



Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS
Theatre Company

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE **FAC performs musical masterpiece about painter Seurat**

COLORADO SPRINGS (Jan. 2, 2008) – In the past 45 years, there have only been three musicals to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama: *A Chorus Line*, *Rent* and *Sunday in the Park with George*. The Fine Arts Center Theatre Company will present *Sunday in the Park with George*, Jan. 25-Feb. 17, in the SaGāJi Theatre.

Written and scored by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, *Sunday in the Park* is a moving study of the enigmatic painter Georges Seurat that won a Pulitzer Prize for its insightful and personal examination of life through art and the artist. Act one follows Seurat as he fights a losing battle to maintain a relationship with his mistress, Dot, as he creates his painting, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, amid the scorn of the artistic community. The second act takes place 100 years later, introducing us to his American descendant, also an artist, burned out and uncertain of the path he must take.

The show was specifically chosen to correspond with the FAC's special exhibition, *Impressionist and Modern Masters*, on exhibit through March 9. Much of the second act is set at an art exhibition opening in a museum.

"What better piece to do at an arts center that recently completed a \$30 million renovation and who is currently exhibiting one of the country's finest exhibitions of Impressionist and post-Impressionist art?" asks **Alan Osburn**, Producing Artistic Director of the FAC Theatre Company. Osburn, who directed last season's *Into the Woods* – another Sondheim/Lapine collaboration – is directing *Sunday in the Park*.

On Dec. 30, the FAC Theatre Company's Musical Director **Roberta Jacyshyn** earned a 2007 *Denver Post* Ovation Award for "Best Orchestra" for *Into the Woods*; the production garnered nine nominations, including "Best Musical," "Best Ensemble," and "Best Director." In 2006, the Company earned the Ovation Award for "Best Musical" with *Pirates of Penzance*.

Jacyshyn, the Musical Director or musician or both for every single FAC musical since 1984's *Bye Bye Birdie* – **about 80 productions** – is saying goodbye to Colorado Springs. Jacyshyn will be playing keyboards for *Sunday in the Park*; it will be her farewell performance as she and her husband, **Mark Rose**, will be moving to Florida. Rose has been the primary reeds player for the Theatre Company for a number of years.

"Roberta and Mark will be greatly missed," said Osburn. "Both have played integral roles in the legacy of our musical success and we wish them well in their future endeavors."

Christopher L. Sheley is the scenic designer. He won the 2006 Denver Post Ovation Award for 'Best Set Design' for the FAC Theatre Company's production of *Pirates of Penzance* and was nominated in the same category in 2007 for *Into the Woods*.

The scenic designer will feature the artistry of **Brian Jude Beacom**, who will recreate Seurat's paintings: *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* and *Bathing at Asnieres*, along with painting over a dozen life-size, two-dimensional cut outs of various people and animals found in the *La Grande Jatte* painting. Seurat painted *La Grande Jatte* in two years; Beacom will have four weeks.

"This is a huge undertaking," said Osburn. "We wouldn't be doing this show if we didn't have Brian. He's one of the finest scenic artists in the region."

The show stars **Brian R. Hutchinson** as George. Hutchinson was last seen playing Chaplain White in the Arvada Center's production of *Defiance*. He was nominated by the Denver Post as "Best Actor in a Musical" for his work in *Assassins* (yet another Sondheim-penned work) as John Wilkes Booth at the Aurora Fox Theatre. Hutchinson was also a finalist for the 2006 Denver Post Ovation Award for "Best Year by an Actor," highlighted by his role in *Cabaret*.

The role of Dot is being played by **Carmen Mock**, the scene-stealing Little Red Riding Hood from *Into the Woods* and Mrs. Fezziwig from *A Christmas Carol*. Mock is a 2005 graduate of New York's American Musical and Dramatic Academy. She starred as Young Tammy in the first national tour of *Stand by Your Man: The Tammy Wynette Story*.

Sondheim was honored last September as the recipient of the *Donald Sewell Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre* by the Colorado Festival of World Theatre. He has written the music and/or lyrics for not only *Into the Woods* and *Sunday in the Park*, but also *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Assassins*, *Gypsy*, *Company*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

Tickets and Show times

Thursday	7:30 p.m.	\$26 FAC members; \$28 non-members; \$30 at the door
Friday/Saturday	8:00 p.m.	\$28 FAC members; \$30 non-members; \$31 at the door
Sunday	2:00 p.m.	\$28 FAC members; \$30 non-members; \$31 at the door

More information concerning tickets sales for individuals or groups, and the Curtain Call Society can be found at csfineartscenter.org or by calling the FAC Box Office at **719.634.5583**.

Upcoming Productions

- **Defending the Caveman** | Feb. 22-23
- **Fuddy Meers** | March 21 – April 6
- **Beauty and the Beast** | May 9 – June 1

Sunday in the Park with George is sponsored by Ceavco AudioVisual.
The 2007-2008 Theatre Season is sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado,
the El Pomar Foundation and The Independent.