

New Melodrama Opens to Standing Room Only Crowd

The house was packed for a night of intrigue and fun and the stage was alive with the 8th season of Classic Cripple Creek Melodrama.

The *Colorado Colleen* premiered Friday, June 1 in the historic Butte Theater. The Victorian melodrama based in Cripple Creek's 1890's gold rush and a traditional Vaudeville Olio kicked off the 2007 season of professional venues at the historic Butte Theater.

The show is a classic love triangle set in the Cripple Creek during the 1890's mining era. True to the tradition of Cripple Creek melodrama, the show offers a plot that twists and turns around a heroine - the pure-as-gold Eily O'Connor (Liz Clark), a dance hall girl known as The Colorado Colleen. And includes a sinister and plotting villain – Angus Flagg (Mace Archer) who plots to acquire love, money and power.

Secretly Eily is in love with and married to high-born Harrison Logan (Mark Edmondson), the son of a widow mine owner. Logan needs to marry another woman - Anne Chute (Amanda Pulcini), the daughter of a wealthy businessman. Logan's own mother plots and pleads to make this match work in order to pay off her family's debts and save herself from falling into the clutches of the conniving villain. Chute falls in love with yet another man – Karl Daly (Grant Golson) and so the plot thickens.

The show includes an unplanned but welcome return to the stage by veteran melodrama actor Mel Moser who portrays an Irish tavern owner who is also in love with Eily. A sinister hunchback who attempts murder, a death-defying avalanche and a slew of rollicking good songs make up *The Colorado Colleen*.

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.

The Colorado Colleen is the first in a series of professional shows produced at the Butte in 2007 by the newly formed Thin Air Theatre Company (TATC), a collaboration of acting, directing, writing and producing talent from veteran Cripple Creek actors.

The traditional Vaudeville Olio carries you back to the good old days with Ragtime songs and classic Abbott and Costello styled sketch comedy.

The show runs 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 butteoperahouse.com or call 719-235-8944 or toll-free 877-689-6402. . Dinner and lodging packages are available at cripplecreekpackages.com.

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

Photos attached:

1b is Danny Mann (Stephen Turner) attacks The Colorado Colleen (Liz Clark).

4b is Angus Flagg (Mace Archer), Eily O'Connor, aka The Colorado Colleen (Liz Clark) and Karl Daly (Grant Golson).

Please credit City of Cripple Creek