



PO Box 181, Cripple Creek, CO 80813 ButteTheater.com

PSA

Who: Thin Air Theater Company at the Butte Theater

What: 2011 summer melodrama opens July 1 with Hazel Kirke and the traditional Olio.

When: Friday, July 1 7 p.m.

Shows run Wednesday through Sunday July 1-Sept. 3, alternating with Calamity Jane

Where: Butte Theater, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, CO

Tickets: \$15.75 adults, \$13.75 seniors (62 and over), \$9.75 children (12 and under)

More info: ButteTheater.com

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New Butte Season Full of Music and Melodrama

The classic 1880 melodrama, *Hazel Kirke*, directed and adapted by Thin Air Theatre Company (TATC) veteran Mickey Burdick, will open July 1 at the Butte Theater.

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 traditional Olio, *A Tribute to Classic Movie Music* featuring popular tunes from the Silver Screen.

Hazel Kirke is a melodrama in four acts written by American actor and dramatist Steele MacKaye. The play was written between 1878 and 1879 expressly for New York City's Madison Square Theatre, which MacKaye had recently renovated and completely remodeled. Originally titled *An Iron Will*, the play toured Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington until renovations on the Madison Square Theatre were complete. It premiered there on February 4, 1880 and the original production became immensely

successful; it starred actress Effie Ellsler in the title role and ran for 486 consecutive performances before closing May 31, 1881.

Because MacKaye revolutionized the concept of multiple companies performing the same production simultaneously, by 1883 the play had been performed more than two thousand times. By the mid-1910s the play had been produced in England, Australia, Japan, and elsewhere. In 1916 it was adapted into a film and produced in Ithaca, New York.

The melodrama runs July 1-Sept. 3 in rotating rep with the western musical *Calamity Jane*, which opens June 24.

The 2011 TATC summer season features an all-star cast with talent from across the country, and several perennial favorites, including Mel Moser (entering his 12th season at the Butte,) Rebecca Myers (Sally in "*Charlie Brown*," the Angel from "*Angel of the Christmas Mine*," and Hermia in "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*,") Kevin Pierce (Felix in "*The Odd Couple*," and Renfield in "*Vampire of Cripple Creek*,") and Ali Schondel (Snoopy in "*Charlie Brown*.") Music director and pianist Katie Holmes will be back for her third season as well.

Tickets: Adult \$15.75; Senior (62 and over) \$13.75; Children (12 and under) \$9.75; Groups of 20+ \$11.75 each.

To make reservations visit ButteTheater.com.