

NEWSLETTER crane river

Issue 5
November 2012

A Look Back at 2012

From talking frogs and angry giants to the intimate suffering of a grieving wife, Crane River Theater's 2012 season took Kearney audiences on a varied journey. Nearly 3,000 Kearney and Central Nebraska residents were treated to three fantastic productions. We again partnered with Kearney Park and Recreation to produce a free production in Yanney park. *A Year with Frog and Toad* brought Arnold Lobel's beloved children's books to life. The company had one of our most satisfying artistic experiences as we tackled Stephen Sondheim's incomparable *Into the Woods* at the Merryman Performing Arts Center. Setting 2012 apart from all previous seasons, we were thrilled to have the opportunity to venture beyond musicals and kick off our



Left to Right: Jessica Morgan, Alex Van Handel, Cole Doman, Dan Beckmann and Theresa Rowley in *A Year With Frog and Toad*.



Company members in Crane River Theater's production of *Into the Woods*.

play series this past June with *Two Rooms*. Our cast, crew, directors and designers came to Kearney from Missouri, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Indiana, New York, Texas, California, Florida, Wisconsin as well as Nebraska. Crane River Theater is truly helping to build Kearney's reputation as a destination for the arts. We want to extend a sincere thanks to everyone who enjoyed our performances, made a donation, sponsored a production or volunteered during our season. We couldn't exist without the incredible support we have received from the community and we are privileged to be located in Kearney.

Support Crane River

Crane River Theater can only exist through the generous support of our patrons. Every donation is appreciated and we are committed to making each penny count! There is no better time than now to donate as Crane River Theater is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

The incredible success we have had thus far is entirely due to the amazing financial support we have received from the Kearney Area. Truly, this is a community committed to supporting the arts. This support allows us to keep building upon our educational programs and offering quality productions for the community.

How To Contribute:
Our Website: www.cranerivertheater.org

Our Address and Phone:
Crane River Theater
Po Box 2141
Kearney NE, 68848
(308)627-5796



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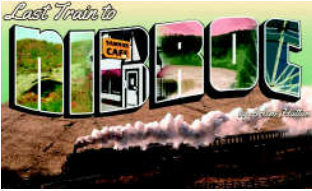
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SEASON 2013



Last Train to Nibroc
June 13, 14, 15 and 16
at Kearney's
World Theater



Seussical the Musical
June 27 through July 3
Ron and Carol Cope
Amphitheater, Yanney Park



Grease!
Cruise Weekend Kick-Off:
July 18th
July 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28
August 1, 2, 3
Merryman Performing Arts
Center



Tickets are on sale now at the Kearney Hub, Merryman Box Office, online at CraneRiverTheater.org or by calling 308.627.5796. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids ten years and under - Dec. 8th 3PM and 7:30PM, Dec. 9th 3PM.

will all come together in a holiday event for the whole family. Classic Christmas moments will jump from the movie screen and into the voices of those performing. Among the groups performing are the OK Sisters, Patent Pending, Grace Notes, Highfalutin Flute Ensemble, The Spencer Hanson Group, Lead Me Home, 4 for 1, Danse Noel and the Kearney High School Chorale. This will mark the first time that all of these artists have performed together, and Crane River Theater is honored to share the stage with them. Santa Clause will even be making a special appearance before each of the performances, so kids are encouraged to come early so they can share their Christmas wishes with him. It will truly be a celebration for the whole family.

A Holiday Celebration for the Whole Family!

Crane River Theater is thrilled to present a holiday celebration for all of Central Nebraska. *Let It Snow* will feature performances from area musicians and groups, as well as select numbers by artists from across the country. More than one hundred performers from all ages will take the stage at the Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney on December 8th at 3PM and 7:30PM and the Tassel Performing Arts Center in Holdrege on December 9th at 3PM.

Music, dance, theater and storytelling

Explore Theater

Encouraging the creativity of our youth is essential. Crane River Theater is excited to offer a series of arts education programs for youth. We intend to continue our successful *Explore Theater* classes made possible by our partnerships

with Kearney Park and Recreation and the Kearney Area Children's Museum, our high school *Shadow Program* in partnership with Kearney Public Schools and our *Backstage Workshop* that encompasses the whole state of Nebraska. In just four years our *Explore Theater* program has been able to reach nearly five hundred kids ranging kindergarten through middle school providing them a hands-on theater experience. *Imagination at Play*, *Magic of Theater*, *Clowning Around* and *Let's Make a Musical* are just a few of the classes offered. While the younger kids tackle the craft of theater through puppetry, fairy tales, and storytelling, the middle school students set out to present a performance equipped with music and choreography. We are excited to continue our outreach to libraries across Central Nebraska for their Summer Reading Programs. Last year we presented workshops in Kearney, Lexington and Grand Island, and we plan to expand that even further this year. 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.

