



The Historic Monon Depot Theatre

2009-2010
Our 78th Season

Welcome to the 2009-2010 season!



Civic Theatre very excited to present the 2009-2010 season.

Civic Theatre strives to bring you the best theatre possible and this season is no exception. Classic shows, musicals, compelling drama, a holiday classic and a comedy that brings the great Bard himself, William Shakespeare, down to our level and below. I truly look forward to the youth season as well, beginning with a theatrical masterpiece and ending with a world premiere, getting the best of everything.

Musicals in the Monon Depot Theatre always have a bonus Thursday performance in the final week. In anticipation of high demand, the holiday selection, *A Christmas Story*, will also have an additional performance on the final Thursday of the run.

Season ticket holders from the 2008-2009 season can immediately reserve their same seats, but only through the end of May. On June 1 all remaining seats will be made available, so renew early.

Finally, please don't forget about membership. Ticket income only covers roughly 60% of our total costs, so Civic Theatre could not produce the quality shows you have grown accustomed to without your membership contributions. We appreciate this membership support in addition to ticket purchases very much!

Here's to a great season. . . see you in the theatre!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Koehler".

Steven Koehler
March, 2009



Rodgers and Hammerstein's
The King and I

The King and I

Music by Richard Rodgers

Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Based on *Anna and the King* by Margaret Landon

Original Choreography by Jerome Robbins

Directed by Robert Spaulding

July 10 – 18 at the Tippecanoe County Amphitheatre

East versus West makes for a dramatic, richly textured and ultimately uplifting tale of enormous fascination. It is 1862 in Siam when an English widow, Anna Leonowens, and her young son arrive at the Royal Palace in Bangkok, having been summoned by the King to serve as tutor to his many children and wives. The King is largely considered to be a barbarian by those in the West, and he seeks Anna's assistance in changing his image, if not his ways. With both keeping a firm grip on their respective traditions and values, Anna and the King grow to understand and, eventually, respect one another, in a truly unique love story. The dazzling score, including *Getting to Know You*, *Shall We Dance*, *I Whistle a Happy Tune*, and many more make *The King and I* one of the all-time marvels of the musical stage.

The Mousetrap

By Agatha Christie

Directed by Mark Allen Carter

September 4 – 20

From the pen of Agatha Christie comes the story of a group of strangers stranded in a boarding house during a snow storm, one of whom is a murderer. The suspects include the newly married couple who run the house, a spinster with a curious background, an architect who seems better equipped to be a chef, a retired Army major, a strange little man who claims his car has overturned in a drift, and a jurist who makes life miserable for everyone. Into their midst comes a policeman, traveling on skis. To get to the rationale of the murderer's pattern, the policeman probes the background of everyone present and rattles plenty of skeletons. *The Mousetrap* holds the world record as the longest run of a show, with more than 23,000 performances in London's West End.

A Christmas Story

By Philip Grecian

Based on the motion picture *A Christmas Story*, © 1983 Turner Entertainment Co., distributed by Warner Bros., written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark; and on the book *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* by Jean Shepherd.

Directed by John David Collier

December 4 - 20

Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in Indiana in the 1940s follows nine-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, at Goldblatt's Department Store. The consistent

response: “You’ll shoot your eye out.”

All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including the family’s temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkas, the school bully; the boys’ experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie’s father winning a lamp shaped like a woman’s leg in a net stocking; Ralphie’s fantasy scenarios and more.

A Christmas Story is destined to become a theatrical holiday perennial.

A Raisin in the Sun

By Lorraine Hansberry

Directed by Steven Koehler

January 29 – February 14

What happens to a dream deferred?

Set on Chicago’s South Side, the plot revolves around the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis and matriarch Lena, called Mama. When her deceased husband’s insurance money comes through, Mama dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in Chicago. Walter Lee, a chauffeur, has other plans, however: to buy a liquor store and be his own man. Beneatha dreams of medical school. The tensions and prejudice they face form this seminal American drama. This play about sacrifice, trust and love among the Younger family and their heroic struggle to retain dignity in a harsh and changing world is a searing and timeless document of hope and inspiration.

Winner of the NY Drama Critic’s Award as Best Play of the Year

“A milestone in the American Theatre.”-*Ebony*

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged]

By Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield

Directed by Laurie Russell

March 12 – 28

All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes! An irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged]* lives up to all the hype. The greatest playwright's 37 full-length plays including *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, and many more, all chopped up (*Macbeth*) eaten (*Titus Andronicus*) and regurgitated (more titles than you might think) ...and well, you get the idea.

Warning! This show is a high-speed, roller-coaster ride of all of Shakespeare's plays and is not recommended for people with heart ailments, bladder problems, inner-ear disorders and/or people inclined to motion sickness.

"If you like Shakespeare, you'll like this show. If you hate Shakespeare, you'll LOVE this show!" -The Today Show

Chicago

Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Based on the play *Chicago* by Maurine Dallas Watkins

Directed by Kate Walker

May 7 - 23

In Roaring Twenties Chicago, chorus girl Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband Amos to take

the rap...until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the American Dream of fame, fortune and acquittal. This sharp-edged satire features a dazzling score that sparked immortal staging by Bob Fosse.

"A pulse racing revival ... that flies us right into musical heaven."
– *New York Times*

"Wildly entertaining ... [with a] dazzling score."-*New York Daily News*

"As dazzling a demonstration of the craft of musical theatre as you're ever going to see on a Broadway stage."-*New York Post*

Civic Theatre Staged Reading Series

All performances begin at 7:00 PM.

In its third year, the Civic Theatre Staged Reading Series is an innovative way to explore well-written, thought-provoking scripts.

Every season there is a world premiere play written by a local playwright as part of the series. To date, three plays have received world premiere readings, including Scott Haan's *A Very Bad Day for Brandon Butterworth*, which has been published and has already received several productions. Guidelines for script submissions are on the website.

Staged Reading performances take place the Tuesday night after every MainStage opening night at 7:00 PM.

Please be aware that some Staged Reading performances contain strong language and mature themes.



2009-2010 Season

Our Town

By Thornton Wilder

Directed by Larry Sommers

October 2 – 4

First produced in 1938, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama of life in the small village of Grover's Corners is one of the most frequently produced plays today. Using a heightened theatricality to strip away the "artifice of theatre," Thornton Wilder presents the lives and deaths of the inhabitants of a small New England town at the turn of the century.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

Based on the Comic Strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz

Book, Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner

Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer

Additional Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Directed by Laurie Russell and Melanie R. Buchanan

November 6 – 8

This warm musical based on Charles M. Schulz's beloved Peanuts comic strip offers a "typical day in the life of Charlie Brown." The well-known characters of the comic strip come to life singing toe-tapping songs, including, *My Blanket and Me*, *Supper Time*, *My New Philosophy* and *Happiness*.

Snow White

By J. Michael Straczynski

Directed by Missy Freels

February 26 – 28

This humorous take on a classic tale includes a bumbling prince, a busy-body mirror and not just one, but three attempts on Snow White's life. Add dwarfs (seven of course) and a happily-ever-after ending and you have a great play for all ages.

Young Playwrights Project

April 16 – 18

Civic Theatre is proud to bring back the Young Playwrights Project. Chosen scripts written by the talented youth in our area will be given their world premiere in this ambitious project. A selection committee will choose the winning scripts from a fourteen-county region. Each chosen writer will be given the opportunity to hone their script with a published playwright and see a fully realized production on the Civic stage.

Guys and Dolls Jr.

July 24 - 26



Guys And Dolls Junior introduces us to colorful characters who have become legends: Sarah Brown, the upright but uptight “mission doll,” Sky Masterson, the slick, high-rolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love, Adelaide, a nightclub performer whose chronic flu is brought on by the fact she's been engaged to the same man for 14 years and Nathan Detroit, her devoted fiancé, desperate as always to find a spot for his infamous floating dice game.

Guys and Dolls Jr. is the culmination of Civic Youth Theatre's four-week intensive theatre camp. All tickets are \$5.

Why Membership?

Your membership gift helps Civic Theatre maintain the quality production that you have come to expect. Membership begins at any level of monetary gift, but at higher levels the following benefits become available.

Performer (\$30-\$49)

A tax deduction for the amount of donation
A program listing
Discounts on classes
Invitation to Annual Party

Supporting Player (\$50-\$99)

All of the benefits listed above
10% off of all costume rentals
\$1.00 off all single tickets up to four per show

Leading Player (\$100-\$249)

All of the benefits listed above
One free costume rental per year
20% off additional costume rentals

Star (\$250-499)

All of the benefits listed above
Two complimentary tickets to Civic Under the Stars

Superstar (\$500-\$999)

All of the benefits listed above
Four complimentary tickets to Civic Under the Stars

Legend (\$1,000 +)

All of the benefits listed above
Six complimentary tickets to Civic Under the Stars

Thank you for showing your support of Civic Theatre.



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