

NEWSLETTER crane river

Issue 8

March 2014

EMERGING LEADERS 2014 Governor's Arts Awards

Crane River Theater's own Steve Barth and Brian Botsford, founding board members, were honored by the Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraskans for the Arts and Governor Dave Heineman as recipients of the 2014 Governor's Arts Award as Emerging Leaders in Nebraska. Creating a theater company from the ground up is an immense project, and truly a labor of love. We are so proud that the efforts put forth by Steve and Brian, and so many others, have been recognized on such a grand scale. "We know that this company couldn't exist without the support of so many people. We really are accepting this award on behalf of everyone's work, not just as individuals," said Botsford.

2014 marked the 40th Anniversary of the Nebraska Arts Council. Ten awards were given to individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to shaping the artistic landscape of our state. Brian and Steve, on behalf of Crane River Theater, received one of only two awards given to organizations outside of Lincoln and Omaha. We are so proud to know that Crane River Theater is truly having a state-wide impact.

The ceremony was held on March 25th at the LaVista Conference Center and award winners received an original watercolor painting by Nebraska artist, Ben Darling of Sidney. The paintings received by Brian and Steve will be on display at Crane River Theater's upcoming Overture Dinner on April 8th.



Left to Right: Steve Barth, Governor Dave Heineman and Brian Botsford at the 2014 Governor's Arts Awards.

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Overture Dinner



CRANE RIVER THEATER
Overture

A Celebratory Dinner to Benefit Our Upcoming 2014 Season

Since the Overture is typically what precedes the beginning of a musical, we thought it appropriate to begin our summer season the same way. Crane River Theater would like to invite you as a guest to our annual Overture Dinner to be held April 8th at the Younes Conference Center. The evening begins with a 6pm social, followed by dinner and entertainment at 6:30pm.

Be among the first in Kearney to get a sneak peak into our upcoming season while you enjoy dinner, entertainment and the company of great friends. In honor of our fifth year as a theater, we are excited to introduce a series of awards entitled *Taking Flight with Crane River* that will honor an outstanding organization, business and individual that have contributed to our success these last few years. This year's recipients include Kearney Park and Recreation, Best Western Plus, and Norman and Lorraine Heiden.

Upcoming Events

The 39 Steps

April 24-26, 7:30PM
May 1-3, 7:30PM
May 4, 2PM
Kearney Community Theater

Overture Dinner

Tuesday, April 8
Social: 6PM
Dinner: 6:30PM
Younes Conference Center

Footloose Ticket Kick-Off

See the Classic Film!
May 23-24, 7:30PM
May 25, 2PM
World Theatre

Almost, Maine

June 12-14, 7PM
June 15, 2PM
Merryman Performing Arts Center

An Afternoon with Shrek

Lunch and Activities
June 21, 11AM-2PM
Cope Amphitheater
Yanney Park

Shrek the Musical

June 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
July 1, 2, 3, 7PM
Cope Amphitheater
Yanney Park

Footloose

July 24-26, 7PM
July 29-Aug 2, 7PM
July 26 & Aug 3, 2PM
Merryman Performing Arts Center

Celebrate Broadway Gala

Aug 9, 7PM
Aug 10, 2PM
Merryman Performing Arts Center



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Crane River Arts Education

Crane River Theater is excited to once again offer a series of arts education programs for youth of all ages. Every summer we offer our widely popular *Explore Theater* classes made possible by our partnerships with Kearney Park and Recreation, Kearney Area Children's Museum, and both Kearney YMCA and YMCA of the Prairie in Holdrege. In just five years, this program has been able to reach nearly six hundred kids ranging pre-school through middle school providing them a hands-on theater experience.

In an effort to raise awareness and excitement toward the arts among high school students, a new educational opportunity was brought to fruition three years ago with our *Backstage Workshops*. This program allows high school students from across the state to receive a backstage look at a professional production and take part in a series of theatrical workshops.

Last but not least, we will once again present our *Page to Stage* series to libraries across Central Nebraska. This year we will be headed to Grand Island, Lexington, Cozad, Broken Bow, Hastings and Kearney. Allowing children the opportunity to see the characters jump from the page to the stage and the words come to life before their very own eyes is truly invaluable. Registration and information for each of these programs can be found on our website at CraneRiverTheater.org or by calling 308.627.5796.



World War I espionage novel by Scottish author John Buchan, the story was translated to film in 1935 by Alfred Hitchcock, and later adapted for the stage as a hit comedy. *The 39 Steps* is a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theater! It is packed with nonstop laughs that will have audiences on the edges of their seats. A riotous blend of virtuoso performances and wildly inventive stagecraft, this is sure to be an unforgettable evening of pure pleasure. High pursuit train chases, on-stage plane crashes and old fashioned romance come to life as a ridiculously talented cast of four play more than one hundred characters.

We hope you will join us April 24 through May 4 as actors from Florida and New York join forces with local theater veterans for this one of a kind show to be presented at Kearney Community Theatre. Reserve your tickets beginning April 14 by calling 308.234.1529 or by visiting CraneRiverTheater.org or KearneyCommunityTheatre.com.

39 Steps Cast, Clockwise: Alex Markowitz, Candice Dickinson, David Rozema and Alex Schwarz

CRT/KCT

Crane River Theater is thrilled to announce that we will once again be partnering with Kearney Community Theatre this spring for the award winning comedy, *The 39 Steps*. It is a perfect blend of drama, suspense, hilarity and silliness that is fun for all ages. What started as a

Our 2014 Season

Crane River Theater could not be more excited as we head into our fifth production season. Last year's shows witnessed record-breaking audiences, and we anticipate those numbers to be even greater this summer. The season begins with the contagious romantic comedy *Almost, Maine*. On a cold, clear Friday night in the middle of winter, while the northern lights hover in the sky above, nine couples find themselves falling in and out of love in the strangest ways. *Almost, Maine* will be performed at the Merryman Performing Arts Center with the audience seated on stage just a few feet away from the actors, creating a perfect setting for this intimate show that is sure to touch your heart. *Shrek the Musical* will mark the fifth theatrical production to be staged at the Cope Amphitheater in Yanney Heritage Park. It is an outstanding venue to bring Kearney into the rich tradition of outdoor summer theater as witnessed by more than ten thousand people last summer with our production of *Seussical*. Our hope and expectation is that families will come back year after year to enjoy the performances. By coordinating with Kearney Park and Recreation to stage this production in a city park, it allows the performances to be free and open to the public. Finally we round out the summer with the sensationally popular *Footloose*. Audiences are sure to have a good time as we take them on a nostalgic trip back to the 1980's, complete with some of the most memorable songs in recent history. Crane River Theater is looking forward to launching ticket sales for this production by sponsoring the classic film at the World Theatre on Memorial weekend May 23, 24 and 25. We hope to see you at the shows this summer.

