



# Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Charlie Snyder, Director of Communications  
719.477.4316; [csnyder@csfineartscenter.org](mailto:csnyder@csfineartscenter.org)

### **YOUTH REPERTORY THEATRE** **Area students learn stagecraft, perform two works**

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (June 18, 2009) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's Youth Repertory Theatre program, featuring 44 local aspiring theatre arts students aged 14-18, will mount two productions at the SaGāJi Theatre July 16-19, as the culmination of an intensive five-week program.

Youth Repertory Theatre, in its 10th year at the Fine Arts Center, provides training for performance and technical/design students, ages 14 to 18, who are interested in a career in the theatre arts. Classes are taught by professional actors, directors, choreographers, designers, and technicians. The program culminates with two full-scale productions performed in repertory.

Last year's production of the musical, *Working*, was recognized by *The Gazette* in its 'Best of 2008' edition.

For the honor, **Best Youth Show**, *The Gazette* wrote, "Recognized for its intensive training program in the dramatic arts, The Youth Rep showed with this ode to American workers that it could produce work **as polished and mature as any professional theater company.**"

This year's productions are Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical, *Cats*, and an updated, modern version of William Shakespeare's classic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

#### ***Cats***

Andrew Lloyd Webber's whimsical retelling of T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* will bring you joy and laughter, while touching your heart. Filled with great music (musical direction by **Cynthia Lee Fox**) and choreography (by **Jan Johnson**), this record-running show captures the spirit of *Cats* that thousands of audiences have found and loved.

*Cats* is directed by **Susan Dawn Carson**, the Youth Repertory Program Director. She directed the FAC Theatre Company's 2007 production of *A Christmas Carol*, TheatreWorks' 2009 production of *Urinetown* and earned the 2008 Pikes Peak Arts Council Award for Best Director for her work on the Star Bar Players' production of *Rabbit Hole*.

Carson is a "Broadway Expatriate" having starred as Fantine in *Les Miserables* and Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, and has numerous local acting credits including FAC productions of *Anything Goes*, *Into the Woods* and *The Full Monty*.

### ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***

If woods, fairies, and moonlight are your preferred whimsy, don't miss the Youth Repertory Theatre's production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This updated version of one of the most popular classics of all time will have you roaring with laughter at numerous plot twists and love story themes. Shakespeare's comedic prowess is at its peak in *Midsummer* at the FAC.

This production is directed by **Jodi Papproth**, who has been teaching theatre since 1994. She received a Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts for Theatre Education from Drake University in Des Moines and a Master's Degree in directing from Roosevelt (Ill.) University. She has led the Cheyenne Mountain High School theatre department for 13 years. In 2005, she was named Colorado Theatre Educator of the Year.

The design staff that will be mentoring this year's class will be **Christopher L. Sheley** (sets), **Holly A. Rawls** (lights), **Jessica Rose** (props), **Breton P. Christopherson** (sound), and **Sara S. Shaver** (costumes).

Several Youth Repertory Theatre alumni from both the performance and technical/design tracks were involved in the 2008-2009 FAC Theatre Company season:

#### **Performance Students:**

Katie Bray	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Scrooge's Belle/Fred's Belle)
Alex Killian	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Ensemble), Stage Hand throughout season
Joe Killian	Stage Hand throughout season
Becca Rothstein	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Ensemble)
Sam Teets	<i>The Music Man</i> (Ensemble)
Carmen Vreeman	<i>Biloxi Blues</i> (Daisy), <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Martha), Dresser throughout season
Patrick Yukman	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Peter), <i>The Music Man</i> (Tommy), Stage Hand throughout season

#### **Technical/Design Students:**

Garrett Ball	Light Board Operator throughout season
Molly Earle	Stage Manager for <i>Biloxi Blues</i> and <i>Lend Me a Tenor</i>
Hillary Slosky	Stage Hand and Dresser throughout season
Max Verhaeghe	Sound Board Operator throughout season

#### **A Midsummer Night's Dream | Tickets and Show times**

July 16, 18	7:30 p.m.	\$15 FAC members; \$17 non-members
July 19	2:00 p.m.	

#### **Cats | Tickets and Show times**

July 17, 19	7:30 p.m.	\$15 FAC members; \$17 non-members
July 18	2:00 p.m.	

More information concerning tickets sales, visit [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org) or call **719.634.5583**.

Youth Repertory Theatre is sponsored by El Pomar Foundation, US Bank, and T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.