this unique corner of Arizona are creating extraordinary and unique art.

The High Desert Palette will introduce you to these artists and their work. We'll have original articles, interviews with area creatives, photographs, visual art, a calendar of events – to bring fascinating creatives and their output to you.

If you're a creative yourself, or if you admire the work they produce, The High Desert Palette is for you.

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Photograph by Amanda Berger - Dos Cabezas Mountains

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Kids Art Club

Friday October 2nd @4pm * The Palace

Art in the Afternoon

Monday October 5th @1pm * The Palace

Paint Night

Saturday October 24th @6pm * The Palace



REBECCA COLLINS

Driven to Create



"These are valid emotions from when I felt and wrote them, but I don't feel that way anymore."

Last August, singer/songwriter and guitarist Rebecca Collins felt trapped and eager to leave for college after completing her senior year, but by school's end, she found herself reminiscing about what she missed out on. This August saw the release of her first single, "Unexpected", that chronicles the premature "lasts" of her senior year disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One song influence was the inspirational posters at Willcox High School, which she always mocked for their cheesiness and optimism, but then began to miss after in-person school ended.

"This is exactly how it feels to have all the stuff you don't care about in the moment taken away," Rebecca said about her track. "Once I knew every word of the song, I could let it go."

Inspiration

Rebecca finds inspiration in life events, other music, and novel melodies she invents on her piano. There is no concrete process to her

“This is exactly how it feels to have all the stuff you don’t care about in the moment taken away

composing. She relies on bursts of inspiration, such as with “Rainy Days”, where she “had an epiphany” on finding a fitting accompaniment. The adrenaline kick from that moment sent her straight to the piano to figure out the song.

“Rainy Days” had not been released when this article was written, but it will use a rain sound effect throughout the song, inspired by a low-fi track with a similar effect. Rebecca loves integrating sound effects into her work, so we expect more in her upcoming album highlighting her senior year.

Rebecca captures distinctive feeling within her work. Not abstract, broad strokes of joy, gloom, or jealousy, but specific emotional concoctions which have highlighted her life. She wants to make art that reaches people.

Song-Writing Savvy

Family members and friends help Rebecca realize her dream and potential. She shares a love for music with her grandmother, often going to her for advice or showing new work. She also had to absorb knowledge about music theory, vocal range,



chord relationships, and chord arrangements to help bring her visions to life. She listens to any genre which interests her, eager to learn about niche music and the people who listen to it.

Rebecca also connected with the Creative Team at Studio 128 to record her music as she completed her songs. As the Studio 128 team learned about Rebecca's project, they loaned her a Midi keyboard to help her create and store her work digitally. The Midi became another element for her to master. With the help of fellow artists, she plans to

use the appropriate instruments, melodies, and sounds to complement her lyrics.

The Next Stage

Rebecca is attending Auburn University in the Fall to study sociology, and while she regrets having to leave her weighty piano at home, she hopes to make plenty of music on campus. She is sometimes suddenly compelled to start playing and doesn't want to miss out on flashes of inspiration.

Rebecca appreciates what her community has

“ She's sometimes suddenly compelled to drop what she's doing and start playing.

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given her, but she feels that college will move her beyond any local ideological bubble. Subtle differences in people's behavior fascinate her and she wants to delve into the fractured nature of societies and their traditions, beliefs, and predispositions to better understand others and express herself.

Rebecca needs to have passion in her work to feel accomplished, and music is her outlet. Her first album is worth waiting for, but her first single, "Unexpected", can be found now on YouTube, Spotify, or other music platforms (look for it under the artist name "Becca K").



The song
“Unexpected”
By Becca K
is available on music
streaming apps NOW!

Give her a listen, and
support our local
composer!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Open Mic Night

Thursday September 24th @ 6:30pm * The Palace

Jam Session

1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 4pm * The Palace

Palace Players

1st & 3rd Thursdays @ 5:30pm * The Palace

DID YOU KNOW?



Early history of the Camera

The world's first photograph was taken by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1826 or 1827. The shot was taken from an upstairs window at Niépce's estate in Burgundy.

1826 or 1827



1838

The earliest known photograph to include a recognizable human form, was taken in Paris, France, in 1838 by Louis Daguerre.

In 1861, the first colored photo was taken by James Clerk Maxwell, by photographing it three times through red, blue, & yellow filters.

1861



S T A G E T O C I N E M A



Jonas Kauffmann

Friday
Sep. 18th @2:30pm
Saturday
Sep. 19th @6:30pm

The Red Shoes

Friday
Oct. 9th @2:30pm
Saturday
Oct. 10th @6:30pm

Cinderella

Friday
March 19th @2:30pm
Saturday
March 20th @6:30pm

Wise Children

Friday
April 16th @2:30pm
Saturday
April 17th @6:30pm

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Coming Soon...

September 2020

Art in the Yard, 26

October 2020

Movie Premier - Between Horse and Hat, 2

Rex Allen, Jr Concert, 2

Rex Allen Days, 2-4

Wild Bunch Film Fest, 2-4

Cars for Kids, 3

Willcox Wine Festival, 16 -18

Boulder Dash 13k/30k Trail Run, 17

Paint Night, 24

Halloween Trunk or Treat, 31

November 2020

Red Carpet Shindig, 7



**THE
WILD
BUNCH**
FILM •
FESTIVAL

Friday Oct 2nd - 3pm

Saturday Oct 3rd - 11:30am

Sunday Oct 4th - 10am

at The Willcox Historic Theater

Join us for a family fun weekend in Willcox, AZ, and experience a film festival competition solely for the western genre and sub-genres!



"I can listen to the radio all day and only hear two songs."

CINDY RAE :

A Passion for Music,
Performance, and Community

Cindy Rae has performed in the Willcox area scores of times, both as a solo act and with her band, Cindy Rae and the Ripchords. She's done it all – traveled for music festivals, played for weddings and funerals, and starred at the local Silver Bullet nightclub (now closed).

During Rex Allen Days in 1979 the bleachers on Railroad Avenue outside the Palace Saloon were filled with people who came out for music and dancing courtesy of Cindy Rae and the Ripchords. Four decades later, Cindy Rae performed two doors down from

the Palace in Studio 128 during Willcox Theater and Arts, regular Season of Guest Artists. She enjoyed the intimate confines of Studio 128 in her half dozen appearances there, but now she is back in the Palace – though it's not a saloon anymore.

In 2020, Cindy Rae inaugurates both the 2020-2021 Season of Guest Artists and the newly renovated Palace of Art and Theater, transformed by Willcox Theater and Arts from a long-vacant saloon into an art studio and performance theater. She will perform country standards and more. Despite the contrast to the 1979 Rex Allen Days event, Cindy appreciates the new Palace venue and knows the audience will savor the music.

Music in the Family

Cindy Rae grew up with her parents and three siblings in the Midwest and Southwest, traveling from town to town for her father's work. Her father, Pete Peterson, played in several bands during her childhood and beyond, although he could never read music. Her father taught Cindy Rae how to strum the guitar and both of them prefer that instrument for its accessibility and portability.

The Gibson guitar Cindy Rae plays was originally a gift from the family to her father in 1976, the only good guitar he ever owned.

Country/Folk

Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Jimmie Rodgers, John Denver

In accompaniment with Will Johnston and Isaac Garay

It has scars on the neck from his fingernails digging in. Cindy Rae plays the Gibson exclusively, the sound getting richer and deeper the more she plays. "It could be my dad's spirit lives on through my playing," she says.

Cindy Rae went to thirteen different schools during her K-12 years before arriving in Willcox. Because of her turbulent education, Cindy swore to remain in Willcox so her children could stay in one school and she has spent nearly fifty years in the community. She considers it her spiritual hometown and treasures the connections and opportunities she has found here.

Love of Music

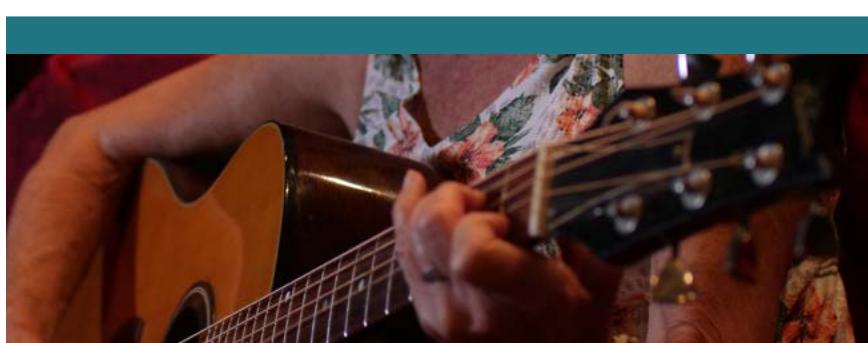
Cindy Rae is mainly inspired by particularly stimulating melodies or lyrics and since she has listened to music her whole life, a piece that perks her up is

significant. She sings in genres from country rock to soul, but many of her favorite artists, Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Hank Williams, and Patsy Cline, reside in traditional country.

Cindy Rae has performed plenty of times, but she is no music junkie, only adding her voice to songs which resonate with her. "I can listen to the radio all day and only hear two songs."

She has never been concerned about money or going on tour. "I do it because I love the music, not because I want to make a living."

That attitude captures Cindy Rae's connection with music. She wants to enjoy herself and give the audience a good time, and she plans to continue blessing the Willcox area with her performances.





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Contributor Guidelines:

The High Desert Palette welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

Please contact The High Desert Palette at 520-766-3335
or willcoxtheater@gmail.com to discuss your ideas.

The High Desert
PALETTE

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Brown Bag History Talk

Thursday October 8th @12pm * The Palace

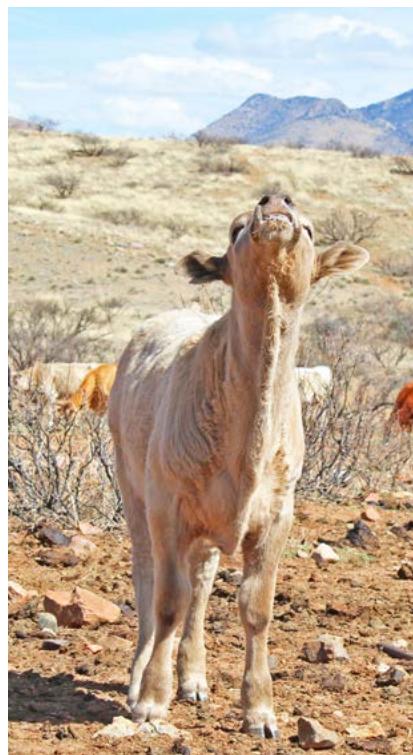
Retro Rewind

Thursday October 15th @1pm * The Palace

Open Exhibit Hours

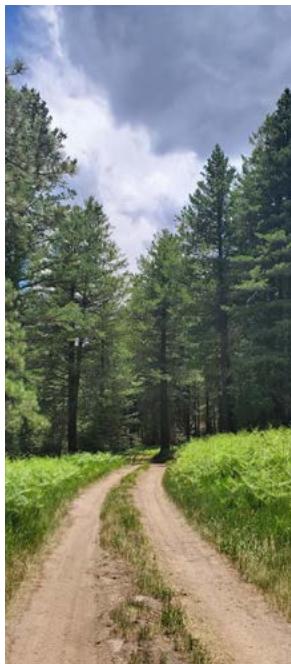
Sundays @1pm-4pm * The Palace & Studio 128





ART LOOK

Photographs of nature taken in
and around willcox, AZ
-By Amanda Berger



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Cindy Rae

Friday
September 18th
@7pm



**Outlaw
Rebels**

Friday
October 9th
@7pm



Cindy Weir

Friday
November 13th
@7pm



**Lich/ Lee
Duo**

Friday
December 11th
@7pm

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Kilted Spirit

Saturday
January 30th
@7pm



The Palace Players

Friday
February 26th
@7pm



Acoustic Eidolon

Friday
March 19th
@7pm



Brendon Thorpe

Saturday
April 10th
@7pm



"Far Above the Desert" was inspired by the painting on the next page. This is an open ended story by Luke Kauffman. We would love YOU to continue it. Submit your story to willcoxtheater.com for a chance to have it published in next month's issue.

The word count cannot exceed 650 words. Please keep the story open ended to keep it going.

FAR ABOVE THE DESERT

Written By Luke Kauffman

Harriet swung her spyglass to the north, trying to make out any features of the approaching crafts. The basket creaked around her, coarse ropes straining against the polished wood platform. Excess heat from the burner wafted around the girl and balloon, distinct from the mild air. Whirring twin rotors propelled the balloon slowly forward.

Below Harriet the world stretched out like a simplistic map. The purple desert was stitched together with long-dry riverbeds and dotted with black crags. In front of her, right of the falling sun, was a spiraled tower built in defiance to the sky itself. A staircase snaked in and out of the massive corkscrew of a monument. Harriet's father had shown her the spire as soon as she was brave enough to fly with him, but the flowing, hand-carved stone still took her breath away.

He always said the spire was one hundred and one stories tall, and each consecutive level once held a greater mystery than the one before.

There was once a city at the base of the tower, but only the crumbled remnants of stone dwellings were visible against the violet-stained wasteland. The spire itself was visibly worn, and its top third threatened to topple from its corroded moorings. As Harriet watched, a massive stone fell from one of the highest stories and plummeted out of view. She waited for the sound of impact, but it never came.

The colorful dots in the sky swelled slowly, angling themselves to converge at the twisted monolith. Harriet counted five of them, but there were several other unignorable blips in the heavens. She checked the altitude to find herself slightly above the tip of the tower and turned off the burner. Level approaches weren't her favorite, but this balloon was built for power, not endurance. Wind permitting, she would arrive in around twenty minutes, shortly

before those on the horizon got close enough to taxi down. She just needed to know what to do with that time.

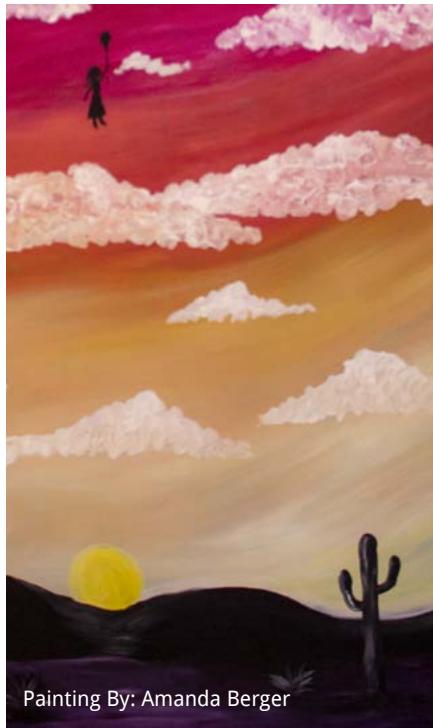
Around her sat woven baskets full of charts, supplies, and devices. Hundreds of scribbled and etched notes lay on every available surface, from the scorching walls of the burner to the railing. On the south side of the balloon was a lightweight wooden desk with a cluttered top and four locked drawers.

Harriet slipped under the desk gently, careful not to rock the basket, and felt around until she felt a latch. Pulling it back and forth didn't work, so she jiggled it violently until she heard a CLICK. A compartment glided down from the bottom of the desk and a piece of weathered parchment drifted down. Harriet laughed in triumph and crawled out.

The paper was the bottom-left corner of a map which had been cut long ago, as even the severed edges were worn. It was stained and yellowed, but on its back was a fiercely scrawled message.

"Do not land atop, dock on floor 51"

Harriet recognized her father's handwriting, but she did not know what to make of the message. Descending would waste lots of



Painting By: Amanda Berger

perfectly good hot air, and while she could easily hitch her craft to the tower, there was always the danger of falling debris.

The map itself displayed the once-sprawling city underneath the monolith, complete with a burgeoning river in thick, blue ink. Harriet tried to find it underneath her, but could only make out its parched, off-white ghost.

A bird of prey shrieked a war cry as it dove towards the north. Harriet grabbed the spyglass again and made out a golden insignia of a quill pen on the nearest balloon. Harriet stepped back from the lens and eyed the craft, wondering who was looking back.

Willcox Theater and Arts

SINCE 1914, Willcox and the surrounding communities have looked to the local theater for entertainment. The current theater building opened in January 1937, showing "The Gorgeous Hussy", with Joan Crawford. The brand-new Art Deco theater featured a sloped floor, leather seats, a balcony, modern 1930's projection equipment, and a stage for vaudeville and other performers, with dressing rooms and backstage facilities.

In 1990, the 1937 theater building underwent a major modification in which the single screen was converted to two screens. The lobby and concession area was moved to the center of the building from the front and a new entrance created on the side. A larger marquee was also added at this point.

Reopened in 2013 after a one-year closure, the Theater was completely renovated in 2015, retaining the historic Southwest Art Deco exterior and recreating an opulent interior in authentic Art Deco style. State-of-the-art digital projection and sound system were installed to provide a film experience second to none.

In 2016, the Theater purchased the adjacent building to serve as a community arts and activity space. After significant remodeling and renovation, this 1914 building, called Studio128, opened in 2017. Growing demand for programming brought the dilapidated and vacant Palace Saloon building to WTA as the solution. Fully renovated, the Palace opened in 2020.

Today the Willcox Theater, Palace and Studio 128 feature art, stage theater, the latest movies, STEM/STEAM programs, guest artists, talks, art exhibits, workshops, jams and so much more.

See You All at the Theater!!

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Smartmaker Lab

Friday October 23rd @ 1pm * Studio 128

Open Lab

Thursday @ 4:30pm * Studio 128

Youth Program

Wednesdays @ 4:30pm * The Palace



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Reception with performer					✓	✓

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