



NEWSLETTER crane river

Celebrate the Holiday with Crane River Theater

Crane River Theater is thrilled to reprise our widely popular holiday production with more live performances than ever before. *Let It Snow* features more than two hundred artists from all styles of music, dance and theater in 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



feature nine premier groups and four outstanding soloists performing jazz, acapella, instrumental, dance, choral and contemporary musical stylings. Among the groups performing are The OK Sisters, Formerly Three, The Heavenly Treble Makers, UNK Jazz Combo, Kearney School of Dance Competition Team, Dance Catz, Kearney High Chorale, Platte River Children's Chorale and Platte River Singers. Crane River Theater is excited to offer a fresh and festive approach this year by incorporating live theatrical scenes from many of our favorite holiday stories. Mary Henning, a well-known artist will narrate the production with cozy moments by the fireside. 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 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 17, 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.

Your Donation Is Worth More Now Than Ever

Give Where You Live is a special fundraising event that unites 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, 191 unique donors contributed nearly \$24,000 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 1, 2016, 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 1.



MEET THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corey is excited to be a part of the Crane River Theater staff as Managing

COREY URBANEK Director. Growing up, she was involved in all things fine arts, including concert and show choir, marching and concert band, theatre, and lessons on piano, voice and French horn. She attended the University of Nebraska-Kearney from 2004-2008, and interned at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln. After earning her Music Business degree, she spent nearly seven years working at NTV News as a producer and assignment editor. Corey is thrilled to be a part of all that Crane River Theater has to offer. She lives in Kearney with her husband, Bryce, and 1-year-old twins Cassie and Collin. In her spare time, you'll find her cooking up a new recipe, watching football, reading, or simply spending time with her family.

CRANE RIVER THEATER GIVING DESTINATIONS

Visit us at the **Harmon Park Activity Center** on Thursday, December 1st, between 8am-4pm to share your donation and receive a little something in return.

- 8am – 10am Free Donuts and Coffee
- 10am – 12pm Free Caramel Popcorn
- 12pm – 2pm Free Pizza and Drink
- 2pm – 4pm Free Cookies

Visit us at the **Downtown Christmas Walk** in the lobby of the **Kaufmann Building** at 22nd street and Central Avenue from 5pm to 8pm for Caroling and Hot Apple Cider.

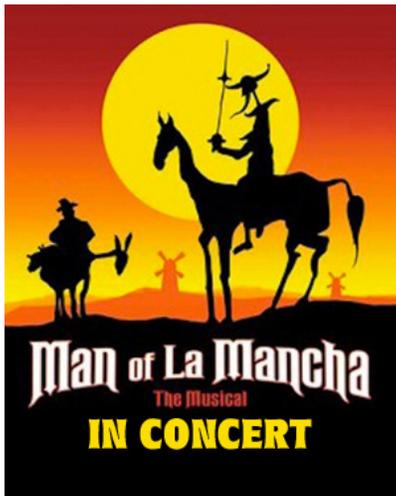


CraneRiverTheater.org

“TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM”

Crane River Theater is excited to partner with the Kearney Symphony Orchestra as we continue our Concert Series this spring with *Man of La Mancha*. This is a remarkable show and one of the great theatre successes of our time. It tells the story of the infamous Don Quixote as he embarks on his quest for goodness and the love of a fair maiden. His dream is everyman's dream, his tilting at windmills is everyman's great adventure, and his journey is an inspiration to the world. Inspired by Miguel de Cervantes' classic 17th-century novel, and popularized by the film featuring Peter O'Toole and Sophia Loren, this award-winning musical will stay with audiences well after they leave the theater.

Comprised of talented instrumentalists from communities across the region, Crane River Theater is honored to share this opportunity with a symphony that has served Central Nebraska for over a century. Director Deborah Freedman will conduct the orchestra, while Crane River Theater alumni Candice Dickinson will direct the production. Crane River Theater is also excited to welcome back 2016 alumni Andy Harvey (*Cowardly Lion*, *Jud Fry*) as Don Quixote. Performances will take place at the UNK Fine Arts Recital Hall on March 5 at 3 pm and March 6 at 7:30 pm. Tickets will be available beginning in January 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.



“This powerful musical continues to inspire.”

“Full of heart and truthfulness.”

Looking Ahead...

Season Tickets Available Soon!

Crane River Theater is excited to announce that we will be offering Season Ticket packages for our 2017 productions! Beginning January 1, patrons will have the opportunity to purchase Season Tickets for our 2017 season lineup, including:

- *Man of La Mancha In Concert*
- Tony Award-winning play, *Doubt*
- *Hairspray the Musical*
- *Celebrate Broadway*
- Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Driving Miss Daisy*
- *Let It Snow*

Season Ticket holders will receive priority reservations for productions before tickets go on sale to the general public. They will also receive exclusive discounts and the opportunity to purchase advance tickets for special events. 2017 Season Tickets are available for only \$100 (\$132 value). If you are interested in purchasing Season Tickets, please call 308.627.5796 or visit CraneRiverTheater.org.

CRANE RIVER THEATER Overture

A Celebratory Dinner to Benefit Our Upcoming Season

Every great production begins with a great Overture. Crane River Theater's 2017 summer season is no different! All of you are invited to join us for our annual *Overture Dinner* to be held March 24, 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 eighth 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.

Summer 2017 Auditions

Through local, regional and national auditions Crane River Theater has cast professional artists from across the country, representing 29 states, to live and work for months at a time here in Central Nebraska. Based on the success of the last seven 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 for the 2017 season. Audition sites include the Asolo Conservatory Auditions in Sarasota, Fla. on January 21-23, American College Theater Festival in Des Moines on January 23-26, United Professional Theater Auditions in Memphis on February 2-7, local auditions in Kearney and Grand Island on February 13-15, and Midwest Theater Auditions in St. Louis on February 16-19. This year, we welcome actors, designers, and technicians of all ages (eighth grade and above) to audition for our 2017 summer season. 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 5, 3 pm
March 6, 7:30 pm



Merryman
Performing Arts Center
June 8-10, 7 pm
June 11, 2 pm



Yanney Heritage Park
June 22 - July 3
7 pm



Merryman
Performing Arts Center
July 27-29, Aug. 1-5, 7 pm
July 29 & Aug. 6, 2 pm



Merryman
Performing Arts Center
Aug. 12, 7 pm
Aug. 13, 2 pm



Classic Car Collection
Sept. 7-9, 7pm
Sept. 10, 2pm