



# NEWSLETTER crane river

Issue 4

December 2011

## What A Summer!

Crane River Theater's second season is in the books. The productions, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Snoopy*, drew thousands of Central Nebraska residents and were both incredible successes. Once again we featured talented artists from 8 states mixed with local actors, musicians, designers and directors. Audiences were treated to Broadway quality sets and costumes and some amazing performances. We couldn't be more pleased with the results and we are anxious to do it again.



Kurt Hellerich and Lily Cohen as Seymore and Audrey with Audrey II.

These two outstanding productions would not have been possible without the fantastic audiences and the generous support of our many donors and corporate sponsors. It is this kind of support that makes Kearney a well known home for the performing arts. Our partnerships and donors allow us to offer the highest quality theater at the most affordable ticket price we can.

Make plans, now, to join us next summer as we bring to life Arnold Lobel's popular children's books in *A Year with Frog and Toad*, capture the magic of Broadway with *Into the Woods* and shine a light on a truly powerful story of perseverance in *Two Rooms*.



Left to right: Dan Beckmann, Kylie Jo Jennings, Kurt Hellerich, Shelby Floyd (below), Lily Cohen and Michael Fariss

## Explore and Educate

Crane River Theater sees education as a core principal in our mission to serve Central Nebraska. In 2011 we hosted the third season of our *Explore Theater* program in partnership with Kearney Park and Recreation. Once again nearly a hundred Kearney youth from Kindergarten through Middle School had the opportunity to design, choreograph, sing and act in their own productions.

In addition to the *Explore Theater* program we continued our high school Shadow Project with three Kearney students. Michael Jensen (Music Director), Laura Rozema (Artistic Director) and Jordan Samuelson (Stage Manager) were given the rare opportunity to get a first hand, behind the scenes look at running a professional production. The newest addition to our

education mission is *Backstage with Crane River Theater*. This two-day workshop is offered to high school students across Nebraska. They are given backstage access to our mainstage musical in addition to specialized classes in areas such as improv, stage combat and film acting. We had over 80 participants from 13 Nebraska schools this year!

Information for all of our education programs can be found on our website, [www.cranerivertheater.org](http://www.cranerivertheater.org) and watch for the Kearney Park and Recreation flyer in the Kearney Hub this spring for enrollment forms for our Explore Theater Program. There are plenty of opportunities for Kearney youth to participate in theater next summer. Arts education is the single most important insurance in the future of performing arts!

## Thanks to our 2011 Sponsors

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## And Our Partners

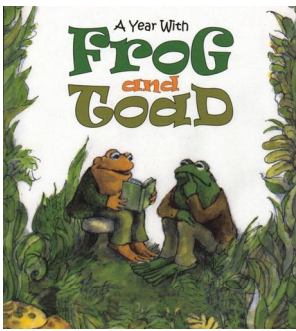




## SEASON 2012



Time Magazine's Play of the year, 1988. A compassionate story of two people whose love transcends space and time.  
June 21, 22 & 23  
Kearney High Auditorium



Arnold Lobel's well loved characters jump from the page to the stage. A family musical that follows the cheerful Frog and grumpy Toad through four fun-filled seasons.  
July 3rd - 7th  
Ron and Carol Cope Amphitheater  
Yanney Park



A Broadway classic and winner of several Tony awards. All your favorite fairy tale characters come to life for an amazing journey.  
July 26th-28th, Aug 2nd-4th  
Merryman Performing Arts Center,  
Kearney

## Celebrate The Season With Us!

Crane River Theater is thrilled to present a holiday production for the community of Kearney and surrounding areas. Combining the talents of many prominent local performance groups, *Let it Snow* is a celebration for the whole family. More than two hundred performers from all ages will take the stage at the Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney on



Saturday, December 10th for a 3pm matinee and 7:30pm evening performance. Sure to become a holiday tradition, this is the kind of performance that every community needs.

Tickets are on sale now at the Kearney Hub, visiting [www.CraneRiverTheater.org](http://www.CraneRiverTheater.org), or by calling 308.627.5796.

## Support Crane River

Crane River Theater can only exist through the generous support of our patrons. Every donation is precious and we commit 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](http://www.cranerivertheater.org)

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

Donations in Person:  
Kearney Area  
Community Foundation  
2207 Central Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68847

## Keep Informed

In addition to our website and newsletter, we want Crane River to be at your fingertips. You can become a Facebook fan and follow us on Twitter. Also, when you do visit our website you can sign up to become part of our email list!

Information about our season, volunteer opportunities, fund raising opportunities and fun conversation topics are all part or our online life. Connect to the World Wide Web and check us out!

## VOLUNTEER?

Interested in volunteering time or services? Please check our website or call (308)627-5796 to find information on volunteer opportunities. Be a part of Crane River Theater!