



NEWSLETTER crane river

Celebrate the Holiday with Crane River Theater

Crane River Theater is thrilled to reprise our widely popular holiday production for the community of Kearney and surrounding areas. *Let It Snow* features nearly two hundred artists from all styles of music, dance and theater in production of holiday spirit for the whole family. More than three thousand audience members have shared their holiday with us the past four years, making it one of the most anticipated events of the season. This year's production will feature ten premier groups and five outstanding soloists performing jazz, acapella, instrumental, dance, choral and contemporary musical stylings. Among the groups performing are The Faraways, Lead Me Home, Kearney Jazz Society, Habitat 4 Harmony, Dance Catz, Northeast Bobcat Choir, Central Nebraska Youth Ballet, Kearney High Chorale, Platte River Children's Chorale and Platte River Singers. This all mixed in with cinematic classics and the art of storytelling. Mary Henning, a well-known artist and storyteller will narrate the production, and poet Don Welch will share cozy moments by the fireside with audiences. Santa Claus 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 production like this oftentimes requires high-ticket prices to balance the costs, but because of the generosity of all of our artists, and the support of personal donors, we can offer this experience at an admission that everyone can afford. Adult tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door, and all kids that are 10 and under are \$5. This is so important, as Christmas really should be a time where everyone can celebrate together. Join us at the Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney on December 12, for a 3 pm matinee and 7 pm evening performance. Tickets are available at the Kearney Hub, by calling 308.627.5796 or by visiting CraneRiverTheater.org.



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Your Donation Is Worth More Now Than Ever

Give Where You Live is a special fundraising event that will unite donors from all over to support nonprofits in the Kearney area and improve our quality of life. It is a community effort led by the Kearney Area Community Foundation that allows organizations like Crane River Theater to continually grow and find new donors. Last year, 160 unique donors contributed more than \$26,000 to support our productions and arts education programs. We are confident that we can exceed that total this year with help from all of you. All donations received between now and December 3, 2015, will be matched by a certain percentage from the Foundation, making your donation worth more now than ever before.



In order to offer our shows for free or minimal admission, we are dependent upon the support of personal donors like you. Please consider a donation today. Information on how to donate can be found at CraneRiverTheater.org. If you would like to donate in person, you can stop by one of our Giving Destinations or the Kearney Area Community Foundation on December 3.



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

STEVE BARTH

When Brian Botsford, Brooke Bradford and I came together seven years ago to create Crane River Theater, we had no idea the impact it would have on the lives of so many. Already we have entertained nearly 56,000 audience members and educated over 5,300 children of all ages with our arts education programs. It has been a privilege to share this journey with our hometown of Kearney. There are so many exciting things on the horizon for Crane River Theater. We just wrapped up the first production in our new fall destination series with overwhelming success and are excited to launch our spring concert series in March with *The Music Man*. The enthusiasm and support from all of you has allowed us to grow every year, and we are eternally grateful. We hope that you will continue to embrace Crane River Theater as part of your arts family.

CRANE RIVER THEATER GIVING DESTINATIONS

Visit us at the **Harmon Park Activity Center** on Thursday, December 3, between 8 am and 8 pm to share your donation and receive a little something in return.

- 8am – 11am Free Donuts and Coffee
- 11am – 2pm Free Hot Dog, Chips and Drink
- 2pm – 5pm Free Fresh Popcorn
- 5pm – 8pm Free Pizza and Drink

Visit us at the **Family Fresh Market** on the corner of **39th Street and 2nd Avenue** from 8am to 8pm to drop off a donation and receive a complimentary Hot Apple Cider.



CraneRiverTheater.org

TROUBLE IN RIVER CITY!

This spring, smooth talking con man Harold Hill makes his way into Kearney as Crane River Theater and the Kearney Symphony Orchestra join forces to present *The Music Man In Concert*. Comprised of talented instrumentalists from communities across the region, we are honored to share this opportunity with a symphony that has served Central Nebraska for over a century. In our usual fashion, Crane River Theater will bring in performers from across the country and merge them with area artists to present a concert staging of one of the most popular musicals of all time. Audiences will be taken on a musical journey complete with full orchestrations as they listen to classic numbers like *Seventy-Six Trombones*, *My White Knight* and *Till There Was You*. Symphony director Deborah Freedman will conduct the orchestra, while Crane River Theater artistic director Steve Barth will direct the actors in the production. Performances will take place at the University of Nebraska-Kearney Fine Arts Recital Hall on March 13 at 3 pm and March 14 at 7:30 pm. Tickets will be available beginning January 4 at the Kearney Hub, UNK Fine Arts Box Office and online at CraneRiverTheater.org. Seating is limited so be sure to reserve your tickets early for this one-of-a-kind opportunity.



"As All-American as apple pie and as charming as can be, The Music Man is a crowd-pleasing show that will leave audiences humming and dancing as they leave the theater."

Looking Ahead to Summer 2016...

CRANE RIVER THEATER **Overture** *A Celebratory Dinner to Benefit Our Upcoming Season*

Every great production begins with a great Overture. Crane River Theater's 2016 summer season is no different! All of you are invited to join us for our annual *Overture Dinner* to be held April 11, at the beautiful Younes Conference Center with a 6 pm social followed by dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm. Be among the first in Kearney to see a sneak peek of our upcoming seventh season performed by many incredible artists 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. Every year we are proud to honor an outstanding organization, business and individual that have contributed to the success of Crane River Theater with a series of awards entitled Taking Flight. If you would like to attend this annual event, please visit CraneRiverTheater.org or call us at 308-627-5796.

Crane River Theater is committed to arts education programs for youth. 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, Kearney Family YMCA and the YMCA of the Prairie in Holdrege. In just seven years, this program has been able to reach over 1,248 kids ranging kindergarten through middle school providing them a hands-on theater experience. 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. The classes have been extremely well received and they continue to grow every year. Registration for the upcoming summer classes will be available soon at CraneRiverTheater.org or like us on Facebook for the most up to date information.



Summer 2016 **Auditions**

Through local, regional and national auditions Crane River Theater has cast professional artists from across the country, representing twenty-two states, to live and work for months at a time here in Central Nebraska. Based on the success of the last six summers, board members will once again recruit actors, designers and directors at audition festivals in four major cities as well host our own local auditions in Kearney for the 2016 season. Audition sites will include the American College Theater Festival in Minneapolis, Minn., on January 18-20, Asolo Conservatory Auditions in Sarasota, Fla., on January 23-25, local auditions in Kearney on February 1-4, United Professional Theater Auditions in Memphis, Tenn., on February 5-9, and Midwest Theater Auditions in St. Louis, Mo., on February 18-21. Over 5,000 regional professionals will be exposed to the idea of Central Nebraska as an area arts center. If you wish to sign up for an audition time, please call 308.627.5796 or visit CraneRiverTheater.org.

Mark Your Calendars....



UNK Fine Arts Recital Hall
March 13, 3 pm
March 14, 7:30 pm



Younes Conference Center
April 11
6 pm



UNK Studio Theater
June 2-4, 7 pm
June 5, 2 pm



Yanney Heritage Park
June 23 - July 3
7 pm



Merryman Performing Arts Center
July 28-30, Aug. 2-6, 7 pm
July 30 & Aug. 7, 2 pm



Merryman Performing Arts Center
Aug. 13, 7 pm
Aug. 14, 2 pm