

Classic Western Musical Takes the Butte Stage

Oklahoma! will open at the Butte Theater in Cripple Creek Aug. 1. This classic western musical is packed full of old-time music and fun and is the perfect outing for a family or a special get-away.

Written by composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist/librettist Oscar Hammerstein II, *Oklahoma!* was the longest running musical during its day. It is best known for "Oh What a Beautiful Morning," "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "People Will Say We Are in Love," and "Oklahoma".

Thin Air Theatre Company will produce this famous classical musical as part of its 2008 season. Set in Oklahoma Territory outside the town of Claremore in 1906, it tells the story of cowboy Curly McLain (2008 melodrama actor David Craven) and his romance with farmer girl Laurey Williams (2008 melodrama actress Laurie Sutton). Their love is challenged by Laurey's threatening farmhand, Jud Fry (Butte veteran actor Mel Moser), and much of the play follows the tension generated by this conflict.

Mace Archer will direct the show; Archer has appeared in several Butte shows include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *An Arrant Knave*.

This production is sure to be another stellar addition to the Cripple Creek experience. Reservations are now being accepted.

This Production runs August 1st through September 26th. In August, show times are: Wednesday 1 & 7 p.m.; Thursday 1 & 7 p.m.; Friday 7 p.m.; Saturday 1 & 7 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. In September, shows are offered Thursday at 1 & 7 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 1 & 7 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. Tickets are \$14.75 adults/\$12.75 seniors/\$9.75 children. For information or to purchase tickets visit butteoperahouse.com or call 719-235-8944.