

***For immediate release June 3, 2008***

**PSA/Calendar Listings**

The Thin Air Theatre Company will produce the 2008 summer melodrama, *An Arrant Knave*, at the Butte Theater, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek. The melodrama *Olio* will feature a special Tribute to Lowell Thomas, famed newscaster and author who grew up in Victor. The shows will be Friday, June 6. through Saturday, July 26 with show times: Wednesday 1 & 7 p.m.; Thursday 1 & 7 p.m.; Friday 7 p.m.; Saturday 1 & 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. Tickets are \$14.75 adults/\$12.75 seniors/\$9.75 children.

For information or to purchase tickets visit [butteoperahouse.com](http://butteoperahouse.com) or call 719-235-8944.

***Lowell Thomas Salute Part of Summer Melodrama Show***

Good evening everybody...This is Lowell Thomas brining you the news from the Butte Theater in Cripple Creek, Colorado...

For decades listeners tuned into the radio and television to hear the trusted voice of Lowell Thomas deliver the news of the day – sometimes broadcasting from places far away, sometimes from an airplane or an underground mine.

Thomas, who moved to Victor with his family 1900, grew up in the mining district, working in mines and getting his start in journalism at the Victor Daily Record.

The cast of the Thin Air Theatre Company will pay tribute to the life and career, which took Thomas to lands far and wide. A Salute to Lowell Thomas is the theme of the melodrama *Olio*, the Broadway review that is featured after the summer show each year.

Designed and written by melodrama director Steve Hornibrook, this *Olio* has a special meaning. Hornibrook, who was an actor at the Imperial Theater for over 1,000 performances in the 1970s and 1980s worked for Thomas as his press attaché during the filming of his last trip to the Cripple Creek district in August of 1981.

“It sounds more important than it really was. My job was to gather all phone calls for Lowell that came in to the hotel during the time he was shooting and then meet with him at the end of the day. I returned the less important calls for him the next day. The biggest perk of the job was to sit down with Lowell and watch the news with him at 5:00 PM every evening. Always Walter Cronkite,” said Hornibrook, who cherishes those evenings of watching the news with Thomas.

“We would have cocktails served to us in Wayne's (Mackin) office and just watch the news. It astonished me how up to date Lowell was on world affairs, even at 89 years of age,” he said.

While taking his calls, NBC called to let Thomas know that they had agreed to the terms of a new five-year contract. They had been offering him a series of one-year contracts but he kept turning them down, holding out for more money and more air time. Unfortunately he never realized the benefits of that contract. He passed away at his home in New York two weeks after the filming in Cripple Creek and Victor in August of 1981.

Hornibrook, himself a one-time Cripple Creek classic, came back this summer to direct the summer melodrama for the Thin Air Theatre Company and wanted to pay tribute to this world renowned newscaster, author, traveler and speaker.

The director asked the staff at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum in Victor to assist with information and graphics. The *Olio* includes photos of Thomas from the museum and private collections as backdrops to the musical numbers selected from periods of Thomas's life. The museum in Victor was named for Thomas as a means of commemorating Victor's hometown

hero. The museum houses memorabilia, books and the information on Thomas and his travels and life and is located at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Victor Avenue.

This year's melodrama, *An Arrant Knave* runs through Saturday, July 26 with show times: Wednesday 1 & 7 p.m.; Thursday 1 & 7 p.m.; Friday 7 p.m.; Saturday 1 & 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. Tickets are \$14.75 adults/\$12.75 seniors/\$9.75 children.

Group rates are available as well as dinner, theater and lodging packages. For more information or to make a reservation, visit [www.butteoperahouse.com](http://www.butteoperahouse.com). For more information about the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum visit [www.victorcolorado.com](http://www.victorcolorado.com).