



# MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

*The Magic of Live Theatre Since 1959*

May Teaser

News of the Magic Circle Players

2026

# SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER  
OF FLEET STREET

Music and Lyrics by  
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by  
HUGH WHEELER

Directed By  
Michelle Terry

Assistant  
Directors  
Allyson Crosby  
& Dalyn Pearson

Music Director  
Rich Burt

*Welcome to the bloodiest corner of Fleet Street.*

Attend the dark and witty tale of love, murder, and revenge set against the shadowy streets of 19th-century London. Winner of eight Tony Awards, *Sweeney Todd* has delighted audiences across the world with equal parts gothic horror, biting satire, and musical brilliance.

Unjustly exiled for years, barber Benjamin Barker returns to London under the name Sweeney Todd (Kenny Easton), consumed by grief and a lust for vengeance against the corrupt Judge Turpin (Peter Ambrose) who destroyed his family. Reuniting with the ever-resourceful Mrs. Lovett (Wendy Bodwell), proprietress of a struggling meat-pie shop, Todd reopens his barber practice above her bakery. What begins as a quest for personal revenge quickly spirals into something far darker, as a shocking solution to Mrs. Lovett's business troubles sends all of London lining up -- and seals the fate of the unsuspecting.

With a haunting, operatic score by Stephen Sondheim and a razor-sharp book by Hugh Wheeler, *Sweeney Todd* is widely regarded as one of the greatest musicals ever written. Featuring unforgettable characters, darkly comic twists, and some of the most chilling music ever composed for the stage, this production blends visceral horror with surprising humor and emotional depth. Directed by Michelle Terry, with an assist from Dalyn Pearson and Allyson Crosby, and Music Director Rich Burt leading a stellar cast -- including Josiah Austin, Michaela Bishop, Max Terry, Spencer Crosby, Dustin Glass, Chris Walsh and George Crosby -- MCP's telling of this gruesome and wickedly entertaining tale is a must-see for audiences who crave theatre that dares to go to the edge...and dares you to follow.

**Running May 8th through May 30th.**

**\*\*CONTENT ADVISORY:\*\*** This production contains violence, stylized gore, gun use, and depictions of death. Though presented theatrically, some scenes may be intense for younger audiences. Parental discretion is strongly advised. Children under 12 should attend only with a parent or guardian.

Would you like to see your business here?



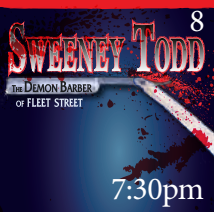



## CORPORATE SPONSORS

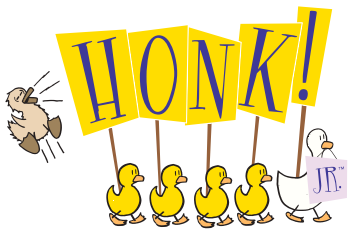
BOARD OF GOVERNORS Kenny Easton · Rich Burt · Allyson Crosby · Janel Culver · Merrilee Robertson · Michelle Terry · Dru Weaver EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Lisa Rediger

(970) 249-7838 • MagicCirclePlayers.com • mcp@montrose.net • PO Box 1897 • 420 S. 12th St. • Montrose, CO 81402

# 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
3 <b>MAY</b>	4	5 Box office Open 2pm-5pm	6	7	8  Sweeney Todd 7:30pm	9 Sweeney Todd 7:30pm
10 Sweeney Todd 2pm	11	12 Box office Open 2pm-5pm	13	14	15 Sweeney Todd 7:30pm	16 Sweeney Todd 7:30pm
17  AUDITIONS 6pm	18  AUDITIONS 6pm	19 Box office Open 2pm-5pm	20	21	22 Sweeney Todd 7:30pm	23 Sweeney Todd 7:30pm
24 Sweeney Todd 2pm	25	26 Box office  AUDITIONS 6pm	27	28	29 Sweeney Todd 7:30pm	30 Sweeney Todd 7:30pm
31	1	2 Box Office open 2pm-5pm	3 <b>JUNE</b>	4	5	6



**PERFORMANCES**  
JUNE 11 - 20



**PERFORMANCES**  
JUNE 26  
JULY 3 & 12



**AUDITIONS**  
JUNE 28 & 29



**PERFORMANCES**  
JULY 31 • AUG 1 & 2

**Magic Circle Players** PO Box 1987 • 420 S 12th St • Montrose  
970-249-7838 • [mcp@montrose.net](mailto:mcp@montrose.net) • [magiccircleplayers.com](http://magiccircleplayers.com)

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.

# From Lisa

April 1, 2026 was the twentieth anniversary of my hire date at Magic Circle Players. I am so grateful for the opportunity to share the decades and days with you; your support and encouragement are truly treasured. April 1, 2026, I also lost my Mama. For twenty - two years, she came and saw everything that I did at the theatre. She was in / *Remember Mama* at Magic Circle 1962, and was adamant that acting wasn't for her, but she did love to sing! She was authentic, brave, and had moxie. She was remarkably generous, both in providing meals for friends and family, and with words of love, affection and encouragement. The world is a little more silent without her voice, and I feel so lucky to have had her for a mom.



Before Magic Circle Players' 2026-2027 season even opens, hundreds of hours have already been invested: a volunteer committee read the scripts presented by directors to choose the season line-up; scripts have been ordered and royalties paid; show descriptions and graphics chosen; audition dates and rehearsals schedule. We are excited to share the MAGIC with you. In an era of emerging AI, you can be sure that LIVE THEATRE remains unscathed.

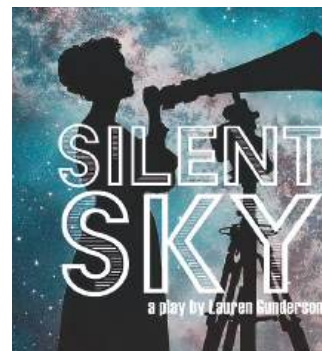
The cost of tickets will go up this year. We face your same challenge of rising costs, and have a mission to make theatre accessible to all. In an effort to address both issues, we are introducing tiered seating for the five Mainstage Productions. Center seats will be the most expensive at \$35, while the bulk of the seats are \$25. A VIP Pass/ Season Ticket will be the BEST VALUE! For the cost of an annual pass, you will have access to the five Mainstage Productions and two Readers Theatre productions, and may reservation the premium seats at no extra charge. Season Fliers will be in the mail before the end of May - annual passes may be purchased online or at the Box Office.



**Misery**  
by William Goldman  
based on the novel  
by Stephen King



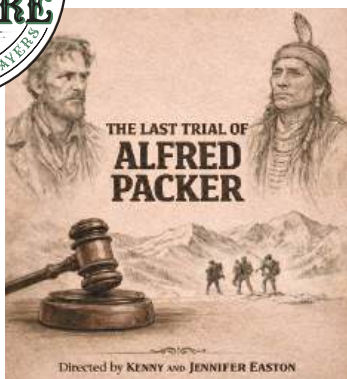
**Little Women**  
the Broadway Musical  
by Allan Knee



**Silent Sky**  
by Lauren Gunderson



**Oliver!** by Lionel Bart



**The Trial of Alfred Packer**  
by Michael Brooks & Paul Edwards

**YOU KNOW I CAN'T  
HEAR YOU WHEN THE  
WATER'S RUNNING**  
BY ROBERT ANDERSON  
HILARIOUS AND ENCHANTING

**You Know I Can't  
Hear You When the  
Water's Running**  
by Robert Anderson



**The Odd Couple**  
by Neil Simon

COME *Play* WITH US

# COME *Audition* WITH US

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS  
The Magic of Live Theatre Since 1959



**Four One Act Productions**  
**AUDITIONS**  
**MAY 26 @ 6PM**  
Production July 31, Aug 1 & 2  
Auditions Packets Available Online @ [magiccircleplayers.com](http://magiccircleplayers.com)



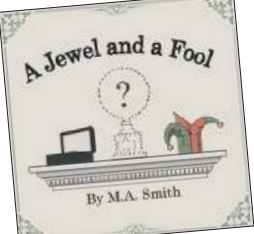
**DATE WITH DEATH**  
By Steven Hayet  
Directed by Nichole Kurtz  
CASTING: Two Women (18-30)  
One Man (18-30)



**THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE**  
By Christopher Durang  
Directed by Jonathan Heath  
CASTING:  
Three Women, Two Men

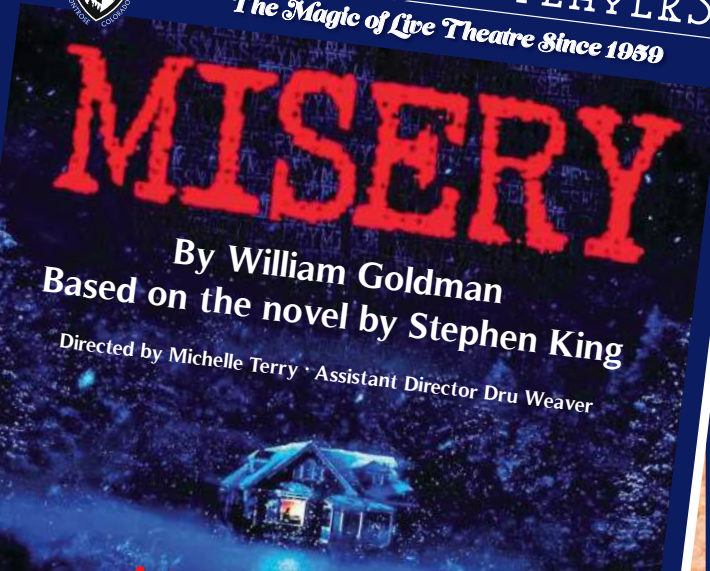


**THE LAST ACT IS A SOLO**  
By Robert Anderson  
Directed by Janel Culver  
CASTING: One Woman 60+  
Two Men (40-60)



**A Jewel and a Fool**  
By M.A. Smith  
Directed by Everett Gregory  
CASTING: Two Men 60+

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS  
The Magic of Live Theatre Since 1959



**MISERY**  
By William Goldman  
Based on the novel by Stephen King  
Directed by Michelle Terry · Assistant Director Dru Weaver

**AUDITIONS**  
**MAY 17 & 18 @ 6PM**

A well-known gothic-romance writer survives a terrible car crash, only to be rescued by his self-appointed "number one fan." What starts as care becomes control as his increasingly deranged captor demands a new ending to her favorite series. Trapped, injured, and cut off from the world, he must write to stay alive while searching for a way out. Tense, chilling, and unpredictable, *Misery* is a gripping thriller where devotion turns deadly.

Casting: 1 male 35+ • 1 male 25+ • 1 female 20+  
Rehearsals: Wed & Thurs · Production: Sept 4 - 19, 2026  
MISERY is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS  
The Magic of Live Theatre Since 1959



**Little Women**  
The Broadway Musical

Book by Allan Knee Music by Jason Howland Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein  
Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott  
Directed by Lisa Rediger  
Assistant Director Jamie Gann · Music Director Jonathan Heath

**AUDITIONS**  
**JUNE 28 & 29 @ 6:30PM**

Based on Louisa May Alcott's American classic, this Civil War story of love and family follows the coming of age of the four March sisters - Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. Meg longs for love, Amy wishes for beauty, Jo aspires to fame, and Beth is perfectly content at home. While they dream, struggle, fall in love, and reach for independence, they rely on the unbreakable bond between sisters. This stunning musical soars with the sounds of personal discovery, heartache and hope - the sounds of a young America finding its voice.

Casting:  
6 Women 4 Men  
10 Ensemble  
Production Nov 13 - Dec 6  
Audition Packets Online

LITTLE WOMEN is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

# DIRECTORS' PERSPECTIVE



For me, directing a show MUST be a true “labor of love”, otherwise, why do it? It starts with the script and *Proof* has been a script I’ve been in love with for over 2 decades now. And then the real work begins; the one year of planning, meeting, scheduling, brainstorming; all with skilled and dedicated crew members. The Assistant director, the set construction head honcho, tech crew, staging crew and then of course finally with the always difficult task of choosing the cast from MANY talented aspirants. And then.... The months of hard work: construction, rehearsing, learning lines, creating the perfect lighting and sound and many, MANY long late nights. All to create what we hoped would be a beautiful piece of theatre art.



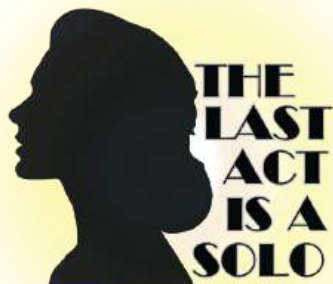
And it was. My cast and crew can attest that right before we opened I literally had to fight back tears in my eyes as I said “We’ve created something very beautiful and special.”

And we did. I will forever carry deep beautiful and loving memories of this experience with me, thanks to those who worked with me to create it, and to you who came and saw it. *Scott Pollak*



The purpose of a Magic Circle Director Training Workshop is to educate and support volunteers interested in learning to direct a play, particularly as it relates to our theatre. The process is designed to mimic an actual directing experience. The director has a responsibility to ensure the quality of a production, and to collaborate with a production team to work on performance (acting, choreography, vocals, music, orchestra, stage combat), technical (stagecraft, costume design, props, lighting design, set design and sound design), and administrative (scheduling, facility use, budgeting, communication) aspects of the production.

This year, our workshop participants include Nichole Kurtz, Janel Culver, Jessica Kastendieck, Everett Gregory, and Jonathan Heath. All have been involved in recent productions at Magic Circle Players. As the culmination of the training, working with a mentor, each will direct a one-act play of their choosing.



**The Last Act is a Solo**  
by Robert Anderson, Directed by Janel Culver

Laura Cunningham, once a star, lives amid costumes, props, and memories of her career. Too frail to act, she remains fiercely independent and resists her nephew's attempts to move her to the country where she can be cared for. In fact, she has an interview that very afternoon with a director.



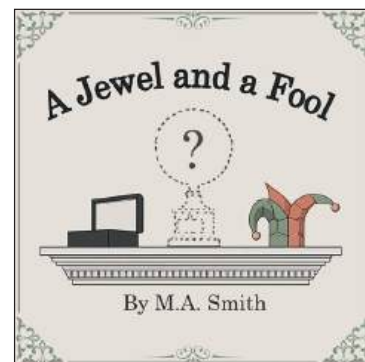
**The Actor's Nightmare**  
by Christopher Durang  
Directed by Jonathan Heath

An accountant wanders onto a stage, is mistaken for the understudy and forced to perform in a play, without knowing any of the lines or even which play he is in.



**A Date with Death**  
by Steven Hayet  
Directed by Nichole Kurtz

Dating is hell, rather than the awkwardness of turning someone down, Angela prefers murder. However this time her “baggage” doesn’t go unnoticed.



**A Jewel and a Fool**  
by M.A. Smith  
Directed by Everett Gregory

What do you say in your final conversation with a person you've known for fifty years? Gut busting and gut punching, the last moments between two of the best of friends are shared together in a small, living room apartment. Where did the trophy go?

**Four One Act Productions**  
**JULY 31 & AUGUST 1 @ 7:30PM**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 @ 2PM**



**JUNE 2026**

**JUNE 11-13 & 17-19 @ 7:30PM**

**JUNE 13, 14 & 20 @ 2PM**

**Score by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe  
Directed by Dru Weaver · Assistant Director Corie Smith  
Music Director Patti Sciffiny**

HONK JR is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

Based on Hans Christian Andersen's **The Ugly Duckling**, this delightful adaptation of the beloved fable and the award-winning musical is a heartwarming celebration of what makes us special. Ugly looks quite a bit different from his darling duckling brothers and sisters. The other animals on the farm are quick to notice and point this out, despite his mother's protective flapping. Feeling rather foul about himself, the little fowl finds himself on an adventure of self-discovery, all the while unknowingly outwitting a very hungry Cat. Along the way, Ugly meets a whole flock of unique characters and finds out being different is not a bad thing to be. Witty and hilarious, but also deeply moving, *Honk! JR.* is a heartwarming celebration that is sure to delight audiences of all ages with its sparkling wit, unique charm and memorable score. **YOUTH TICKETS ARE ONLY \$10!**



**The 24th Year of Drama Camp is Almost Here!**

Drama Camp – those are exciting words for many of us, including Nichole Kurtz, our new director for the Elementary productions. We are ready, but still need people to fill out our production team: assistant/co-directors, stage crew, a lighting person and team members for other production tasks.

**COME PLAY WITH US as we direct the 70 youth actors who will be the 2026 Drama Campers!**

Nichole will be directing *Dragon Ragout*, a play featuring a Dragon named Algernon, a King, and some unhappy chefs. The Middle School actors, directed by Nancy Ballantyne, (who also wrote both scripts) will be in a western Colorado town around 1910 in *Bad Read At Clearwater*, where they have some outlaw trouble.

**ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS 2026**



Directed by Nichole Kurtz



Directed by Nancy Ballantyne

**June 26 @ 4pm & 6pm · July 3 @ 4pm & 6pm**



By Laurie Allen · Directed by Dru Weaver

**HIGH SCHOOL  
DRAMA CAMP**

**DRAMATIC TEEN PERSPECTIVES  
ON THE PANDEMIC**

**Sunday, July 12  
@ 2pm & 5pm**

# MAGIC CIRCLE PLAYERS

# Lighting GUILD



Join our team of unpaid professionals who design and run lights at Magic Circle Players. **Not a professional, but want to learn? YOU ARE MOST WELCOME.**

*We are scheduling a training and working to build up a Lighting Guild, please email [mcp@montrose.net](mailto:mcp@montrose.net) if you want to join the fun.*

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
The Board of Governors

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

What can you say about **Kenny Easton**? As current Board president Kenny exemplifies dedication, leadership, and heart. Whether he's on stage as an actor, guiding a production as a director, shaping music as a music director, or simply stepping in wherever help is needed, Kenny approaches every situation with a calm, laid-back, and thoughtful presence that puts others at ease. Kenny is a true friend; his kindness, reliability, and unwavering support make him an irreplaceable part of Magic Circle.



**Kenny Easton**

**Becky & the Boys**, Magic Circle Players' Valentine Band, have provided the MAGIC of live accompaniment for four My Funny Valentine productions. The band has had different members over the years, but Becky Northey, Tom Northey, Greg Miller, Luke Gann, Kenny Easton and Daniel Rediger have been our stalwarts. Donny Morales and Zach Spencer are Becky's Boys, and Jovi Powers, a beautiful young woman, is also now "one of the boys." We are overwhelming grateful for their talent, skill, dedication, and months of practice, friendship and good humor!

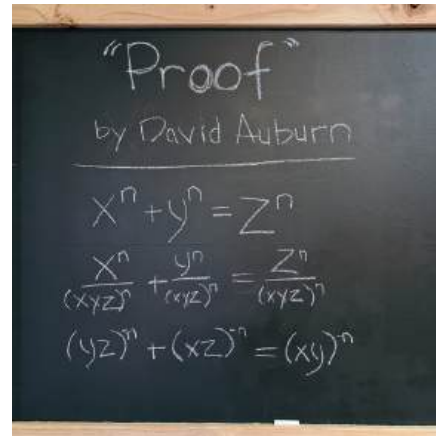


**Becky & the Boys**

**Marleen Gravitz** came to us about three years ago, and has proven an invaluable member of the wardrobe committee with her hard work, dedication, friendliness, sewing skills and leadership. Marlene is willing to take on a challenge, and doesn't shy away from managing the costume needs for a show; she researches the era, location and historical context to create authenticity and beauty.



**Marleen Gravitz**



It's a WRAP! **PROOF** Photos by Rich Burt



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