

**Chris Tyer (Capt. Brass/Stage Manager)** is enthralled to be here in Cripple Creek, with Thin Air Theatre Company for this Christmas season. He is more used to the mild, wet winters of Starkville, MS, where he acts, directs and stage manages. Some of his favorites include *Inherit the Wind*, *Anything Goes*, and *Children of Eden*. He would like to wish all his family, friends, and the audiences of *A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol* and very happy and loving holidays.

This is **Brandie Larsen's (Costumer)** 6th year working on costumes for the Butte. She really enjoys her work and all of the great people she has met along the way. A great big thanks goes out to Mel, Mickey and Chris for giving her the opportunity to design. Special thanks also to Mickey for all of the time and effort he has donated to the Gold Camp Arts Foundation, writing grants and fundraising, and all of the time donated to the school, helping to inspire our young people to love the arts. We hope that he sticks around but if it's not to be then we wish him the best of everything and hope that he will come back to visit us someday. All the Best to TATC for their contribution to our community. Cheers!!

**Tonya McLean (House Manager)** is a local fifth grade teacher and the director of the Cresson Drama Club. She has been working in the theaters off and on for too many years to mention. Tonya has performed here at the Butte in *Plays In Ten* and *Spoon River Anthology*. In addition, she has been a stage manager for *Rounding Third* and *A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol*, and she was also assistant director for *Spoon River Anthology*. Tonya thoroughly enjoys all of her experiences here at the Butte and cherishes the friendships she's made.

**Terry Smith (Lighting & Sound Tech)** is now into his second year of running sound and lighting cues for live performances, Terry



brings a wide variety of stage and production experience to the position. Credits include extensive studio production and engineering, performer and recording artist, booking/stage-producing national concert acts, writer/director of countless TV/radio commercials and music.

**Thin Air Theatre Company  
Has Been Named The 2009  
Best New Theatre Company  
By The  
Colorado Springs Gazette!**

## Thin Air Theatre Company Third Season at the Butte

Former all former Imperial and/or Cripple Creek Players cast members Chris Armbrister, Mel Moser and Mickey Burdick put their theater talents together in 2007 to form a new company – Thin Air Theatre Company (TATC). This marks the third year TATC has produced shows at the Butte Theater.

The new venture has been staging classic Cripple Creek melodrama after the long and successful tradition of melodrama appeared to be ending with the resignation of the Mackin family in 2006. The actors continually pool their energies, efforts and resources to create a new company that would ensure the continuation of professional theater and melodrama.

Their efforts, made possible by their involvement

with the long-time Mackin family tradition of melodrama, have paid off with popular shows, and this year the Colorado Springs Gazette named TATC the Best New Theater Company.

“After years of working as an actor in Cripple Creek, I was naturally thrilled when the opportunity arose to become a part of the new Butte programming”, said Burdick who has performed in several shows and is now the Butte Theater manager.

“The first time I drove down Tenderfoot Hill I was captivated by the vision that stretched out

before me. As I pulled up to the Imperial, where the melodrama used to be performed back in those days, I felt like I had stepped into another era; you gotta remember this was before there were any casinos in town...it was magical,” said Armbrister.

Actors, directors, writers and managers – the three are also friends as well as business partners in TATC.

“The chance to work with such talented individuals in such a fine theater rarely comes along, so I welcomed the challenge with open arms,” said Burdick, who is also managing a professional theater project in Estes Park.

A longtime face on the Imperial and Butte stages, Moser grew up in eastern Montana’s ranch country.

“I have been given a chance to work with two great theater minds, Mickey Burdick and Chris Armbrister; how they have put up with me God only knows. They both have worked their tails off everyday for the past year and we have not had one disagreement, ok.....one. I want to thank the City of Cripple Creek for giving Thin Air Theatre Company this opportunity; at each turn in the road or maybe I should say "bump" in the road, they have always been there for us with the best of intentions and a willingness to advise and council and I want to give them my sincerest thank you.”

The 2009 season included more professional theater productions, including *The Fantasticks* and *Godspell*. TATC produced a classic melodrama *The Lost Soul of Cripple Creek* in October. The new show running through Dec. 31 is the popular *A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol*. The fall show will include a Halloween Olio.s

