



# NEWSLETTER crane river

## A Record Breaking Summer

The community of Kearney and surrounding area continue to embrace Crane River Theater productions making them one of the most anticipated events of the summer. Over 18,500 audience members witnessed a Crane River Theater

production and nearly 1,900 youth participated in our arts education programs. We collaborated with more organizations than ever before in an effort to reach as many people as possible with the joy of theater. Among them included the Merryman Performing Arts Center, Kearney Park and Recreation, Alia Arram Children's Museum, YMCA of the Prairie in Holdrege, Kearney Family YMCA and nine Central Nebraska libraries. It was truly an unforgettable summer! Once again we attended local, regional and national auditions casting artists from across the country for our productions of *Red*, *Tarzan* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. We could not have been more thrilled with the actors and designers we assembled this year. Their creative talent, artistic integrity and passion for theater was contagious and exciting. Of course it would not have



been possible without the help of so many others as well. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended a Crane River Theater production this year, volunteered their time to make it all come together, pledged their support in the form of donations and sponsorships, and laughed along with us. We simply could not exist without the incredible support we have received from the community and surrounding areas.

## Destination Series kicks off with ART

Crane River Theater is excited to launch our fall Destination Series at the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) with the production of *ART*. Audience members will be seated in the East Gallery just a few feet away from the actors. This beautiful venue provides the perfect setting with artwork all around for audience members to connect to this insightful and compelling story.

How much would you pay for a white painting? Would it matter who the painter was? Would it be art? One of Marc's best friends, Serge, has just bought a very expensive painting. It's about five feet by four, all white with white diagonal lines. To Marc, the painting is a joke, but Serge insists Marc doesn't have the proper standard to judge the work. Another friend, Yvan, though burdened by his own problems, allows himself to be pulled into this disagreement. Eager to please, Yvan tells Serge he likes the painting. Lines are drawn and these old friends square off over the canvas, using it as an excuse to relentlessly batter one another over various failures. As their arguments become less theoretical and more personal, they border on destroying their friendships. At the breaking point, Serge hands Marc a felt tip pen and dares him: "Go on." This is where the friendship is finally tested, and the aftermath of action, and its reaction, affirms the power of those bonds.



BRYCE JENSEN



STEVE BARTH



KEVIN BUTTERS

Winner of the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play, *ART* is one of the most popularly produced plays in recent history. It is an engaging story that will leave audiences debating on the way home. Not only does it focus on the meaning of art, but more importantly the meaning of friendship. Funny, sophisticated and stylish, this is one play you do not want to miss!

## UPCOMING SHOWS



### Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA)

Sept. 24-16, 7 pm • Sept. 27, 2 pm



**UNK Fine Arts Recital Hall**  
March 13, 3 pm • March 14, 7:30 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. 2, 2 pm

# Crane River Theater Company & The Archway HALLOWEEN FEST

New this fall is Halloween Fest, presented in part with The Archway on **Saturday, October 24**. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade will be able to partake in fun, festive Halloween activities at The Archway including a **Haunted Maze**, **Spooky Obstacle Course**, **Cookie Decorating Laboratory**, **Festive Face Painting**. Every kid will receive a **Halloween Goodie Bag** filled with treats. Halloween Fest is **\$10 per child**, and the whole family is encouraged to watch the fun. Registration begins at **9:30 am**, and festivities will be held from **10 am to noon**. Register online at [CraneRiverTheater.org](http://CraneRiverTheater.org) or [Archway.org](http://Archway.org). Parental supervision is requested. Be sure to register soon as there are limited spots available.

## Join us for a day of Spooktacular Fun!



### ZOMBIES ATTACK! *A Run for your life!*

When the dead start walking, you better start running! On **Saturday, October 24**, Crane River Theater welcomes all runners and zombies to our second annual Zombie Run. Last year's event attracted over 300 runners of all ages to race through a zombie-infested landscape of a post-apocalyptic wasteland just north of The Archway. It was like a scene straight out of The Walking Dead, except no one got hurt. Zombie runs are becoming more and more popular throughout the country. This run is unique in that it allows participants to take part as a runner or a zombie. Runners scale obstacles and outrun the undead as they navigate a two mile course unlike any other. The goal for runners is to complete the race and survive the apocalypse by preserving each of their life flags. Zombie participants have the unique opportunity of attending a training course the day of the event, where they will undergo a zombie makeover with the assistance of professional makeup artists. Training includes an informational session from a member of the Zombie Research Society, a tour of the post apocalyptic obstacle course, and a tutorial about

becoming the walking and talking dead. Zombies will then take over the deserted roads outside the Archway, with one goal in mind; retrieve the life flags of the living. Brain-eating aside, Crane River Theater takes every precaution to ensure that the zombie run is no more dangerous than any other run. You may not survive but you will have the time of your life. Registration is now available at [CraneRiverTheater.org](http://CraneRiverTheater.org). Space is limited, so sign up today!



### *A Holiday Celebration for the Whole Family!*

Crane River Theater is thrilled to reprise our widely popular holiday production for the community of Kearney and surrounding areas. **Let It Snow** features performances from more than two hundred performers of all ages. The goal is to bring together artists from all styles of music, dance and theater to present a production of holiday spirit for the whole family. Countless people have talked about an event like this for years, and Crane River Theater is excited to create such a wonderful tradition. This year's production will once again feature premier groups and six outstanding soloists performing jazz, acapella, instrumental, dance, choral and contemporary musical stylings. This all mixed in with cinematic classics and the art of storytelling. 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. 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. It will only cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. 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 matinee and evening performance. Tickets are available at the Kearney Hub, by calling 308.627.5796 or by visiting [CraneRiverTheater.org](http://CraneRiverTheater.org).



### Help Us Reach Our Goal

**G**ive 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](http://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.

