

Curtain Call

Francisco Center for the Performing Arts ~ Home of the Spanish Peaks Players
127 Francisco Street La Veta, CO 81055 Special Edition February 2009

The Changes I've Seen

Being involved with the theater since 1997 (Wow, has it been 12 years? My, how time flies), there certainly has been a lot of changes: lighting and the stage itself; new seating, carpet and paint; improved signage out front and new railing at the front steps; even the sound booth had a face lift, including better equipment. We've also seen Harmon Hall take on a new look with new plumbing, hot water, linoleum floors, new doors and probably something more I've overlooked.

In 1997, with the Galactic Amazons Vaudeville Show under the direction of Suzy Hitchcock, we were so miserable on stage. Stage lighting was coffee cans with light bulbs in them and almost no heat was in the theater at all.

My first role on stage was a silent act "Felina" from Marty Robbins "El Paso". I danced all over the stage, and batted my eyes till my eyelashes fell out (fake of course). Shane played the "Bubble Gum Cowboy" ...imagine that! Our daughter, Jamie, played an alien; we still have that costume in our costume shop. Our daughter, Bobbie, was in the dance troupe.

Back then, the theater used folding chairs and had indoor/outdoor carpet. There were holes in the ceiling and floor, a creaking stage; household extension cords kept the lights on. Shows were possible with the electrical ingenuity of Gary Ryan and Susan Hubner. Thanks Gary and Susan; without you, we might have burned to the ground!

So, as you have seen, the changes would not have happened without you, the member, and your support of this little community theater. Thank you.

Until next time...your local thespian,
Sher Clouse

This is Part I of an ongoing series where Sher Clouse describes changes, growth and her experiences with the Francisco Center for the Performing Arts and the folks who work, play and visit there.

Check the Signature Newspaper

...for current schedules, last minute updates, ticket prices and casting calls!

Name That Job!

Please, your help is really needed on future productions. We need volunteers for all kinds of odd jobs at the theatre. Clean up, poster distribution, costume room, prop room, set construction, trash hauling, playbill and poster design, ticket makers and takers, greeters, lighting and sound and much more. You can name your own job.

If you can help even just a little, Call us! 719-989-8109



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Love Letters

Nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in drama, *Love Letters* centers on two characters as they read the letters that have passed between them throughout their lives. Gurney's two-character play chronicles the relationship of the two from second grade through their 50s through the love letters they write each other.

The letters are both hilarious and poignant. Using his brilliant writing prowess, the author never lets go of the central concept of the play. All the letters are held together by the thread of true love of the characters for each other. The play was first staged in 1988 and the venue was the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut. Since then, the play has been performed the world over and proved to be a smash hit drawing legions of spectators.

This play stars Betty Brown and Stirling Lathrop. Proceeds will benefit a pediatric AIDS clinic in Namakkal, India.

Performance Dates:

Saturday, February 14th at 7:00 PM and Sunday, February 15th at 2:00 PM

Show Tickets are \$10.



As an additional Valentine's treat, a dinner will be served at the 1899 Inn on Saturday at 5:30 PM and a luncheon on Sunday at 12:30 PM, before the shows. Dinner tickets are \$12, Luncheon tickets are \$10. All tickets are available at La Veta True Value.



Nonsense!



The Little Sisters of Hoboken, residents of Mt. St. Helens Convent and teachers at the school, have a problem. It seems Sister Julia (Child of God) has accidentally killed off 52 sisters with an accidental, botulism-laced vichyssoise. But even worse, the remaining nuns only had enough cash to bury 48 of the dearly departed sisters; the other four are in the freezer! *Nonsense* is a benefit concert staged by the Little Sisters to raise money for a proper burial...before the health inspector shows up. Mother Superior and her order of eccentric and endearing nuns show the lighter side of being

Catholic. With riotous dance numbers, show-stopping songs and side-splitting wit, you'll swear *Nonsense* was heaven-sent!

The play will be co-directed by Peggy Arnold-Hoobler and Betty Brown. The five starring roles will feature Peggy Arnold-Hoobler, Jill Hake, Deb Lathrop, Elizabeth Mason and Santina Vietti; music performed by

Karen Vietti.

Performance Dates:

Fridays and Saturdays, April 17, 18 and 24, 25 at 7:00 PM as well as Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 PM. If there is enough interest, also Sunday April 26 at 2:00 pm.

Show Tickets are \$12.

Francisco Fort Museum

*Enter the Past through a New Door.
Come on down and see what's new at old Francisco's
Fort Museum!*

123 West Francisco Street La Veta, CO 81055

719.742.3060 719.742.5501

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

"It takes a village to raise a child", an ancient African proverb that rings true in more ways than one. If you look at the FCPA as a child, as I do, you'll see what I mean. In any organization there is a certain amount of teamwork involved, but more so in a volunteer organization.

A lot of college scholarships use community service as a requirement for consideration. They know that teamwork and commitment are fundamental for success.

Over the years I have seen the great amount of teamwork and commitment that comes with every production. None too small, but some too big.

That said, I know how hard it is to commit the time to volunteer. With today's economy, things are always changing. Which makes the FCPA a perfect choice for your volunteer hours: you can donate as much or as little time as you want, you can do what you want, and have fun doing it!

Shane Clouse, President FCPA

Dinner Theater: Death By Dessert

It's dinnertime and you're invited to a meal to die for!

In New York's little Italy, the Donnaducce family and the Duccedonni family have been feuding for a generation, while operating two competing Italian restaurants that share a common wall.

When the curtain rises, the building's landlord is dead at center stage, and everyone is suspect; from the old-world Italian grandmother and mafia don grandfather to the passionate chefs and bumbling wait staff. When the zany group of characters all become suspects in the murder of the building's landlord, it's up to the restaurateurs to settle their differences, and the audience to decide whodunnit. This delightful murder-mystery comedy will be performed as a dinner theatre production.

Death by Dessert comes this fall and will be directed by Coral Anderson and Debbie Blouin. Watch for more information!

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Summer Melodrama

Watch for infomation. Matt Dobbs returns!

You've seen him as the bad guy, you've seen him as the good guy, you've even seen him as the other guy... Now see him as the guy in charge; his directing debut.

It's Membership Time

Members for The Francisco Center for the Performing Arts are always needed and always welcome; we need your support. Please consider joining! If you would like to become a new member contact our membership coordinator: Coral Anderson.

Current members will be mailed out renewal letters. Please join us for another exciting new season. Support the Arts in La Veta. Mail checks to:

FCPA
P.O. Box 663
La Veta, CO 81055

Membership Levels:

- Corporate Gold.....\$500
- Corporate Silver.....200
- Corporate Bronze.....100
- Individual Gold.....100
- Individual Silver.....50
- Individual Bronze.....25

\$2 Discount Coupons for all Spanish Peak Player Productions:

- 2 with each \$25 membership
- 4 with each \$50 membership
- 10 with \$100 memberships
- 20 with \$200 memberships
- 50 with \$500 memberships

La Veta/Cuchara Chamber of Commerce

719.742.3676 or 866.615.3676
P.O. Box 32 La Veta, CO 81055

FCPA History

This historic building which currently is being used for live theater and other community projects was originally the Presbyterian Church built in 1892. The land, on Francisco Street, was donated by Colonel John Francisco and Mrs. P.Q. McComb V. The Church, a stately white wooden building, was built by William H. Adamson at a cost of \$1,200. It contained two rooms initially, an audience room 38 by 40 feet and a second room of 16 by 22.

In 1893, the membership had grown to 35. The Presbyterians signed over the structure to the town of La Veta in the early 1970's for use by the Francisco Fort Museum. It is now under the management of the Francisco Center for the Performing Arts. Over the years, many talented groups have called this stage home such as the Spoon River Players, the Fort Francisco Players and currently the Spanish Peaks Players.

From: La Veta The First 40 Years, by Nancy Christofferson



**Francisco Center for the
Performing Arts**

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Coming Attractions

Love Letters.....See Page 2

Starring: Betty Brown and Stirling Lathrop.

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Sunday, Feb 15th at 2:00 PM

Show tickets are \$10.

Nonsense.....See Page 2

Starring: Peggy Arnold-Hoobler, Jill Hake, Deb Lathrop, Elizabeth Mason and Santina Vietti.
Music by Karen Vietti.

Fridays and Saturdays

April 17, 18, 24, and 25th at 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 PM

Sunday, April 26th at 2:00 (with interest)

Show tickets are \$12.



We're still working on it; but do stop by our website: www.LaVetaTheater.org