



**ARTS/CULTURE**

**FOR RELEASE AT WILL**

CONTACT: Justin Yax, DVA Advertising & PR, 541-389-2411, justin@dvaadv.com  
Barb Commare, Visit Walla Walla, 509-525-8799, bcommare@wallawalla.org

**CULTURAL SOPHISTICATION IN WALLA WALLA GOES FAR BEYOND FINE WINE,  
INCLUDING THEATRE, MUSIC AND OTHER PERFORMING ARTS**

(WALLA WALLA, Wash.)—When it comes to culture and sophistication, there’s much more to Walla Walla than meets the eye. While the wine industry carries an air of sophistication, the region’s performing arts and other cultural assets cannot be overlooked. On the heels of the Mumford & Sons Gentlemen of the Road Stopover Festival last summer, Walla Walla has solidified its position as a bona fide performing arts destination. Here are a few of Walla Walla’s top venues and groups:

**GESA Power House Theatre**

The GESA Power House Theatre is a 342-seat performing arts theatre located in a historic, 120 year-old building that once housed the Walla Walla Gas Plant, originally built to produce coal gas and pipe it underground to light the streets, businesses and homes of Walla Walla. In 2011, the building was transformed into a state-of-the-art performing arts theater inspired by the intimate Blackfriars Theatre in London, England which William Shakespeare and his acting company began using in 1608. In January 2012, the theatre was officially accepted to the National Register of Historic Places. The theatre stages professional productions featuring comedy, music, family programs, films, festivals, and more.: [www.phtww.com](http://www.phtww.com).

-more-

### **Walla Walla Symphony**

Founded in 1907, the Walla Walla Symphony is the oldest continuously operating symphony west of the Mississippi River. Under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Yaacov Bergmann, the orchestra is recognized for its adventurous programming, school programs, and tradition of performing original compositions. From October through June, the Walla Walla Symphony performs a diverse and entertaining schedule that includes a mix of classical concerts, special concerts and the popular Discovery Series which explores musical traditions from around the world: [www.wwsymphony.com](http://www.wwsymphony.com).

### **Shakespeare Walla Walla**

Shakespeare Walla Walla performs professional Shakespearian theatre and youth theatre education to Walla Walla Valley residents and visitors. In partnership with Seattle Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare Walla Walla brings year-round, approachable and entertaining productions to the Walla Walla Valley: [www.shakespearewallawalla.org](http://www.shakespearewallawalla.org)

### **In Addition**

In addition to these outstanding events, Walla Walla is home to a vibrant, year-round performing arts community that includes a variety of indoor and outdoor events, festivals and performances. These events take place at locations including Whitman College, The Little Theatre of Walla Walla, Main Street Studios, numerous live music venues, area wineries, and many other locations throughout the Valley.

-more-

**About Walla Walla:**

As the unofficial capital of Washington wine country, Walla Walla is home to more than 130 wineries, a nationally recognized culinary scene, access to an abundance of outdoor recreation, and an arts & entertainment scene that rivals cities many times its size. This community of just over 30,000 residents is known for many things, including its friendliness and hospitality, the quality of its wine, and of course the famous Walla Walla Sweet Onion. An easy and scenic four-hour drive from Seattle, Portland, or Boise, Walla Walla can also be accessed via Alaska Airlines daily non-stop flights from Seattle. For more information and to begin planning a trip to Walla Walla, visit [www.visitwallawalla.com](http://www.visitwallawalla.com).

# # #