

## **Cripple Creek Melodrama Opens In Style June 1**

Get out your finest duds and get ready for the gala opening of the 2007 season Cripple Creek Melodrama.

The *Colorado Colleen* will premiere Friday, June 1 in the historic Butte Theater. The evening, reminiscent of the good old days of formal Imperial Players openings, will include the 7 p.m. classic Victorian melodrama based in Cripple Creek's 1890's gold rush, a traditional Vaudeville Olio and a champagne and dessert reception.

This night on the town will provide an opportunity to see the first melodrama staged at the Butte by the new Thin Air Theatre Company (TATC), a collaboration of acting, directing, writing and producing talent from veteran Cripple Creek actors. Immediately following the opening night performance of *The Colorado Colleen* will be a reception inaugurating TATC's new endeavor and celebrating the continuation and growth of professional theater in Cripple Creek.

Chris Armbrister, Mickey Burdick and Mel Moser will dust off their tuxedos for the night and the cast and production team for the show will don formal to semi-formal attire for the evening.

The reception will be at the Butte Theater following the Olio and all those attending the Friday night opening show will receive an invitation to the reception. Dress for the evening will be formal, semi-formal (encouraged) to casual – but wear whatever you want as we always want you to be comfortable when you come to The Butte.

*The Colorado Colleen*, written by former melodrama actor and director Chris Sorensen, is based upon *The Colleen Bawn* by King of the Melodramas, Dion Boucicault and will be the first of four new professional shows that TATC will produce in 2007.

The show is a classic love triangle set in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Pure-as-gold Eily O'Connor, known in the local taverns as the performer the Colorado Colleen, is in love with high-born Harrison Logan. Unfortunately, Logan needs to marry Anne Chute, the daughter of a wealthy businessman, in order to pay off his family's debts and save his mother from falling into the clutches of the conniving villain Angus Flagg. Throw in a sinister hunchback, a death-defying avalanche and a slew of rollicking good songs and you've got *The Colorado Colleen*.

The traditional Olio will follow, carrying you back to the good old days with it Ragtime songs and classic Abbott and Costello styled Vaudevillian sketch comedy.

The show runs June 1 through July 28: Wednesdays 1 & 7 p.m.; Thursdays 1 & 7 p.m.; Fridays 7 p.m.; Saturdays 1 & 7 p.m.; Sundays 1 p.m. Special opening weekend (June 1-3) prices are a flat rate of \$10 for adults and \$7 for children.

Regular season ticket prices are: \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$9 for children 12 & under, \$11 for groups of 20 or more. You can also purchase a TATC 2007 season ticket and save 15%.

For more information and to reserve online, visit [www.butteoperahouse.com](http://www.butteoperahouse.com) or call 719-235-8944 or toll-free 877-689-6402. Dinner and lodging packages are available at [www.cripplecreekpackages.com](http://www.cripplecreekpackages.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

If you need further press information, please contact Ruth Zalewski, ZStudios, 719-689-2675.

