



# MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

*Celebrating 65 Years of Live Theatre Magic*

January Teaser

News of the Magic Circle Players

2025



BY SEAN GRENNAN

ARTICLE BY LADONNA BUBACK

Directed by Merrilee Robertson & Stasia Allyn

A second chance at life isn't always as simple as it seems. When Joy O'Malley (Molly Benson) wakes up in the hospital with a stranger's heart beating inside of her chest, she can't help wondering why she deserved to live while Jack Higgins (Dustin Glass), the young man whose family still mourns his tragic passing, didn't. In Magic Circle Players' deeply moving and darkly humorous rendition of *The Tin Woman*, opening January 10, the lives of these strangers intersect, leaving the audience reflecting on life, love, and the power of human connection.

As Joy struggles with survivor's guilt and the weight of a gift she can't fully accept, her best friend Darla (Aylin Marsella) encourages her to reach out to Jack's grieving family. The result is an emotionally charged and hilariously awkward meeting, as Jack's parents, Hank (Scott Pollak) and Alice (Amy Priest), as well as his sister Sammy (Eden Hassell), are still deeply raw from their loss. The unlikely encounter is a delicate

dance of humor, sadness, and shared pain as each character navigates the complex aftermath of death and the process of moving forward.


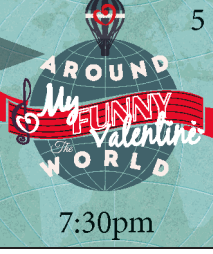
With Jack's silent spirit watching over the cast throughout, *The Tin Woman* is a poignant, darkly funny rollercoaster that will make you laugh through your tears and leave you questioning the fragile connections that bind us all. Don't miss this unforgettable show about love, loss, and the power of a second chance — sometimes, the heart can lead us back to where we truly belong.

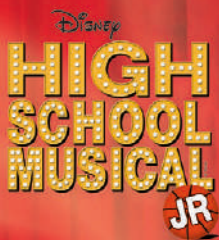
**Runs January 10 through January 25, 2025.**



# Calendar

If you are interested in volunteering as a Magic Circle usher, please contact Lisa at [mcp@montrose.net](mailto:mcp@montrose.net) or (970)249-7838

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 <b>January</b>	6	7 Box office open 2pm-5pm	8	9	10  7:30pm	11 <b>The Tin Woman</b> 7:30pm
12 <b>The Tin Woman</b> 2pm	13	14 Box office open 2pm-5pm	15	16	17 <b>The Tin Woman</b> 7:30pm	18 <b>The Tin Woman</b> 7:30pm
19 <b>The Tin Woman</b> 2pm	20	21 Box office open 2pm-5pm	22	23	24 <b>The Tin Woman</b> 7:30pm	25 <b>The Tin Woman</b> 7:30pm
26	27	28 Box office open 2pm-5pm	29	30	31 <b>February</b>	1
2	3	4 Box office open 2pm-5pm	5  7:30pm	6 <b>MFV Around the World</b> 7:30pm	7 <b>MFV Around the World</b> 7:30pm	8 <b>MFV Around the World</b> 7:30pm
9 <b>MFV Around the World</b> 2pm	10	11 Box office open 2pm-5pm	12	13	14	15



**AUDITIONS** **CALLBACKS**  
**March 1, 2025 @ 2pm** **March 2, 2025 @ 2pm**

Casting 30 actors 13-18 years olds · Audition Packets Available Online January 2025

# From Lisa

It is December 16th as I write this, only nine days until Christmas, and I'm sure like many of you, my 'to do' list competes for my undivided attention. I am protesting! I am taking time to enjoy coffee with my husband each morning, planning a movie date with my grandson to watch *The Grinch*, and sharing the wonder of the Garden of Lights at the Montrose Botanic Gardens with our children and grands. The Christmas traditions that I love, some passed down from my mom and my grandmothers, require planning, time, and energy AND I don't want to miss the joy of the lights on my tree, sitting in pajamas catching up with my kids, savoring simple moments of peace, or reaching out to a friend who may not be looking forward to the holidays. This season has the potential to bring out the best, or the worst in me, but if I listen closely I can hear an echo from my favorite Christmas carol, "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn," and I know that no matter what this season brings, I have hope, and I am not alone. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In October, our Board began a Strategic Planning process with Lori Sharp from ThinkSharp! Consulting. With the results of our recent survey, and a board retreat in the mountains, we drafted Vision and Mission statements that we feel represent the identity, values and direction of Magic Circle Players. We are excited to launch into the new-year with action steps to strengthen and grow our community theatre.

**VISION** - To ignite passion for theatrical arts through exceptional performances that unite communities and inspire generations of artists and audiences alike.

**MISSION** - Believing in the power of live theatre, we harness local volunteer talent to create transformative experiences that entertain, engage and build community, making theatre accessible to all in Western Colorado.

Our Board of Governors for the 2024 – 2025 Season is Kevin Innarelli (President), Kenny Easton (Vice President), Allyson Crosby (Secretary), Merrilee Robertson (Treasurer), Jonathan Heath, Michelle Terry and Dru Weaver.



Kevin Innarelli



Kenny Easton



Allyson Crosby



Merrilee Robertson



Jonathan Heath



Michelle Terry



Dru Weaver

## BUILDING TOWARD OUR FUTURE *The Sequel*

Our exterior remodel is complete! The project including a new façade, new roof, digital marquee and restriped parking lot, is completely paid for. The generosity of the City of Montrose, DMEA/Elevate, The Gates Family Foundation, Tom Chamberlain, Mark Smith, The Mize Family, Linda Bjelland, Kim Santich, James Lee Family, Montrose Signs, and El Pomar Foundation laid the foundation that the entire community built on to create the MAGIC that is now visible for all to see. Now we launch the Sequel. Through the generosity of the CL Werner Foundation, a \$50,000 matching grant has resulted in unprecedented year end giving, and we are well on our way to new bathrooms! THANK YOU!



## REMEMBERING CIEL BOTTOMLY

Our friend, Ciel Bottomly was an active member of Magic Circle Players from the 1980's, as an actor and director, until her health declined in 2015. The last project she completed at the theatre, was repainting the handicap parking spaces, with her beloved husband, Bill. Sometime in the 80's, Ciel was talked into coming to auditions with her friend, Silke Printz, and Ciel ended up being cast as Gould in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Ciel expertly directed many productions, including *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Grand Junction author, Dalton Trumbo's *The Biggest Thief in Town*. Perhaps her proudest directorial achievement was her co-director partnership with Dr. Richard Shannon, when they took their production of *Guys & Dolls*, including 40 Magic Circle Players to England. Her legacy continues with her husband, Bill, her two children, Charley and Miel, and in the many lives she touched.

# 2025 DRAMA CAMP REGISTRATION - APRIL 21 THROUGH APRIL 24, 2025

IT'S STILL SIX MONTHS UNTIL DRAMA CAMP, BUT THIS IS A "HEADS UP", SO THAT YOU CAN MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

**Registration will open at a NEW TIME, April 21, 2025 at 6:00am!**

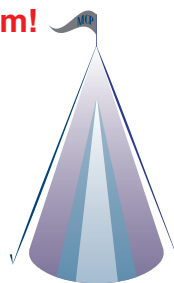
All the slots are likely to be filled by Wed., but we'll officially close registration on Thurs. April 24.

## CAMP DATES

Elementary and Middle School WEEK ONE June 22 – June 28, 2025

Elementary and Middle School WEEK TWO July 6 – July 11, 2025

High School Drama Camp is JULY 12 through JULY 19, 2025



YOUTH THEATRE  
**DRAMA  
CAMP**

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

CREATED BY LISA REDIGER ♥ SHANNON REDIGER



At Magic Circle Players, our mission is to make theatre accessible to everyone, ergo we work hard to keep ticket prices low, and manage our resources responsibly. However, each year we have additional projects to be funded, so we produce a benefit show to raise money for a specific enterprise. This year the proceeds from ticket sales, and the My Funny Valentine Around the World live auction will be designated to much needed safety upgrades on our rigging and fire safety.

**\$125 VIP TICKETS**

*Dinner & Wine at the Stone House*

*followed by the show at Magic Circle Theatre.*

**THURS · FEB 6 @ 5PM**

**\$40 SHOW ONLY**

**FEB 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 @ 7:30PM**

**SUN · FEB 9 @ 2PM**

Production of **Disney**

**HIGH  
SCHOOL  
MUSICAL**

Directed by Lisa Rediger  
& Shannon Rediger



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

Book by David Simpatico

Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie Written by Peter Barsocchini  
Songs by Matthew Gerrard & Robbie Nevil, Ray Cham,  
Greg Cham & Andrew Seeley, Randy Petersen & Kevin Quinn  
Andy Dodd & Adam Watts, Bryan Louiselle  
David N. Lawrence & Faye Greenberg, Jamie Houston  
Music Adapted, Arranged and Produced by Bryan Louiselle

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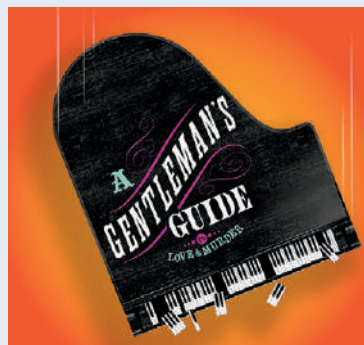


Nancy Ballantyne, Director, surrounded by her cast.  
Photo by Julien Kibler

A *Sherlock Carol* gave me the opportunity to direct actors that I had always wanted to direct, after seeing them in other productions. What a treat! Our audiences' comments ranged from surprise that we brought life to a script in only ten rehearsals, to delight about the concept of Readers Theatre, and how enjoyable it can be. Our patrons thought that Mark Shanahan's play was quite clever and fun, everyone in the production agreed. Our costume crew worked overtime to create a touch of Victorian England, and our carolers added to the charm. This was the third Readers Theatre production that I have directed since starting the program four years ago with Kim Santich. Kim and I thank everyone who has been part of keeping RT alive and well! Look for two RT productions in the 2025- 2026 season. *Nancy Ballantyne, Director*



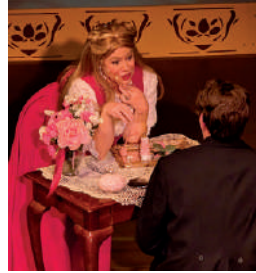
It was an honor to be able to participate in the 65th season of Magic Circle. I am always grateful and humbled by the abundance of creative opportunities our community theatre has provided throughout the years for so many. This production of *Gentleman's Guide* was, for me, a celebration of the superb musical talent in our community and the sheer joy of making people laugh. I will be forever grateful to the actors who gave their all for every performance and to the crew who worked so hard. I will never forget our wonderful audiences who continue to make everything we do worthwhile. *Kathy Murdoch, Director*



Director, Kathy Murdoch and Assistant Director, Everett Gregory  
Photo by Johnny Lee



It's a WRAP! *Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*  
Photos by Johnny Lee



BOARD OF GOVERNORS Kevin Innareselli · Kenny Easton · Renee Lee · Dru Weaver · Michelle Terry · Allyson Crosby · Merrilee Robertson

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