

FCT Spotlight

December 2006

The Holiday Issue

by Jenny Barnes-Gatzke

Fremont Civic Theatre is busy, busy, busy this time of year, just as most Americans are during the holiday season. Going out to enjoy theatre and the arts is a great way to celebrate the holidays with your friends and family. This holiday season, FCT is presenting *A Christmas Variety Show* with over 10 different talents including poetry, dancing, singing, guitars, banjos, pianos, one act plays and more! Make it a special occasion, come and be entertained by Fremont County talent! FCT is also preparing for their annual New Year's Eve Dinner Theatre, which is an Audience-Participation Murder Mystery event, this year made extra fun, because we are encouraging everyone to come out to the Abbey in their P.J.'s! Tickets for "*The Pajama Party Murders*" include dinner and entertainment, and seats are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. In addition to all of the excitement for the holidays, Fremont Civic Theatre is preparing to celebrate their 60th anniversary of Community Theatre in Fremont County. FCT is the oldest continuously active theatre group in Colorado! We thank our patrons for all of their support over the years, and are actively recruiting new members and participants to continue the tradition of the arts in Fremont County for current and future generations to enjoy.

"Come Play With Us!"



FCT Presents:

A Christmas Variety Show

Loaves & Fishes Benefit

This December, gather your friends and relatives for a fresh dose of Fremont County talent! After a successful 5 year run of the classic Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, we are refreshing our Christmas presentation by bringing a new group of talent to the stage. Coordinator Tanya Gatlin auditioned a diverse group of talented performers from Fremont County and beyond! The Master of Ceremonies will be presenting ten or more acts for your holiday enjoyment. Please bring a canned food donation as admission to this event. Come and join in the fun! There will be much shared Christmas spirit!

Cañon City Middle School Auditorium

1215 Main Street, Cañon City, CO 81212

Friday, Dec. 8th: 7:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 9th: 7:00 PM

Sunday, Dec. 10th: 3:00 PM



The Pajama Party Murders

**FCT's Annual New Year's Eve
Murder-Mystery Dinner Theatre
At the Holy Cross Abbey Event Center
Dec. 31st, 2006**

Help us Celebrate our History!

2007 is the 60th Anniversary of Fremont Civic Theatre, and, as Historian, I am collecting, organizing and setting up the archives of Fremont Civic Theatre.

If you have any memorabilia from the past that you would be willing to share (articles/programs/pictures/ scripts, etc.), please send them to me to be included in the archives:

1. 727 Clover Ave, Cañon City, CO, 81212 or
2. e-mail: patlouman@yahoo.com. or
3. Call me at 371-6333 and I will pick them up.

Patricia Manchego
Historian

Fun Fact: FCT is the oldest continuously active theatre group in Colorado.

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Join us for our New Year's Eve celebration with murder, mayhem, laughter, entertainment, great food and wine, and the kick-off of our 60th anniversary of community theatre in Fremont County. This year, we're taking "Audience-Participation" to the next level, by encouraging everyone to get into the Pajama Party theme, and come out to the Abbey in your PJs!

Seats will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis - early birds will be closest to the action.... so, call now to reserve your seats!

7 1 9 - 2 7 5 - 8 9 8 9

Single: \$35, Couples: \$60.

Corporate tables are available.

Doors open at 6:00 pm for perusal of FCT's annual Silent Auction, offering a great selection of local goods, gift certificates, locally made crafts, and more!

Please call 719-275-8989 if you are interested in donating items for the silent auction.

It's cool to support the arts in Fremont County.

Jump on the bandwagon of local businesses and patrons by joining FCT with a business membership. By making a tax-deductible donation of \$150 or more, your small ad will appear in each program for the theatre season.

Join us, and help celebrate 60 years of community theatre!

The Hills Are Alive With *The Sound of Music* by Nancy Fenyves

Fremont Civic Theatre is thrilled to announce that we will be kicking off the 60th year of continuous live theatre in Fremont County and the 2007-2008 season with the Fall production of "*The Sound of Music*". It will be performed in late September or early October, 2007. This Rodgers and Hammerstein musical has been billed one of the most loved musicals of all time. Auditions will be in May with rehearsals throughout the summer. There are wonderful parts for children and adults, both males and females alike. In previous FCT productions of this type it has not been unusual to have a cast of close to 100. There are many non singing roles, so there could be a part for anyone. Planning for productions such as this begins now - a year prior to the performances. If you are interested in helping with the production staff or would like to be notified audition times and places, call FCT at 719 275-8989 or Nancy directly at 276-4275. If you would like to sponsor this event, we are recruiting corporate sponsors to help us bring this classic to Fremont county.

Theatre is Technical

by Jim Chiaro

Lights and sound went pretty well at Washington School for "Life Is Short". Kathy Herrin and Ed Norden traded off with each other running sound. Jim Chiaro ran lights except for one show night that he couldn't be there. Kathy Herrin filled in for that show. Kathy Herrin's sister, Lisa Barnes, ran curtain for us and "made the phone ring" when we needed it. Lisa also filled in as stage hand. For those that haven't yet met her, she is a great asset to FCT and I sincerely hope she will be willing to help us in the future. Tracy Harmon and Ed Norden also helped as stage hands. I have compiled a list of possible tech people (with Tony Schenk's help) that we might be able to utilize for future events. I would welcome any feedback from members. I will be working with the membership committee to get phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and any other contact information to make the list more complete and usable.

The Wonderful World Wide Web

by Jenny Barnes-Gatzke

FCT is hoping to increase its member base and get the word out about what's happening in Fremont County Theatre... instantly, via. our new web site at:

www.FremontCivicTheatre.org.

We recently added an online membership form, as well as a place to sign up for the City Market Cares program. New photos were added to our gallery, and a new classified section will be added to include other local info that you need to know to stay up-to-date with the arts around Fremont County.

Look out for these upcoming FCT Fundraiser Raffles:

Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25

Sante Fe at a Glance

A 2 night Bed & Breakfast getaway (transferable)
with \$50 towards gas expense
Kicks off New Year's Eve 2006
Drawing will be held after the Fall Show 2007

Allure & Flavor of Fremont County

Fremont County Attractions & Business Samples
Kicks off during the Children's Theatre production in the spring of 2007
The drawing will occur New Year's Eve 2007
Triple your luck - there will be three winners!

Confessions from the Green Room

by Pat Manchego



I did not audition for *'Life is Short'* because at that time and until the first of the year, my calendar is very busy. However, a week into rehearsals, two people

dropped out of the play and the Director called and asked if I would step in. I didn't hesitate—I said YES and attended the next rehearsal to pick up a script and get started. When I told my daughter I was going to do the play after all, she said, "Why do you always do that? Why do you always say yes to the theatre?"

Theatre people are all optimistic, upbeat, creative, and FUN. I can be dog tired after a long day and dread going out again for rehearsal or performance. But, as I walk in the door, I am immediately energized. There is momentum, energy, laughter, and acceptance.

The development of a character is mind boggling—with the help of the director and fellow actors I must reach down deep inside and discover things about my character and about myself.

An important part of acting is staying in character—No matter what! If a line is dropped or flubbed, part of the set is not there or in the wrong place, a prop is misplaced or malfunctions—if I have become my character, the cast and I can overcome so smoothly that often the audience doesn't even know there was a 'glitch'.

Unfortunately, the Director was not able to get a second person to fill in the cast and my part was cut for this production, but I look forward to the Spring show when I can audition, and if I win a part, I can give it my all from the beginning, or assist on stage or production crew.

The bottom line is, I love the theatre—whether as an actor, a member of the stage crew or production crew, or just as a member of Fremont Civic Theatre contributing what I can. It is always a growing experience—an enlightening, energy producing experience. My reward—OUR reward—is knowing the audience enjoyed the performance.

City Market Cares

Raise Money Automatically for FCT when you shop

Fill out this card, and send it to FCT (PO Box 1233 Cañon City, CO 81212) or sign up online, (www.fremontcivictheatre.org) and raise money automatically for Fremont Civic Theatre when you shop at City Market, Loaf & Jug, King Soopers, Kroger & more!

Go online to sign up now! www.fremontcivictheatre.org



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From the Desk of FCT's President

"Tis the season to be Jolly" and Fremont Civic Theatre is falling right into the pattern with a Christmas Variety Show on December 8th, 9th, and 10th, coordinated by Tanya Gatlin. There will be ten different performers, and we know you will enjoy them all.

The 2006 Christmas Variety Show is a new idea, following the great 5 year run the FCT had performing *A Christmas Carol* as our holiday show. We hope all of you who have made it a tradition to attend *A Christmas Carol* will come out to support this community showcase of talent! Come and share in the spirit of the arts! This is a donation-only event, please bring one canned food item as admission, to benefit Loaves & Fishes!

We had a wonderful fall show, "*Life is Short*", directed by Kathy Herrin. She was able to gather an extraordinary cast that showcased the talent we have in Fremont County.

Once again on New Year's Eve, FCT will provide food and entertainment with a dinner-mystery theatre at the Abby. Nancy Fenyves is in charge of this production, and it promises to be a good time for all. There will also be a Silent Auction with many items to "tickle your fancy".

We are looking forward to a Children's Theatre production in March, directed and coordinated by Nellie Jarvis, and her crew. Keep your eyes open for more information about this show.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Sharon Dickman



FCT CLASSIFIEDS FOR SALE

Antique Turn of the Century 9'
Concert Grand Piano Call (719)
275-8989 for more information

WANTED

Aspiring Actors, Directors and Crew - All are welcome! Call to find out about upcoming FCT informational workshops & seminars - offered free to the public!

Mark your calendar

Upcoming Events:

- A Christmas Variety Show**
December 8th, 9th, 7:00 PM
December 10th, 3:00 PM
Cañon City Middle School

The Pajama Party Murders
Dinner Theatre

December 31st - Doors open at 6:00 pm
The Holy Cross Abbey Events Center

FCT's 2006 Fall Production: *Life is Short*

by Kathy Herrin

After a several month hiatus, Fremont Civic Theatre mounted a different type of show for our fall production. "*Life is Short*" by Craig Pospisil (and produced in association with Dramatists Play Service) is a collection of very short pieces glimpsing at American society and the various stages of life. The show was well-written and ideal for our efforts to solicit new actors and new directors for our organization.

We invited attendees at the Directors' Workshop held earlier this fall to select and direct one of the pieces, as a follow-up to the workshop. Terri Stultz elected to take on the challenge, in addition to acting in several pieces. In addition to Terri, we also welcomed back to the boards Jenny Barnes-Gatzke, Greg Mortensen and Brian Bowen. Ed Norden rejoined FCT after an extended absence, and we were pleased to have Kathy Splitgerber, Emily Mortensen and Rebecca Del Castillo join us for this production. The technical talents of Jim Chiaro, Tracy Harmon, Ed Norden and Lisa Barnes were also greatly appreciated. Although attendance at our first weekend was light, it appeared that all the patrons thoroughly enjoyed the show. Thanks to everyone who was part of this production or who supported us with your attendance. Just remember, "Life IS Short!"



(left to right): Jenny Barnes-Gatzke, Ed Norden, Terri Stultz, Greg Mortensen, Emily Mortensen, Rebecca Del Castillo, Kathy Splitgerber, Brian Bowen, Director Kathy Herrin

New! E-news from FCT

Color photos! Instant updates! Sign up for the e-newsletter now!

E-mail info@fremontcivictheatre.org to let us know if you'd prefer to receive Fremont Civic Theatre's newsletter and updates via e-mail. You'll be helping us cut printing and postage costs, and you will receive timely information about auditions, upcoming productions, workshops & more.... straight to your e-mail box. This is our first time trying the e-newsletter, and we want to know what you think! View the PDF newsletter now, by downloading it from our website at www.fremontcivictheatre.org.

More than meets the eye: Back Stage crews work magic



by Jenny Barnes-Gatzke
Fremont Civic Theatre's recent production of *Life is Short* featured a group of local artists. If you attended the production, you certainly were made aware of the actors who participated on stage. But there was much more than met the eye going on backstage to bring the magic of the theatre to you, the audience. *Life is Short* was a series of one-act plays, which posed a number of challenges backstage, i.e. changing sets in between the five acts, coordinating

Pictured: Cast & Crew of *Life is Short*, celebrating a successful 6 performances over two weekends!

sound effects and lighting with the action, and in a few cases, quickly changing costumes, hair, and makeup for the actors who were playing multiple roles. This could not have been accomplished without the help of the back stage crew, and the FCT board offers many thanks to Jim Chiaro, Tracy Harmon, Ed Norden, Lisa Barnes and Betty Derr for their important roles backstage, participating in and supporting the arts in Fremont County.

If you are interested in participating with backstage activities, please e-mail us at info@fremontcivictheatre.org, or call 719-275-8989.