

New Butte Season Full of Changes and Classics

An all-new 2009 season of professional and community theater will unfold this summer on the stage of the Butte Theater. Thin Air Theatre Company will bring four shows to the Butte, including two popular musicals and an all new melodrama.

There are several changes in store for theater-goers this season. The theater this year will be open for shows six days a week, from Thursday through Monday, an addition of one more day of fun over past years. The traditional classic melodrama has been moved to October, and the two summer musicals will run simultaneously, alternating show days and times.

The musicals *The Fantasticks* and *Godspell* will open in early June and run through Sept. 26 with an alternating schedule, providing a variety of times and days to meet any schedule.

The fall melodrama title will be announced soon, but it will also be followed by a Halloween Olio sure to rock the spirits in the theater.

After a 3-year hiatus, the popular *A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol* returns to the stage. This show is an original script for the theater and is based on Cripple Creek 1890's gold rush events, weaved through Dickens' classic.

The season show schedule is:

The Fantasticks

June 5-Sept. 26

Tickets: \$15.75 Adult; \$13.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children; \$12.75 for groups of 20-plus.

The Fantasticks, a 1960 musical with music by Harvey Schmidt and lyrics by Tom Jones, is the story of 2 fathers who use reverse psychology to ensure that their children fall in love. After the children fall in love, they discover their fathers' plot and they each go off to experience the world. They return to each other and the love they had, having learned from the world and made a sound decision.

The show's original production off-Broadway ran for 17,162 performances, becoming the world's longest-running musical, for 42 years. The book and score included such familiar songs such as *Try to Remember*.

See butteroperahouse.com for schedule and to buy tickets.

Godspell

June 12-Sept. 26

Tickets: \$15.75 Adult; \$13.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children; \$12.75 for groups of 20-plus.

Godspell (an archaic spelling of the word gospel) is a 1970 musical by Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak. It opened off-Broadway in 1971, and has played in various touring companies and revivals. Several cast albums have been released over the years and one of its songs, *Day By Day* from the original album, reached #13 on the Billboard pop singles chart in the summer of 1972. The musical is a series of parables, based on the Gospel of Matthew. These are interspersed with a variety of modern music set primarily to lyrics from traditional hymns.

The Fall Melodrama

Oct. 2-31

An all new fall melodrama is being developed. The show will be followed by a Halloween Olio. More information on this show will be announced in the future.

Tickets: \$15.75 Adult; \$13.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children; \$12.75 for groups of 20-plus.
See butteroperahouse.com for schedule and to buy tickets.

A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol

Nov. 27-Dec. 31

A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol, a favorite holiday happening in Cripple Creek, was originally written for the Butte stage by Chris Armbrister and Chris Sorensen. It first played in Cripple Creek in 2002 and is based on the classic by Charles Dickens.

A combination of professional and community actors team up to present this long-time popular classic story. TACT bring this show back to the Butte stage this year, a great holiday outing for entire family and one that will bolster your Christmas spirit. The night includes a holiday Olio filled with music of the season.

Tickets: \$11.75 Adult; \$9.75 Senior; \$7.75 Children; \$9.75 for groups of 20-plus.
See butteroperahouse.com for schedule and to buy tickets.

For more information or to make a reservation, visit www.butteoperahouse.com.