

**HERITAGE CHRISTMAS**  
CRIPPLE CREEK

**DECEMBER 7, 8 & 9, 2007**

- ◆ Free Activities for Children ◆
- ◆ Door Prizes ◆
- ◆ Decorated Trees ◆
- ◆ Silent Auction Bids ◆
- ◆ Holiday Bazaar ◆
- ◆ Lil' Miss and Master Gold Camp Crowned ◆
- ◆ Puppet Show ◆
- ◆ Cresson Dancers ◆
- ◆ Tour of Lighted Head Frame Ornaments ◆
- ◆ Bon Fire & Caroling ◆
- ◆ Goodies and Story Telling ◆
- ◆ Colorado Springs Christmas Chorale Concert ◆
- ◆ Parade ◆
- ◆ Historic Building Tours ◆
- ◆ Living Nativity ◆

*Presented by the Aspen Mine Senior Club  
and the City of Cripple Creek*

For a current schedule of events, visit:  
Aspen Mine Center, City Hall or  
[www.cripplecreekevents.com](http://www.cripplecreekevents.com)  
877-858-4653

**GOLD CAMP CHRISTMAS**  
DECEMBER 7, 8 & 9



## Butte Opera House Holiday Show "A Must See"

By Melissa Trenary

"Angel of the Christmas Mine," the 2007 community Christmas play at the Butte theater, is a "must" item on everyone's holiday "to do" list. This production, written by Chris Sorensen, is brand new to the Butte stage.

"Angel Of The Christmas Mine" takes place in 1890s Cripple Creek. The story centers around John Bell, played by Mickey Burdick. Bell has brought his family to Cripple Creek from Chicago in search of a better life. Instead of the prosperity he had hoped for, the family finds poverty and heartache.

The show opens on Bennett Avenue a few days before Christmas. Bell's daughter Holly, a role shared by Keely Tomlin and Lauryn Petrowski, is longing for a beautiful porcelain angel doll that she has named Gloria. Bell knows there is no way he can afford the doll with his meager wages from the lumber mill and it breaks his heart.

Following an argument with his wife Sara, played by veteran Butte actor Ashley Chasteen, Bell decides to return underground on an extra shift being offered at the #13 Mine on Christmas Eve. He is hoping to earn some extra money, but his decision may just cost him his life.

An explosion in the shaft traps Bell and two other miners, Clem Watkins and Bo Meadows, played by "Melodrama Mel" Moser and Dylan McClintock respectively.

Concerned citizens of Cripple Creek gather above ground lighting candles of hope and praying for the safe return of their men. Meanwhile down below, the three men pass the time sharing Christmas stories with each other.

Gloria, it turns out, is more than just a doll in a shop window. Played by Morgan Gengo, Gloria is a real angel who visits several characters throughout the story, delivering messages of hope and comfort.

As the story unfolds, secrets are revealed and the plot takes several twists and turns, keeping the audience riveted up to the last line.

Theater-goers will recognize quite a few local actors returning to the Butte stage this year. Cyndi Ridder plays Miss

Kate Meadows, mother of Bo and housekeeper for the #13 Mine owner Max Conrad, played by Roy Rains Jr. Steph Hilliard returns for a seventh season to portray Conrad's dedicated assistant Mrs. Fenster. Tonya McLean portrays Dr. Hassenplug and Tracy Carroll plays the part of the shop owner.

"Angel Of The Christmas Mine" is not just an entertaining play; it delivers a message of hope to all ages. At a time of year when most people are more concerned about material gifts and worried over maxed-out credit cards, this show will hit home with the fact that the holidays are not about those things, but rather about love, hope, friends and family. Even the Grinchiest of Scrooges will leave with a song in their heart and renewed spirit in their soul.

This year's Christmas show is definitely the best production ever to hit the Butte stage. Sorensen has written a masterpiece that is sure to go down as one of his most brilliant works.

And the Christmas Olio will have the audience laughing till their sides split. The original script written by Mickey Burdick and Musical Director Dave Maga is a fun-filled parody of the television shopping channel QVC. Burdick and Maga deliver their parts magnificently, proving that perhaps they have spent a little too much time watching the cable network.

While "Angel Of The Christmas Mine" and the Olio are fabulous productions, all good things must come to an end. Patrons only have from now until Dec. 31 to attend. Show times are Thursday - Saturday at 7 p.m. and matinee performances Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. There will be a special New Year's Eve performance at 7 p.m.

To show appreciation for everyone's support throughout the season, Thin Air Theatre Company has reduced ticket prices for this show. Adults are \$11, seniors are \$9, and children under 12 are \$7. Special group rates are also available. For more information or to purchase tickets on line, go to [www.butteoperahouse.com](http://www.butteoperahouse.com) or call 1-877-689-6402.

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