

## **New Butte Season Full of Music and Melodrama**

An all-new 2011 season of professional theatre will unfold this summer at Cripple Creek's Butte Theater, bringing western musical and melodrama action to the stage. Thin Air Theatre Company will bring four shows to the Butte, including two new summer shows and a new Christmas show.

The summer shows are the western musical *Calamity Jane*, and *Hazel Kirke*, a melodrama last performed in Cripple Creek at the Imperial's Gold Bar Room under the direction of Dorothy Mackin.

Based on the 1953 movie starring Doris Day, *Calamity Jane* is an energetic musical about the unlikely romance of famed Western tomboy Calamity Jane and gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok. In an attempt to lure a handsome Army lieutenant away from another woman, Jane trades in her gun slinging and buckskins for housekeeping and dresses, and wins the affections of Wild Bill instead. The show runs June 24-Sept. 4. Tickets: Adult \$15.75; Senior (62 and over) \$13.75; Children (12 and under) \$9.75; Groups of 20+ \$11.75 each.

The classic 1880 melodrama, *Hazel Kirke*, tells the story of a young girl who is disowned by her father after following her heart and marrying a man against her father's wishes. In her shame and exile, Hazel must defend herself from the blows of a cruel world set to destroy her, as she tries to reconcile with her family and the man she loves. The show is followed by an all new Olio. The melodrama runs July 1-Sept. 3. Adult \$15.75; Senior (62 and over) \$13.75; Children (12 and under) \$9.75; Groups of 20+ \$11.75 each.

For the fall of 2011, Thin Air Theatre Company is bringing back the original Halloween melodrama, *The Vampire of Cripple Creek*, which was written for the Butte stage by Chris Sorensen and first produced in 2005. When an eerie stranger moves into the abandoned Collins Hotel, it is up to the reclusive Doc Van Helsing to unravel the mystery that surrounds him. This show is followed by an all new Halloween Olio. The show will run Sept. 30-Oct. 30. Tickets: Adult \$15.75; Senior (62 and over) \$13.75; Children (12 and under) \$9.75; Groups of 20+ \$11.75 each.

For the holidays, playwright Chris Sorensen is once again penning an all new Christmas show for Thin Air Theatre Company. *The Christmas Donkey* will make its world premier at the Butte in 2011 and runs Dec. 2-31. Local character William Otis is well known for his eccentric behavior; breaking into song at the drop of a hat and conversing with a donkey. But when he starts dressing like Santa Claus (and begins dressing his donkey as a reindeer) it's only the children of Cripple Creek who know the truth: Old Bill Otis is the next Santa. This new show is followed by a Christmas Olio. Tickets: Adult \$12.75; Senior (62 and over) \$10.75; Children (12 and under) \$7.75; Groups of 20+ \$9.75 each.

To make reservations visit [ButteTheater.com](http://ButteTheater.com).