



NEWSLETTER crane river

Another Successful Audition Season

Every year Crane River Theater travels the country to recruit the best actors, designers and technicians for our summer productions. Through local, regional and national auditions, we have cast professional artists from twenty-four states to live and work for months at a time here in Central Nebraska. This year is no different. Board members recently traveled over 3,800 miles, auditioned nearly 2,000 actors, and interviewed approximately 200 designers and technicians. Our first stop was Minneapolis for the American College Theater Festival, which represents

a six state area. Some of the best young artists from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska attend this festival as they audition for regional theaters and compete in competitions with the hopes of attending the national festival. Crane River Theater is honored to announce

that recent alumni Cassandra Johnson, was selected as a finalist and will be one of the lucky few making that trip to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., this April. Our second audition location was Memphis at the United Professional Theatre Auditions. This is one of the largest regional auditions in the country, with 85 theater companies attending from all over the country. Crane River Theater has



found some wonderful people from past seasons at this festival, and is excited to be a part of the national spotlight. Our final destination was St. Louis for the Midwest Theatre Auditions, where we have attended every year since our inception years ago. In addition to all of our professional auditions, Crane River Theater takes great pride in showcasing some of the best talent from right here in Central Nebraska. We held auditions for people of all ages right here in Kearney and had an amazing turn out. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as we announce our 2015 company these next few weeks. We look forward to sharing some incredible talent with you this summer at our productions of *Red*, *Tarzan* and *Joseph*.

2015 Overture Dinner

Every great production begins with a great overture. Crane River Theater's 2015 summer season is no different! You are invited to join us for our annual Overture Dinner to be held April 14, at the beautiful Younes Conference Center with a 6 p.m. social followed by dinner and entertainment at 6:30 p.m. Be among the first in Kearney to see a sneak peek of our upcoming sixth season as we enjoy a delicious meal and the company of great friends. Your presence at the Overture Dinner helps to ensure Crane River Theater productions and arts education programs will continue to offer valuable opportunities for the people of Central Nebraska. Last year, we introduced a series of awards entitled Taking Flight with Crane River Theater, honoring an outstanding organization, business and individual that has contributed to our success. We were pleased to acknowledge Kearney Park and Recreation, Best Western Plus and Norman and Lorraine Heiden as the first recipients of this annual recognition. Join us this year as we warmly recognize Kearney Area Community Foundation for an incredible partnership, Yanda's Music and Pro Audio for their huge contributions to countless productions over the past five years and Mel and Arlene Shoemaker for their continued support and guidance toward Crane River productions and programs. If you would like to attend this annual event, please visit CraneRiverTheater.org or call us at 308-627-5796.



CRANE RIVER THEATER Overture

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Crane Cache Dash

An Adventure Race
March 22, 1 P.M. – 5 P.M.
Harmon Park Activity Center

Overture Dinner

Dinner and Entertainment
April 14, 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Younes Conference Center

Red

June 11 – 13, 7 P.M.
June 14, 2 P.M.
Merryman Performing Arts Center

An Afternoon with Tarzan and Friends

Lunch and Jungle Activities
June 20, 11 A.M. – 2 P.M.
Cope Amphitheater • Yanney Park

Tarzan the Muscial

June 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
July 1, 2, 3, 7 P.M.
Cope Amphitheater • Yanney Park

Joseph and the

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

July 23 – 25, 7 P.M.
July 28 – Aug 1, 7 P.M.
July 25 & Aug 2, 2 P.M.
Merryman Performing Arts Center

Keep Up With Crane River Theater



Spring Arts Education

Crane River Theater is enthusiastic about our mission to serve Central Nebraska as a home for arts education. The very first program we introduced in 2009 was our Explore Theater classes in cooperation with Kearney Park and Recreation. Since then, our education mission has grown every year. Not only have we branched out into ten area communities with our classes and workshops, we have now expanded our education opportunities beyond the summer months and into the spring. Crane River Theater is pleased to offer a series of programs throughout the month of March for youth in Grand Island, Holdrege and Kearney. All sessions will offer interactive arts opportunities for kids kindergarten through fifth grade. They are specifically timed to coincide with each local school's spring break. Contact Crane River Theater or any one of the following locations for registration and information.



UPCOMING CLASSES: **March 9** Grand Island Public Library 10:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M. • **March 12 & 13** YMCA of the Prairie in Holdrege 10 A.M.-12 P.M. & 2 P.M.-4 P.M. • **March 23 - 26** Kearney Family YMCA 10 A.M.-12 P.M. & 2 P.M.-4 P.M. • **March 27** Kearney Public Library 10 A.M.-12 P.M. & 2 P.M.-4 P.M.



PAGE TO STAGE

Kids of all ages can relate to the universal appeal of theater. It is for this reason that Crane River Theater created a series called Page to Stage which travels to libraries throughout Nebraska for their summer reading programs. In just a few short years, we have already entertained and educated thousands of kids. Cast members and workshop facilitators travel to libraries in Kearney, Lexington, Holdrege, Hastings, Minden, Loup City, Grand Island, Cozad, Broken Bow and many other communities with this one of a kind workshop. Allowing children the opportunity to see characters jump from the page of their favorite storybook and the words come to life before their very own eyes is truly invaluable. This year, cast members from our production of Tarzan will read, perform and interact with kids as they share the classic story by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Encouraging the creativity of our youth is essential.

We're looking forward to seeing you all this summer, whether at a class or at a performance! Thank you all for your wonderful support! - Crane River Theater

Our 2015 Season

Crane River Theater could not be more excited as we approach our sixth production season! Last year witnessed record-breaking audiences, and we are confident those numbers only continue to grow this year. The season begins with the powerful drama *Red*, which won the 2010 Tony Award for Best Play. A vivid picture of abstract expressionist painter, Mark Rothko, this play is a searing portrait of an artist's ambition and vulnerability that will leave your heart



pounding. *Red* 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 production. *Tarzan the Musical*, based on the smash-hit



Disney animated film, tells the story of an infant boy orphaned in a shipwreck on the shores of West Africa. Hearts will be warmed as Tarzan navigates life with a tribe of gorillas, a young botanist named Jane and all of the adventures that go along with life in the jungle. Tarzan will mark the sixth 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. Finally, we round out the summer with one of the most enduring shows of all time, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This irresistible family musical set to an engaging assortment of musical styles is sure to please audiences of all ages! Crane River Theater is looking forward to launching ticket sales for this production on May 24, with a special opportunity to meet the cast and crew. We hope to see you at the shows this summer!



A Family Adventure Race Crane River Theater is thrilled to once again partner with Kearney Park and Recreation to present the Crane Cache Dash, a geocaching race through Kearney. Geocaching is a real world, outdoor, treasure hunting race using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate from location to location in an attempt to find the hidden treasures. Join the many teams and families that have already participated in this fast paced, fun-filled, amazing race! Crane River Theater can be found along the route with entertaining activities for the teams to complete before they move on to the next treasure! Teams



of two or families will race in a car as well as on foot to find the hidden caches. All you need is a car, appropriate clothing, and a GPS device or Smart Phone. A brief instructional session, Geocaching 101, will be conducted for those that need to learn how to read coordinates. Prizes will be awarded for the top finishers! Registration begins at the Harmon Park Recreation Center at 1 P.M., on Sunday, March 22, the race begins at 2 P.M., results and awards will conclude by 4:30 P.M. And the best part is that it's free!

