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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fine Arts Center Theatre Company Receives Top Honors**

Colorado Springs, CO (January 16, 2007)... The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's Theatre Company was among the most highly decorated in the Denver Post's annual Ovation Awards. The FAC's production of *Pirates of Penzance* won the top awards for BEST MUSICAL and BEST SET DESIGN from among 164 productions observed by five Denver Post critics in 2006. The winners were chosen by theatre critic John Moore, in consultation with the staff at the Post.

The Denver Post Ovation Awards, now in its sixth year, recognizes outstanding theatrical accomplishments in the state. Thirty-one Colorado theatre companies and seventy productions received at least one finalist nod. The FAC's production of *Pirates of Penzance* was one of the two most acclaimed musicals with seven nominations. Other finalists in the category for Best Musical were Boulder's Dinner Theatre's *The Music Man*, Creede Rep's *Sweeney Todd*, Country Dinner Playhouse's *Swing!* and Score Marketing's *Urinetown*.

The award for Best Set Design was a well-deserved acknowledgement of the FAC's Chris Sheley, who created an authentic and interactive pirate ship onstage, through which the actors weaved their magic. Chris will design the sets for the FAC's upcoming productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* which runs in the SaGāJi Theatre at the Fine Arts Center from February 16 through March 11 and *Into the Woods* which runs from May 11 through June 3, 2007.

"We are ecstatic about receiving awards for Best Musical and Best Set Design from the Denver Post," says Dr. Michael De Marsche, President and CEO of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. "My hat is off to the cast and crew for their pursuit of excellence." De Marsche's remarks included congratulations and thanks to Chase for sponsoring the FAC's 2006 Theatre Season.

*Pirates of Penzance* featured an all-star cast including Amy Sue Hardy as Mabel, Brantley

Scott Haines as Frederic, and Matthew Newton as the Pirate King. Hardy has to her credit numerous television appearances including guest spots on "Boy Meets World" and her own sitcom pilot with Buena Vista Television. She is featured on several movie soundtracks such as *Bowfinger*, *The Parent Trap* and *The Wedding Planner*.

In 2007, the Fine Arts Center presents a diverse program of four musical productions and two plays in its recently renovated SaGāji Theatre. A multi-million dollar renovation of the theatre in 2005 resulted in a venue which offers state-of-the-art sound and lighting technology while maintaining the integrity and Art Deco-inspired elegance of the original theatre built in 1936. The renovation was part of the \$28.4 million renovation and expansion of the entire Fine Arts Center which will reopen in August 2007.

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### **About the Fine Arts Center**

The Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre, and arts education center and an accredited member of the American Association of Museums. At this point, the FAC receives no operational or programmatic funding from local or state government. To learn more, visit [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org).