



PO Box 181, Cripple Creek, CO 80813 [ButteTheater.com](http://ButteTheater.com)

---

### **Donkey to Spread Christmas Cheer**

Step back into the 1890's gold rush and find some Christmas spirit in Cripple Creek. Thin Air Theatre Company brings an all new holiday show to the stage of the Butte Theater starting Dec. 2, which will feature the old-time gold mining favorite – the seemingly lowly donkey.

Donkeys were the 19th century gold prospectors' best friend...packing their supplies up the mountain passes and hauling their gold ore out of the mines. In this season's TATC holiday show *The Christmas Donkey* (written by Cripple Creek's favorite playwright Chris Sorensen) the loyal friend of the prospector takes center stage in the character of Nugget...sent to Cripple Creek to locate the next Santa Claus. Nugget finds her St. Nick in Old Bill Otis, the fictional character of the rural mining town on the southwest side of Pikes Peak well known for his, shall we say...eccentric behavior.

However, when Otis starts dressing like Santa Claus the people of Cripple Creek begin to really question his sanity - it's only the children of Cripple Creek who know the truth: Old Bill Otis *IS* the next Santa. Not even Bill himself believes at first but as his Christmas spirit swells his drive to do the right thing places him on a direct collision course with the villainous Phineas Drake.

*The Christmas Donkey* is followed by an all new Christmas Olio, performed by the cast composed of community actors working side by side with some of TATC's favorite returning professional actors. This year's Christmas Olio, with its holiday music and adaptations is guaranteed to have you leaving The Butte with a song on your lips and a spring in your step.

The show will run Dec. 2-31, 2011. Tickets: Adult \$12.75; Senior (62 and over) \$10.75; Children (12 and under) \$7.75; Groups of 20+ \$9.75 each.

Visit [ButteTheater.com](http://ButteTheater.com) to make reservations or for more information, or call 719-689-3247 or 877-689-6402.