

FROM THIN AIR

MUSIC, MYSTERY, DRAMA

Opera houses gained much popularity in Cripple Creek during its heyday. The Butte Concert and Beer Hall opened about 1896, when proprietors featured nightly entertainment with a Ladies' Vienna Orchestra. Some time later the theater re-premiered as the Butte Opera House. Within two years, numerous clubs and lodges were sponsoring parties and benefits at the Butte on a regular basis. In 1898 an ad in the *Cripple Creek Morning Citizen* announced a meeting at the Butte Hall to consider shutting down Cripple Creek's gambling houses. The building also housed a skating rink and a second hand store before it housed an auto garage in 1915.

After being used for storage for years, early in 1999, the city of Cripple Creek began extensive renovations to refurbish the former theater with fresh paint, Victorian-era wallpaper, and period chandeliers.

2009 THIN AIR SEASON

An all new summer, fall and winter venue is premiering at the Butte again in 2009.

Thin Air Theatre Company (TATC) was formed in 2006 by three veteran melodrama actors

who are also writers and directors - Chris Armbrister, Mickey Burdick, Mel Moser. TATC will produce two popular musicals simultaneously this summer, *The Fantasticks* and *Godspell*. The melodrama has been moved to fall and *A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol*, will return for the holidays.

The Fantasticks - June 5-Sept. 26 (alternating days and times with *Godspell*). Shows are Wednesday thru Monday.

The Fantasticks, a 1960 musical with music by Harvey Schmidt and lyrics by Tom Jones, is the world's longest-running musical, for 42 years.

Tickets: \$15.75 Adult; \$13.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children; \$12.75 for groups of 20+

Godspell - June 12-Sept. 26 (alternating days and times with *The Fantasticks*). Shows are Wednesday thru Monday.

Godspell (an archaic spelling of the word gospel) is a 1970 musical, a series of parables, based on the Gospel of Matthew interspersed with a variety of modern music set primarily to lyrics from traditional hymns.

Tickets: \$15.75 Adult; \$13.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children; \$12.75 for groups of 20+



The Lost Soul of Cripple Creek

Creek - Oct. 2-31, Thursday thru Sunday. A melodrama adapted from the 1867 Victorian melodrama *Lost in London* by Watts Phillips. This new adaptation tells the story of a poor Cripple Creek miner who journeys to Denver to reclaim his wife and to have his vengeance on the villain who stole her. The show will be followed by a Halloween Olio.

Tickets: \$15.75 Adult; \$13.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children; \$12.75 for groups of 20+

A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol - Nov. 27-Dec. 31 Thursday thru Sunday.

A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol, a favorite holiday happening in Cripple Creek, and is based on the classic by Charles Dickens.

Tickets: \$12.75 Adult; \$10.75 Senior; \$7.75 Children; \$9.75 for groups of 20-plus.

Season tickets are available at discounted prices. For more information or to make a reservation, visit www.butteoperahouse.com.

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