

Godspell Fills Out the Butte Summer Season

Double the fun – the Butte Theater is staging two popular musicals this summer. *The Fantasticks* opens June 5 and then a second classic musical production, *Godspell*, opens June 12.

The two shows will rotate all summer long, bringing twice as much theatrical and musical fun to Cripple Creek's historic stage.

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 cast includes veteran melodrama actor Mel Moser and several from last year's *Oklahoma!* The show is directed by Lysa Fox, co-founder of Venture Theater in Billings, MT. As a choreographer, Fox has over 30 shows under her belt and is an accomplished vocalist and cabaret performer as well as an improv actress.

In downtown Cripple Creek, the Butte offers family fun in the midst of a variety of restaurants and casinos. Book your choice of Butte shows, with dinner and stay at your favorite hotel and make a weekend get-away.

The summer will include *Godspell*, which runs through Sept. 26, as well as the popular 1970's musical *The Fantasticks*, which opens June 5. The two shows will rotate alternating days and times (1 and 7 p.m.). This year the new schedule includes more matinees and an addition day of performances. The theater will be open Wednesday through Monday, closed only on Tuesdays, providing a variety of times and days to meet any schedule.

Group bookings are available for all four 2009 Thin Air Theatre Company shows - two popular musicals, *The Fantasticks* and *Godspell*, an all new classic melodrama, *The Last Soul of Cripple Creek*, and a popular Butte original – *A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol*. The traditional classic melodrama, a long time Cripple Creek favorite outing, has moved to October, followed by a Halloween Olio sure to rock the spirits in the theater.

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

For more information and select a date and time that works best for you from the schedule of summer shows, visit ButteOperaHouse.com. You can also easily book your tickets online on the website.