



Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS
Theatre Company

30 West Dale Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Box Office: 719.634.5583
Tickets: csfineartscenter.org

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Charlie Snyder, Director of Communications
719.477.4316; csnyder@csfineartscenter.org

LEND ME A TENOR **Laugh out loud comedy up next at the SaGāJi Theatre**

COLORADO SPRINGS (Feb. 26, 2009) – The Fine Arts Center Theatre Company will present the Tony Award-nominated comedy *Lend Me A Tenor* at the SaGāJi Theatre from March 20 – April 5.

Set in 1934 at the gala season opening night of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, world famous tenor Tito Merelli (*Il Stupendo*) is set to perform his greatest role, *Otello*. Through a series of riotous mishaps, Merelli is given a double dose of tranquilizers, passes out and is assumed dead. Max, an aspiring singer, gets into one of Merelli's two costumes and succeeds in performing the leading role, but Merelli comes to and gets into his other costume. Now two *Otellos* are running around in costume, and two women are running around in lingerie, each thinking she is with *Il Stupendo*.

**"A furiously paced comedy with more than a touch of the Marx Brothers ...
A marvelous combination of wonderful farcical moments and funny lines ... "**

– Time Out

"It seems every time we turn around these days there is something else that is depressing. One thing that seems to be missing is laughter," says Theatre Company Producing Artistic Director, Alan Osburn. "This is a funny play. Laugh out loud funny. If you want to get away from all of this depressing news for a while come see this play. You will have a great time."

The director, Cory Moosman, directed last season's recording breaking FAC Theatre Company production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Moosman was also recently seen on stage at the Fine Arts Center as Dave in *The Full Monty*.

"Lend Me a Tenor is a remarkable piece of music theatre ... a masterpiece."

– The London Times

The design team includes **Brian Jude Beacom** (*Scenic Designer*); **Katharine L. Mathis** (*Costume Design*), **Holly Anne Rawls** (*Lighting Design*), **Steve Stevens** (*Sound Design*).

Brian McClure, who plays Max, was last seen at the FAC in *The 1940's Radio Hour*. For the past seven years, McClure has been the lead singer of the popular Colorado Springs band, *Head Full of Zombies*. **Thaddeus Valdez** (Tito Merelli) performed in 23 productions at the Country Dinner Playhouse, and has numerous national and regional credits. He earned the 2005 Rocky Mountain News 'Top Musical Theatre Actor' award. Denver-based actor **T. David Rutherford** (Saunders) recently performed in TheatreWorks' *The Lying Kind*. Soprano **Nan Rubley** (Diana) has performed at the Colorado Opera Festival and with the Opera Theatre of the Rockies. At the Fine Arts Center, she acted in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and *Into the Woods*.

Other stand outs include **Amy Brooks** (*A Christmas Carol*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*), who has earned two local 'Best Actress' PAPPAs Awards; **Brantley Scott Haines** (The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Full Monty*, *Biloxi Blues*); **Sue Bachman** (*Into the Woods*, *Nuncrackers*), and **Eva Alabaugh**, making her FAC debut.

"Non-stop laughter"
– *Variety*

"Uproarious!"
– *USA Today*

"Screamingly funny"
– *CBS Radio*

Tickets and Show times

Thursday	7:30 p.m.	\$26 FAC members; \$31 non-members
Friday/Saturday	8:00 p.m.	\$30 FAC members; \$35 non-members
Sunday	2:00 p.m.	\$26 FAC members; \$31 non-members

More information concerning tickets sales for individuals or groups, and the Curtain Call Society can be found at csfineartscenter.org or by calling the FAC Box Office at **719.634.5583**.

Upcoming Productions

- **The Music Man** | Fine Arts Center Theatre Company | May 8 - 31
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream** | Youth Repertory Theatre | July 16, 18-19
- **Cats** | Youth Repertory Theatre | July 17-19

Lend Me A Tenor is sponsored by the El Pomar Foundation (FAC Annual Sponsor), Alan and Barbara Steiner, KKTU, KCME, and the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado.