



Fine Arts Center

COLORADO SPRINGS

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

COLORADO SPRINGS (July 9, 2008) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's Youth Repertory Theatre program, featuring 36 local aspiring theatre arts students aged 14-18, will mount two productions at the SaGāJi Theatre July 17-20, as the culmination of an intensive six-week program.

Youth Repertory Theatre, in its ninth year at the Fine Arts Center, is a six-week intensive training program for students 14 to 18 who are interested in a career in the theatre arts. This program offers theatre classes taught by professional actors, directors, designers, and technicians and culminates with two full scale productions performed in repertory (rep). Repertory allows friends and family to see both shows, sometimes within the same day. This year's productions are the musical, *Working*, and Moss Hart/George S. Kaufman's classic comedy, *You Can't Take It With You*.

"This is a great opportunity for our talented local students to work side by side with the professional members of the Fine Arts Center Theatre Company," said Alan Osburn, FAC Performing Arts Director. "Each year, more and more alumni of this program become members of the cast and crews for our Theatre Company productions."

Several Youth Repertory workshop alumni were seen in FAC Theatre Company productions during the 2007-2008 season, including two Silly Girls – Carmen Vreeman, Alex Campbell – and ensemble player Sam Teets in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* as well as Mary Earle (*Belinda Crachit*), Alex Killian (*Turkey Boy*), Carmen Vreeman (*Martha Crachit*), and Patrick Yukman (*Peter Crachit*) in *A Christmas Carol*.

All of the instructors for the workshop are professional actors, directors, and designers. The Program Director is Broadway actress Susan Dawn Carson, who directed the FAC Theatre Company's production of *A Christmas Carol* and the Star Bar Players' production of *Rabbit Hole*. Carson also played the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*.

Other instructors include: Christopher L. Sheley (scenic designer), Holly Anne Rawls (light designer), Elizabeth Fry and Sarah S. Shaver (costume designers), and Cory Moosman (props).

Working is directed by Mark Hennessy, who is the Artistic Director for Star Bar Players and was most recently seen as the Narrator and Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods*. The Musical Director is Cynthia Fox Soulier, the Head of Vocal Music at UCCS. Choreographer is Rick Jewell, who did the choreography for *I Love*

You, You're Perfect, Now Change and was seen in *La Cage aux folles*. Cory Moosman is the director for *You Can't Take It With You*. Moosman appeared in *Fuddy Meers* and directed *Beauty and the Beast*.

Working, The Musical

The hopes, dreams, joys and concerns of the average working American are the focus of this unique, extraordinary musical. That the everyday lives of "common" men and women should be so compelling and moving will surprise and inspire anyone who has ever punched a time clock.

Based on Studs Terkel's best-selling book of interviews with American workers, *Working* paints a vivid portrait of the men and women the world so often takes for granted: the schoolteacher, the parking lot attendant, the waitress, the millworker, the mason, the trucker, the fireman, the housewife, just to name a few. The new, revised version includes updated lyrics, a streamlined book and two new songs by Stephen Schwartz of *Wicked* fame and James Taylor.

"Immensely moving ... terrifically original in concept ... it's a glorious show that rethreads the fabric of American life and leaves you cheering."

-- *New York Daily News*

You Can't Take It With You

Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's whimsical Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway play, *You Can't Take It With You*, is the second production for this year's workshop. The play was the basis for the 1938 Academy Award winning movie by Frank Capra. This depiction of a delightfully eccentric family was Kaufman and Hart's most successful and longest-running work. Awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1936, the comedy went on to run 837 performances on Broadway. *You Can't Take It With You* relates the humorous encounter between a conservative family and the crazy household of Grandpa Martin Vanderhof. Grandpa's family of idiosyncratic individualists amuse with their energetic physical antics and inspire with their wholehearted pursuit of happiness. Kaufman and Hart fill the stage with chaotic activity from beginning to end.

Working | Tickets and Show times

July 18-20 7:30 p.m. \$15 FAC members; \$17 non-members; \$20 at the door

You Can't Take It With You | Tickets and Show times

July 17 7:30 p.m. \$11 FAC members; \$12 non-members; \$15 at the door

July 19-20 2:00 p.m.

More information concerning tickets sales, visit csfineartscenter.org or call 719.634.5583.

Special Return Engagement!

Defending the Caveman | Aug. 8 @ 8 p.m.; Aug. 9 @ 5 and 8 p.m.

Youth Repertory Theatre is sponsored by El Pomar Foundation, US Bank, Mabel Horigan Foundation
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. and Golden Triangle Construction, Inc.