



MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

The MAGIC of Live Theatre

SINCE 1959

September Teaser

News of the Magic Circle Players

2023

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



By Ginny Spaven

Times are tough on Skid Row the bums, the winos, the urchins. Business is lousy, especially for Mushnik's Skid Row Florist! Few customers shop there. Why would they? There is little to celebrate, and the flowers for sale there are wilted, faded, and decaying. Mr. Mushnik, the owner, and his employees, Seymour and Audrey watch the hours tick slowly and wonder how they can get "outta here."

Mr. Mushnik knows they must close. They are done. Kaput! He declares to Audrey and Seymour that they are closing, now. But Seymour, young and idealistic, asks for a chance to display more exotic plants as a last ditch effort to save the shop. Perhaps they could display the strange little sprig Seymour has been tinkering with in the back room. He has already named it: Audrey II. Hmm?

A customer sees the mysterious, unidentified plant in the window and comes in for a closer look. Soon customers are flocking to the shop. Orders pour in. Phones ring constantly. Agents want Seymour for radio shows and interviews. Audrey II begins to grow, flourish, and at times seem almost human. But, when Audrey II begins to talk, promising fame and fortune in return for a most unusual diet, Seymour realizes the danger that lies ahead.



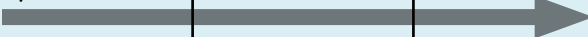

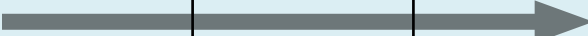


This show is described as a horror comedy, rock musical, romance. Youngsters will be fascinated by the puppet like animation, while the senior set will recall the sixties as a girl group provides the doo wop tunes. The rest of us will scratch our heads, wondering how they did that thing with the plant!

Jason Atchley directs *Little Shop of Horrors*, assisted by Michelle Terry. The cast has a delightful balance of newcomers and familiar faces. Jonathan Heath plays Seymour, the hapless flower shop employee; his co-worker, Audrey, a pretty blonde with a tacky sense of fashion, is played by first timer, Jordyn Foss. Her boyfriend, the sadistic dentist, is played by Riley Little and Dalyn Pearson is Mr. Mushnik, shop owner. The doo-wop numbers feature Janel Culver, Gabrielle Lewis, and Elliana Masters, backed up by an ensemble of all ages.

School has barely started, but it will soon be time to jump start your Halloween spirit. So, whether you're seeking comedy, sci-fi, rock or romance, *Little Shop of Horrors* has it all. But we feel we must warn you — don't get too close to that plant!

Calendar

Due to construction, the Box Office will not be accessible to the public until October. Contact us at (970)249-7838 or mcp@montrose.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 September AUDITIONS DeathTrap 6:30pm	11 AUDITIONS DeathTrap 6:30pm	12 Due to construction - BOX OFFICE by phone or e-mail only 	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Due to construction - BOX OFFICE by phone or e-mail only 	20	21 Montrose Historical Society 5pm	22	23
24 Season Celebration & Annual Meeting 5pm	25	26 Due to construction - BOX OFFICE by phone or e-mail only 	27	28	29	30
1 Oct.	2	3 Box office open 2pm-5pm 	4	5	6 Little Shop of Horrors 7:30pm	7 Little Shop of Horrors 7:30pm
8 Little Shop of Horrors 2pm	9	10 Box office open 2pm-5pm 	11	12 Little Shop of Horrors 7:30pm	13 Little Shop of Horrors 7:30pm	14 Little Shop of Horrors 7:30pm
15 AUDITIONS A Walk in the Woods 6pm Little Shop of Horrors 2pm	16 AUDITIONS A Walk in the Woods 6pm	17 Box office open 2pm-5pm 	18	19 Little Shop of Horrors 7:30pm	20 Little Shop of Horrors 7:30pm	21 Little Shop of Horrors 7:30pm
22 Little Shop of Horrors 2pm	23	24 Box office open 2pm-5pm 	25	26	27	28

From Lisa

The Magic Circle Theatre facade remodel is happening! After 2.5 years of planning, the demolition has begun, the plans are approved and by Thanksgiving our building will look like a theatre. Access is currently limited, but the Box Office will reopen Tuesday, October 2 at 2pm. In the meantime, please:

- ✓ Purchase tickets online @ magiccircleplayers.com
- ✓ Leave a voice mail @ (970)249-7838
- ✓ E-mail mcp@montrose.net



THANK YOU to our Montrose & Western Slope Community for your incredible support on this project! Our two phase project is starting with the exterior @ \$450,000. The summer 2024 interior remodel represents the remainder of our million dollar budget. We have raised \$300,000, Magic Circle has added \$100,000, and we have applied for two capital campaign grants. The DART program awarded us a \$25,000 façade grant, and the City of Montrose is assisting the asphalt patching, concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters and pavement markings.

The Theatre WILL BE OPEN OCTOBER 6, 2023 for the opening of *Little Shop of Horrors*. The work will not be completed, but we have been guaranteed front door and parking lot access.

AVAILABLE THROUGH SEPTEMBER ONLY! As the exterior remodel is underway, we have less than 100 designated spaces in our new sidewalk for PAVERS ETCHED WITH YOUR NAME. These pavers are available with a donation of \$1,500. We have a limited number of spaces left and DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT! Your name and dedication to community theatre will go on in perpetuity. Visit us online or through the Box Office to make your donation. Any donations over \$250 receive a 25% Colorado tax credit.

It's not too late to purchase SEASON TICKETS. A season ticket entitles you to a ticket to each of the five main stage productions. Upgrade to a VIP PATRON MEMBERSHIP and your ticket to each of the five main stage productions also included a donation that funds your community theatre.



OCT 2023



NOV 2023



JAN 2024



MARCH 2024



MAY 2024

*Because Theatre
has the power to
affect a life!*

COME *Audition* WITH US

Audition information available online @ MagicCirclePlayers.com



DEATHTRAP

SEPT 10 & 11 @ 6:30PM



CONEY ISLAND

Christmas

by Don Margulies

OCT 9 & 10 @ 6:30PM



A Walk in the Woods

OCT 15 & 16 @ 6PM

ANNUAL MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

NIGHT AT THE DEPOT

FEATURING REMEMBERED NOTABLES INCLUDING
MAGIC CIRCLE FOUNDER • BETTE DUSTIN SPIRO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 @ 5PM
CALL (970)249-2085 FOR TICKETS

**SEASON CELEBRATION
& Annual General Meeting**

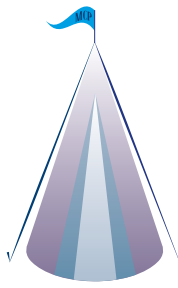
SUNDAY, SEPT. 24, 2023 • 5PM @ ROTARY PARK
Dinner will be Provided • BYO Chairs & Beverages

RSVP if

Attending by

September 17 @

mcp@montrose.net



**YOUTH THEATRE
DRAMA
CAMP**
MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

**Elementary and Middle School
Drama Camp June 2023**

Directed by Nancy Ballantyne and Kim Santich

We had 69 young actors over two weeks, and performed *Fools Afoot* and *The Great Gotham Acting Company*.

As always, the highlight for directors, Nancy Ballantyne and Kim Santich, is introducing the campers to theatre, "Helping to facilitate the next generation of actors is the most amazing feeling."

The highlight for two of the production assistants were:

Sami Hampton "My highlight from drama camp this year was teaching the kids new things, but also learning alongside the campers and helping spark their interest in theatre!"

Maryellen McCracken "I really enjoyed helping with drama camp this year, but my favorite part was getting to work with the elementary kids and getting to see how they each grew and learned in different ways!"



The 2023 Elementary & Middle School Drama Camp crew represent the diversity and culture of our community theatre. This group ranges from an octogenarian, a retired school teacher, a young mom, a recent college graduate, to a crew of teenagers, who all worked together tirelessly, for two weeks to give young actors the thrill of a live theatre experience. To be with them was inspiring!

High School Drama Camp July 2023

Directed by Dru Weaver

This year we had the pleasure of working with a smaller more intimate group of talented young actors! We were able to work more closely with each one to help them meet the huge challenge we put before them this year. Each actor was given at least three different roles in three separate short plays to memorize, characterize and perform. The challenge didn't stop there as we also took the "show on the road" with an additional performance at the Montrose County Fair! Each and every one of these students rose to the challenge, giving three separate performances of 9 short plays! These amazing students did all of this in a single week from auditions day, workshop day and five rehearsals. It is always such a joy to see these young actors learn and develop new skills and then apply them to stagecraft.



Auditions · Feb. 18 & 19, 2024

Casting actors aged 10 -18



**YOUTH THEATRE
TRAVELS**

@ MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

In February 2004, it was announced that Youth Theatre was going on the road. Every fall, until COVID 2020, Magic Circle Players has travelled to all Montrose County elementary schools to give the student the JOY of a live theatre experience. A group of theatre volunteers perform a 20- 40 minute program, completely free of charge, to approximately 3,000 students. Magic Circle sees the value of our youth and desires to continue this outreach. If YOU are interested in directing or acting in a Youth Theatre Travels experience, please reach out to mcp@montrose.net.

I (Lisa) have the honor of serving on the HopeWest Advancement Board. Our job is to be informed, and be ambassadors for this remarkable organization. The HopeWest mission is, “Through creativity, volunteerism, and philanthropy, we profoundly change the experiences of aging, illness, and grief – one family at a time.” They most certainly impacted my family! I was introduced to HopeWest when my father-in-law was hospitalized and in need of at home hospice care. Our relationship continued when my mother-in-law required palliative and hospice care for six months in 2019. I have only the highest praise for the organization, their staff, and volunteers. They saw us, they saw our loved ones, and they provided services that supported our end-of-life journey.



HopeWest is the ONLY non-profit palliative care & hospice organization in Western Colorado. They provide services that support, encourage and comfort both the patient and their families. Most of their services are a Medicare benefit, and they will never refuse care due to an inability to pay. Magic Circle Players is honored to invite YOU to attend an information session at the theatre. This is an opportunity to be informed and educated on the services offered by HopeWest; there is NO ASK! We can accommodate 8 – 10 people per session. Each session lasts approximately one hour.

If you are interested, please e-mail mcp@montrose.net and RSVP for one of the sessions:

Monday, October 9, 2023 @ 9am for Breakfast

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @ noon for Lunch

Friday, October 27, 2023 @ 3pm for Coffee

Magic Circle in the Community



Our High School Drama Camp went on the road with a performance at the Montrose County Fairgrounds.



ABOVE: The cast of *Little Shop of Horrors* rehearsing at the Olathe Assembly of God.



Magic Circle hosted Unify America in August. Unify America, a non-profit organization, that creates interactive experiences to help people bust out of their bubbles, build civic muscles and work together to tackle our country's biggest challenges.



1923



2023

RIGHT: Magic Circle was pleased to help out with costumes for the recreation of a 1903 photo, commemorating the 100 year birthday of the MFPD's antique fire truck Leapin' Lena.

The Sound of Music



THE BELLE OF AMHERST

Directed by Nancy Ballantyne

Readers Theatre is in its third season at Magic Circle; this facet of theatre allows us to select material from an endless variety of plays and dramatic literature. Actors read from their scripts, with the emphasis being on the actors' voices and their interpretations of the script. The play is not staged with a set, and there may or may not be costumes or props.

Audiences are engaging and appreciating the Readers Theatre experience! *The Belle of Amherst*, an intimate look at the life of Emily Dickinson, as told by Emily herself, was no exception. Audiences were enthralled with the humor, vulnerability and depth of experience articulated in the words of Miss Dickinson, as expressed by our two actresses, Tiffany McNeil and Patti Scriffiny. They were brilliant! *The Belle of Amherst* was the first production of the 2023-2024 Readers Theatre season. Next will be a *Coney Island Christmas* followed in April by *The Good Doctor*. Anyone who is interested in submitting or directing a Readers Theatre production can contact Nancy Ballantyne (nancybgm3@gmail.com) or Kim Santich



(kimsantich@comcast.com) for information about the 2024 - 2025 Season.



THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Directed by Kenny & Jennifer Easton

Directing *The Sound of Music* at Magic Circle Players was pure joy for us. Our incredible team, totaling more than 100 volunteers, worked tirelessly to produce this all-time classic musical in a magnificent and fresh way. Our actors brought life to every character. From the beautiful, twenty-four member nun choir, to the eight VonTrapp children, and from Maria (played by Rachel Blankmeyer) to Mother Abbess (played by Kelsey Scally), and everyone in between, this cast was beyond remarkable. Not only due to their acting, singing, and dedication to the show, but more

importantly, because of their kindness, patience, and love for each other. This wonderful group of actors, directors, musicians, and tech pros truly exemplifies the "community" aspect of our beloved "community theatre."

Our awesome, eight piece orchestra, led by Kris Mauk, shined in every performance. Mitch brought the stage to life with his gorgeous lighting. Sami (19) and Malachi (14) ran the sound and mics with an expertise and finesse well beyond their years. Kim Redman steered the ship from backstage with her usual perfection. The entire cast helped build the set, and Amy Nelp spent countless hours bringing the set to life with her beautiful art. Our incredible costume and sewing team, led by Julie Laube and Susan Vinson, made, fixed, and altered hundreds of costumes. Many other hands, too many to name here, contributed to this lovely labor of love, and we are confident that the audiences felt that love every night.

When we, as a pair, took on this iconic show, we wanted to build a real sense of family, viewing that sense as vital to the success of such a large show. We were joyfully overwhelmed to see that multiple generations from many families came out to audition. In the end, we had two families with three generations represented, and SEVEN families with two generations represented, totaling more than a third of our cast and crew! What a wonderful testament to the power of live theatre to bring together families and communities. It was our true pleasure to direct *The Sound of Music* and share this beautiful but challenging story with the community of Montrose.





It's a WRAP!

The Sound of Music

Photos by Johnny Lee - Montrose Photo Video



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