

For immediate release Oct. 8, 2007

Dr. Jekyll Haunts Cripple Creek

Mystery and murder have taken over the Butte Theater stage in Cripple Creek.

The opening of *Dr. Jekyll's Medicine Show* last week drew daring crowds to see the newest, scariest production by Thin Air Theatre Company.

Set in Cripple Creek 1898 – a boomtown filled with hope and speculation – the drama in town unfolds as a medicine show comes to the gold camp. A snake oil salesman named Dr. Utterson portrayed brilliantly by Mark Edmondson, wants to rake in a bundle from selling his “miracle cures” to innocent Cripple Creek folks, and then lose it all gambling at the local bar, the Dead Rooster.



His assistant, a real doctor – Dr. Henry Jekyll – has a better heart than his partner. Portrayed by Mickey Burdick, Jekyll is a kind, loving man with a passion for developing a real cure to help the suffering. He only needs one more ingredient for this real cure he calls Liquid Backbone – something he needs in his own life to get out from under the heavy hand of Utterson. Testing his concoction, he ends up creating a monster - Edward Hyde, also portrayed by Burdick - a gambling, womanizing murderer whose personality takes over Jekyll.

Burdick delivers a stellar split personality between Jekyll and Hyde that is amazing – laughing and sincere one minute, evil and ruthless the next. With a monster on the loose, Jekyll has to get the upper hand, save the town and the woman he loves, Emily Poole, played by Ashely Chasteen, from Hyde's rampages.

Partly humorous and with a leg up on the action is Peg Leg Peggy, a one legged dance hall girl at the Dead Rooster. Morgan Genko, as Peg, shows her spirited character and abilities at being mobile minus a limb in spite of Richard Lanyon, played by Chas Llewleyn, the bartender at the Dead Rooster who treats his “girls” as animals. Amanda Pulcini, after a star role in this summer's *Annie Get Your Gun*, gives a grand performance as Nancy, another dancehall girl who suffers from the wrath of Hyde.

Director Mel Moser, who is normally seen on stage as a show-making actor, would tell us that the wonderful success that is *Dr. Jekyll's Medicine Show* is the cast and crew who make it a stellar production. Now Moser has proven he can deliver a well-staged, professional show just as well behind the scenes as director as he can in the spotlight.

The action does not end when the show concludes though – an energetic and comedic Olio follows the show with musical director David Maga making his mark. This is one of the best musical reviews (Olios) on the Butte stage in a long while, complete with a

second year rendition of *Mickey's Magic Explosion*, which had the opening night audience rolling in laughter.

Based on the original Jekyll & Hyde story by Robert Louis Stevenson, this version is written by Chris Sorensen and is a brand new script for the Butte Theater stage. This is third professional show brought to Cripple Creek by Thin Air Theatre Company, formed by Chris Armbrister, Burdick and Moser to produce year-round professional theater at the Butte.

Show times are through Oct. 28: Thursdays 7 p.m.; Fridays 7 p.m.; Saturdays 1 & 7 p.m.; Sundays 1 p.m. Oct. 31 there will be a 7 p.m. show for Halloween fun. Ticket prices are: \$14 Adult / \$12 Senior / \$9 Children 12 & under / \$11 groups of 20 plus. There is an additional 75-cent facility charge added to each ticket.

For more information, visit butteoperahouse.com.

Photos:

Dr. Jekyll (Mickey Burdick) at work in his lab – creating a new tonic he calls Liquid Backbone.

Dr. Jekyll (Mickey Burdick and Dr. Utterson (Mark Edmondson) try to sell their snake oil to a Cripple Creek woman (Amanda Pulcini).

Richard Lanyon (Chas Llewelyn) threatens Emily Poole (Ashley Casteen) while Dr. Jekyll (Mickey Burdick) takes aim at Lanyon.

Richard Lanyon (Chas Llewelyn) puts meek Dr. Jekyll (Mickey Burdick) in place.

Nancy White (Amanda Pulcini) watches a poker game between Dr. Utterson (Mark Edmondson) and Richard Lanyon (Chas Llewelyn).

Peg Leg Peggy (Morgan Genko) sneaks up for an attack on Richard Lanyon (Chas Llewelyn); also pictured Deputy Cobb (Mark Edmondson), Emily Poole (Ashley Casteen) and Dr. Jekyll (Mickey Burdick).

David Maga, musical director, sets the tone for the show.

Photos by ZStudios for Thin Air Theatre Company.