



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spectacular Theatre Slated for the FAC’s 2016-2017 Season

COLORADO SPRINGS (May 6, 2016) — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) has announced the blockbuster line-up for the 2016-2017 theatre season. The FAC is overjoyed to bring award-winning theatre productions such as *Shrek: The Musical*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Shear Madness* to the Pikes Peak region in the upcoming season – which kicks off in September, 2016.

THEATRE PROGRAMMING

2016-2017 Mainstage Theatre Season

- *Shear Madness* Sept. 22 – Oct. 16, 2016
- *Shrek: The Musical* Dec. 1, 2016 – Jan. 8, 2017
- *Enchanted April* Feb. 9 – 26, 2017
- *Bye Bye Birdie* March 30 – April 23, 2017
- *Man of La Mancha* May 25 – June 18, 2017

2016-2017 Studio & Family-Theatre Season

- *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* Sept. 30 – Oct. 30, 2016
- *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind* Oct. 21 – Nov. 19 2016
- *WYNOT Radio Theatre in The Other Coast Caper* Jan. 13 – 29, 2017
- *Junie B. Jones: The Musical* Feb. 24 – March 26, 2017
- *Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins* April 28 – May 21, 2017

MAINSTAGE SAGAJI THEATRE

All mainstage productions are performed in the FAC’s beautifully-restored 400-seat SaGaJi Theatre. With season subscriptions starting at only \$86 and single tickets for each performance starting at \$20. For more information on subscription options, call the FAC Box Office at 719.634.5583 or visit csfineartscenter.org to buy tickets today.

Shear Madness
 By Paul Portner

Sept. 22 – Oct. 16, 2016

Colorado Premiere! The longest-running play in the history of the American Theatre finally arrives in Colorado! Following 25 years at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and 35 years in Boston (where it has been voted “Best Comedy of the Year” eight times), this hysterical interactive farce makes its Rocky Mountain West premiere after entertaining over 11 million people worldwide. The madness erupts at your not-so-typical Colorado Springs hair salon, when suddenly the old lady upstairs gets mysteriously murdered and everyone’s dying to know whodunit? Get ready to comb through the clues and question the suspects like a bona fide “Shearlock” Holmes. And the best part ... It’s different every time you see it!

"A Legitimate Phenomenon!"

—Variety

Shrek: The Musical

Dec. 1, 2016 – Jan. 8, 2017

Music by Jeanine Tesori | Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire

Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film and the book by William Steig

Nominated for 9 Tony Awards! The most famous ogre of all time arrives for the holidays in this hilarious spectacle based on the Oscar-winning smash hit film! *Shrek: The Musical* follows this beloved unlikely hero and his wisecracking, best friend Donkey on a journey of a lifetime to rescue a feisty, headstrong princess. Throw in a short tempered bad guy, a cookie with attitude and more than a dozen other fairytale misfits, and Shrek must learn to see the true hero within to succeed. The sidesplitting tale brings all of the beloved characters from the film to life on stage with all new jokes by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire, and songs from Jeanine Tesori (Tony Award-winning composer of *Fun Home*). Irreverent fun for the whole family, Shrek proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre.

"★★★★★ Shrektacular. A great show for all the family"

—Sunday Telegraph

"★★★★★ A big hit. Brilliant show. Tremendous"

—Daily Express

Enchanted April

Feb. 9 – 26, 2017

By Matthew Barber, from the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim

This delightful romantic comedy based on the beloved novel comes to the FAC for the first time, following 500 critically-acclaimed productions worldwide. Feeling lost in the shadows of marriage and post-WWI society, two unhappy London housewives rent a villa in Italy for a ladies-only holiday away – reluctantly recruiting a pair of difficult upper-class women to share the cost and the experience. Together, among the wisteria blossoms and the Mediterranean sunshine, the four women clash — and then begin to bond and bloom — until men once again upset the balance.

"As good as they come ... a lush, thoroughly refreshing theatrical holiday. A magical triumph."

—LA Times

"A play where every single element falls perfectly into place ... a show that leaves you positively glowing."

—NY Theatre

Bye Bye Birdie

March 30 – April 23, 2017

Book by Michael Stewart | Music by Charles Strouse | Lyrics by Lee Adams

The first Rock 'N' Roll Musical, this modern classic takes the stage in an all new production. It's the late 1950's and teenagers from across the United States are going crazy for handsome rock star, Conrad Birdie. Disaster strikes when Conrad receives a draft notice to join the military. His manager stages a

publicity stunt for Conrad to kiss one lucky fan on The Ed Sullivan Show before he leaves for the army. Conrad Birdie gets more than he bargained for when he arrives in Sweet Apple, which is reeling with excitement for his visit. Songs like *An English Teacher*, *What Did I Ever See in Him?*, *Put on a Happy Face*, *One Boy*, *A Lot of Livin' to Do*, *Kids*, *Rosie* and *Spanish Rose* are musical theatre classics. No wonder *Birdie* won four Tony Awards® and remains one of the most captivating shows of our time.

"Fifty years on, 'Bye Bye Birdie' is still as light, frothy, and irresistible as an egg cream."
—The New Yorker

Man of La Mancha

May 25 – June 18, 2017

Written by Dale Wasserman | Music by Mitch Leigh | Lyrics by Joe Darion

A celebrated Broadway hit and winner of five Tony Awards®, *Man of La Mancha* is a remarkable show and one of the great theatre successes of the 20th century. It will leave you breathless with a score including the touching ode to romance, *Dulcinea*, the heroic, *I, Don Quixote* and the unforgettable, *The Impossible Dream*. Inspired by one of the greatest novels of all time, *Man of La Mancha* features Miguel de Cervantes and his faithful servant, who channel the power of storytelling to recount the legend of wannabe knight Don Quixote and his trusty sidekick Sancho as they embark on a journey full of laughter, love and unruly windmills. *Man of La Mancha* is a theatrical masterpiece sure to captivate all lovers of musical theater!

"...inspires its audiences to become better people by treating one another with unfailing respect."
—The New Yorker

FAMILY & STUDIO SERIES in the FAC's MUSIC ROOM

All Family & Studio productions are performed in the FAC's gorgeously-intimate 108-seat Music Room. Tickets for each performance are \$20 for non-members \$18 for FAC members and \$10 for kids 12 and under (family-theatre shows only).

***The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* *FAMILY SERIES**

Sept. 30 – Oct. 30, 2016

By John Glore | Based on the book by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

Though the characters may be familiar, each of your favorite storybook fables is uproariously derailed in this musical adaptation of Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith's quintessential children's book of fractured fairy tales. Everything from *Chicken Little* to *The Gingerbread Man* gets a complete makeover. Fun music and witty narration accompany the likes of ineloquent giants, sassy barnyard animals, colossal cow pies and enough stinky cheese to go around. Most enjoyed by ages 5 and up.

***Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind (30 Plays In 60 Minutes)* *STUDIO SERIES** **Oct. 21 – Nov. 19 2016**

By Greg Allen

Having opened in 1988 and still playing today as the longest-running show in Chicago history, *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind* is an ensemble experiment in presenting "30 Plays in 60 Minutes." Each two-minute play is performed in random order with an interactive audience. An onstage 60-minute timer keeps everyone honest. This is a witty collection of comic, tragic, political, personal and abstract plays. Ready, set, GO!

*"The most clever, most urgent show in town."
—Chicago Theatre*

WYNOT Radio Theatre in The Other Coast Caper *STUDIO SERIES
By Cory Moosman and Sammy Gleason

Jan. 13 – 29, 2017

This hilarious troupe returns for their fourth residency at the FAC. This newest episode is a theatrical SPOOF of the golden age of radio – a time when men were men, dames had moxie, and the sound of adventure filled the air waves! The *Colorado Springs Gazette* calls it a "hilarious send-up of old-time radio," complete with twistedly nostalgic commercials, hysterical 'off-air' actor interaction and audience participation. This ain't your Grandpa's Old Time Radio Show! The WYNOT Radio Theatre Show is an evening of side splitting comedy you don't want to miss!

Junie B. Jones: The Musical *FAMILY SERIES

Feb. 24 – March 26, 2017

Book and lyrics by Marcy Heisler | music by Zina Goldrich | Based on the book series by Barbara Park

A delightful adaptation of the best-selling children's book series brought to life in a genuinely comical and not strictly-for-kids musical. It's Junie B.'s first day of first grade and a lot of things have changed for her. Featuring a tremendously loveable character and fun-filled songs, Junie B. Jones will capture your heart just as the books captivated an entire generation of students.

*"A spirited entertainment. It brought a joyful reaction from youngsters and contributed enough visual and verbal humor to keep the adults entertained, too."
—NY Times*

Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins *STUDIO SERIES
By Stephen Temperley

April 28 – May 21, 2017

For more than half a century, the name Florence Foster Jenkins has been guaranteed to produce explosions of derisive laughter. Not unreasonably so, as this wealthy society eccentric suffered under the delusion that she was a great coloratura soprano when she was in fact incapable of producing two consecutive notes in tune. Nevertheless, she received extraordinary fame, and the climax of her career was a single concert at Carnegie Hall in 1944. Famously, it sold out in two hours. *Souvenir*, by turn hilarious and poignant, tells her story.

*"A beguiling comic jewel with a heart."
—Variety*

*"A wildly funny and surprisingly touching portrait."
—Time Out NY*

Veronika String Quartet *STUDIO SERIES

Nov. 6, Dec. 18, April 9, July 2

The award-winning classical quartet continues their impressive residency at the FAC with four concerts over the course of the season, featuring some of the finest performers in the Pikes Peak region.

ACTORS' EQUITY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Theatre Company has recently signed a seasonal two-year Letter of Agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the union which represents more than 50,000 professional stage actors and stage managers nationwide. The Letter of Agreement, which was individually negotiated for the FAC, references many of the terms and conditions of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) Agreement and is used by a theater when it progressively moves over a period of time into a standard Equity agreement.

This agreement formalizes and increases the number of Equity contracts that the FAC will grant over the course of each season. Each mainstage production will feature at least two Actors and one Stage Manager signed to an Equity contract in the 2016-2017 season, increasing to three actors per production in the 2017-2018 season.

While the FAC has been hiring Equity actors for more than a decade, this agreement elevates the standing of the FAC in the greater Colorado and American Theatre field, and in turn makes the FAC the largest professional theatre company in Southern Colorado.

Actors' Equity Association ("Equity")

Founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 Actors and Stage Managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

Fine Arts Center

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's (FAC) story began in 1919 as the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA). After the Great Depression hit in 1929, the BAA looked at diversifying further, expanding into an entire arts district under one roof. And that's how the FAC came to be, as it is known today. The name was changed to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and an expansive building was created to house a multi-disciplinary center for the arts. The FAC, a privately-funded, nonprofit organization, opened the doors on the exciting architectural treasure in 1936 as an art museum, professional theatre company, and arts education center. The FAC building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. For information, visit csfineartscenter.org.

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