

Summer Melodrama Stars Include Veteran Actors, Director

Classic Cripple Creek melodrama will take the stage again this summer at the Butte Theater with the involvement of some long-time Cripple Creek favorites.

This year's show, *An Arrant Knave*, will open June 6 and run through July.

The story, set in a Medieval forest, twist and turns through a series of plots and should keep audiences entertained and laughing. The plots of mystery and comedy will bring to the stage a show not seen in Cripple Creek since the 1970s. Steve Hornibrook, who performed 1,120 times at the Imperial Theater prior to 1978, will join other veteran actors Mel Moser, Mickey Burdick and Chris Armbrister in producing Thin Air Theatre Company's production of *An Arrant Knave*.

Hornibrook is a 40-year veteran of professional theater. His credits include over one 100 productions as an actor and another 20-plus as a director/producer. The 1969 production of *The Count of Monte Cristo* staged in The Gold Bar Room Theater at The Imperial Hotel marked the beginning of Hornibrook's love affair with Cripple Creek and with Colorado.

"Before all of you loyal melodrama fans think that you are going in to an unexpected state of *deja vu*, there is a chance you may have seen this show before," said the director. *An Arrant Knave* has been performed in Cripple Creek twice before, but never using Steele MacKaye's original title. MacKaye is best known as the author of *Hazel Kirke*, a Scottish melodrama that premiered at The Madison Theater on Broadway in 1880 and ran for an impressive two years, thus establishing the high-water mark for a long run show on Broadway, a record that would not be broken for the next 50 years, according to Hornibrook.

Hornibrook continued his theatrical career after leaving the Imperial in the late 1970s. Hornibrook and his wife Carla relocated to Pasadena, Ca. in 1984 to pursue their careers. In 1994 they relocated once again, this time with their daughter Catlin and son Dylan in tow, to Atlanta, Ga. where they now reside. In addition to performing and directing for Georgia Ensemble Theater and The Atlanta Lyric Theater, Hornibrook has written, produced and directed 10 original scripts while in Atlanta, all opening to flattering revues.

"I chose *An Arrant Knave* for this year's summer melodrama for two reasons. I still have fond memories of performing in this show some 35 years ago at the Imperial and, to be honest with you, it is one of the only pure comedies to come out of the Victorian period," said Hornibrook. "It wasn't until I revisited the script late last year that I discovered Steele MacKaye centered this comedy around the same social, political and economic woes we are all experiencing today. That is what makes *An Arrant Knave* such a comedy classic. I know you will agree."

This year's *Olio* after the show will be a salute to Victor's own Lowell Thomas. This musical review will feature the talents of the melodrama cast. Thomas grew up in Victor and got his start in journalism at the Victor Record. The Victor Lowell Thomas Museum was named for this famous broadcaster, traveler and writer and currently displays his memorabilia.

An Arrant Knave will run 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.

Group rates are available as well as dinner, theater and lodging packages. For more information or to make a reservation, visit www.butteoperahouse.com.

