

CHRISTMAS SHOW PRODUCTION CREW

❖ **Mickey Burdick (Director)** received his BFA in Acting and Directing in 2000 from the University of Arizona. Directing credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Gunslinger*; *The Legend of Billy the Kid*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Odd Couple*, *Greater Tuna*, *Vampire of Cripple Creek*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. He is ecstatic to be directing this show, and has high hopes for another great TATC Christmas season! Special thanks to Chris A., Chris S., Mel, Morgan, Jamie, Brandie, and the rest of the gang for making it all come together. Extra special thanks to Mom and Dad for their continual love and support.

❖ **James Mablin (Composer/Musical Director)** is a freelance musical director and composer originally from London, England. Shows in the UK include the national tours of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Whistle Down The Wind*, and *Joseph And His Amazing Technicolored(r) Dreamcoat*. Shows in the US include *Under Fire*, *The Wild Party*, *Bat Boy*, *Into the Woods*, *Zombie Prom* and *Caroline or Change*. For the past two years James has musically directed production numbers for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. James spent a year working as an adjunct professor at the Yale School of Drama, and another year as the head of Musical Theatre at a large college in London. He is the head of the music department at Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Training Centre in New



York where he has worked for the past 11 summers. James has composed the scores for many productions in the UK and US including *A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol*, *Blood Wedding* and *Dark of the Moon*. London orchestral credits include *The Wiz* and *Oliver*. This is James' sixth Christmas season at the Butte.

❖ **Morgan Gengo (Theater Manager)** is very excited to be stepping into the role of Butte Theater Manager. Originally from Roanoke, VA, Morgan has been living and working in Colorado since 2007, with much of that time spent onstage at the Butte. She would like to thank the City of Cripple Creek for this amazing opportunity. Endless thanks to Stacy, Mickey, Mel, and Chris for their support and friendship, and to the many community members that have supported her as she strives to continue the valuable work of keeping the theater alive in Cripple Creek.

❖ **Brandie Larsen (Costumes)** is in her 7th year working in the costume department and she loves every minute of it. Her past designing credits include *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *Godspell*, *The Fantasticks* and *The Lost Soul of Cripple Creek*, *Werewolves of Poverty Gulch*, among others. Thanks to Chris and Mickey for continuing to let me be creative, and to my family, who doesn't seem to mind being human mannequins.

BUTTE THEATER ETIQUETTE

Photography, cell phones, pagers, camcorders and tape recorders are not allowed in the theater. No Smoking in the Butte Opera House. We have adopted the Cripple Creek Fire Engines as the Official Sirens of the Butte Opera House. In case of emergency, their voices will ring loud and clear!

CHILDREN PLEASE NOTE: If your parents have a tendency to cry, wiggle or indulge in any other disruptive behavior, would you please take them out to the lobby during the performance? *Thank you.*

BUTTE TRADITION

Theater got an early start in the district - Cripple Creek and Victor both sported grand opera houses in the 1890s. Both are gone now, but the Butte lives on.

The "Butte Concert and Beer Hall" premiered in 1896, when proprietors Halbekann & Hertz featured nightly entertainment with a Ladies' Vienna Orchestra. Some time later the theater re-premiered as the Butte Opera House under the management of D.R. McArthur. The opera house experienced limited success, and over the next several years underwent a series of makeovers; first it was transformed into the Butte Hall Dancing Academy, followed by The Watt Brothers Furniture Company, back to a theater (this time under the name Teller Hall,) onto a skating rink, a secondhand store, a weapons cache (the space was then called The Armory,) an auto garage, home of the Cripple Creek Auto Company, and eventually fell into disuse, mainly a storage facility for the fire department located below.

Early in 1999, the city of Cripple Creek brushed aside some of the dust and saw a lost jewel hidden amongst the rubble. The City began extensive renovations to refurbish the Butte with fresh paint, Victorian-era wallpaper, and period chandeliers.

Final renovations were completed on the Butte Opera House in 2000, and that summer melodrama moved to its new home.

The Butte Opera House is currently the home of the Thin Air Theatre Company, a professional acting group that focuses on presenting authentic Victorian melodrama to the people of Cripple Creek.

The melodrama is a fun-filled family outing with professional actors, stunning hand-painted sets and period costumes. Audiences can boo at villains and cheer for heroes in this traditional form of melodrama, just as audiences have in Cripple Creek since the 1940s. The 2011 season is currently being planned and will be announced soon.

Special Thanks To:

- ◆ The City of Cripple Creek
- ◆ Cripple Creek Hardware, Lumber & Supply
- ◆ Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company
- ◆ The Gold Camp Arts Foundation
- ◆ The Wildwood Casino
- ◆ Bronco Billy's Casino
- ◆ Colorado Grande Casino
- ◆ The Mackin Family
- ◆ The Libby Family
- ◆ Ruth Zalewski
- ◆ Likkel Construction/Likkel Real Estate
- ◆ The Last Dollar Inn
- ◆ Cripple Creek Coffee
- ◆ Gold King Mountain Inn
- ◆ Carr Manor
- ◆ Creations Everlasting
- ◆ Casino Cuts
- ◆ Ray White
- ◆ Paul Harris
- ◆ Penrose Library Archives
- ◆ Donna Brazill at Merit Co. Real Estate
- ◆ The Cripple Creek Heritage Center Staff
- ◆ Jan Hamilton & City of Cripple Creek Marketing Dept.
- ◆ Deb Hack & the City of Cripple Creek Custodial Dept.
- ◆ The Cripple Creek Fire Dept.

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HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Don't forget to visit the concession stand in the lobby before the show & at intermission for snacks!

Hot Drink Specials Back for the Holidays...

Visit our bar in the back of the theater:

- ◆ Coffee w/ Bailey's Irish Cream
- ◆ Hot Spiced Cider w/Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum
- ◆ Hot Cocoa w/ Peppermint Schnapps topped with whipped cream

You must be at least 21 years old to purchase or consume alcohol in the State of Colorado.