

OM show will take a spin around the world of Disney in 2018

By GRACE GAGNON
CORRESPONDENT

The 77th Annual Older Member Show is bringing the magic of Disney to Bristol with this year's theme, "Wish Upon a Star."

The OM Show is the longest continuous running variety show in the U.S. This year's production will feature Disney music according to Allen Stone in an email interview. Stone, who has been involved with the OM Show since his childhood, is show director for the 2018 OM Show and artistic director for the organization.

The Older Members Association was founded in 1923, the same year as Disney.

"Traditionally, the show has always welcomed cast members of all ages from kindergarten to adults. When choosing a theme I always look for opportunities to showcase everyone involved," Stone said.

Stone has big plans for this year's show.

Along with people of all age groups, local dance studios are invited to perform.

Stone said if the local dance studios participate then the planned show opening will be impressive.

"I'm really looking forward to a huge production number that will combine dance students from multiple dance studios around town. It will feature tap as well as jazz and ballroom dancers," Stone said.

Stone said he plans to cast teenagers and young adults as princesses and princes while older adults will be cast as villains and sidekicks.

"I believe that this year's show will have a lot to offer. I've selected great music arrangements for the adult chorus, a very upbeat and modern song for the teen chorus and fun medleys of popular music for the children's and youth choruses," Stone said.

The musical director for this year's show is Sally Kish, who has also been involved with the OM Show for many years.

Dan Newton was recently named the vice president and 2018 OM Show chairman. He is a five-

year member of the organization and served as membership committee chairman and program chairman on the previous four shows.

Wayne Morgan, newly installed supporting Older Member, has been selected as assistant director. Morgan designed the OM show's graphics for the past seven shows.

The OM Show is an annual tradition and the largest fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol Family Center.

The show sign-up meeting and sing-along will be held Sunday, Jan. 7 at 2 p.m. in the Rosa Gatti Community Room at the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol Family Center at 225 West St.

The OM Show will be performed on Friday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 21 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the auditorium of St. Paul Catholic High School at 1001 Stafford Ave.



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