



Fine Arts Center  
COLORADO SPRINGS  
Theatre Company

30 West Dale Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
Box Office: 719.634.5583  
Tickets: [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org)

## Press Release

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Charlie Snyder, Director of Public Relations  
719.477.4316; [csnyder@csfineartscenter.org](mailto:csnyder@csfineartscenter.org)

### **DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Blockbuster musical based on the Academy Award winning movie

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (April 15, 2008) – The Fine Arts Center Theatre Company will perform *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* at the SaGāJi Theatre, opening May 9 through June 1.

Based on the Academy Award winning animated feature, the stage version of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* includes all of the wonderful songs from the film, written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman (the team responsible for *Little Shop of Horrors*), plus new songs written especially for the Broadway version by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice (*Aladdin*, *Aida*).

Fine Arts Center audiences will be transported to a lovely French provincial town where the beautiful Belle lives with her father – a dotty inventor. When her father doesn't return from a trip to the local fair, Belle rushes off to find him. To her dismay, she discovers he is being held captive in an old castle by a horrible beast. She trades her freedom for his and the "tale as old as time" begins.

"It is not everyday that a musical comes along that touches both children and adults," said **Alan Osburn**, FAC Director of Performing Arts.

"It is one of those shows the kids will want to come back and see again as they can't believe the movie they have cherished for years is happening live right before their eyes," he said. "Once is just not enough."

In 1991, the animated feature *Beauty and the Beast* became the first "cartoon" to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture. Prompted by the unprecedented success of the film, and by critics likening the music to that of a Broadway score, Disney executives began to develop a stage version with an eye toward the Great White Way. Award-winning composer Alan Menken wrote seven new songs for the stage production with Tim Rice, following the untimely death of Menken's writing partner Howard Ashman.

This production is directed by **Cory Moosman**, who also directed the FAC's 2006 production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and TheatreWorks' 2007 production of *Topdog/Underdog*. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the Steel City Theatre Company in Pueblo. As an actor he was last seen as the manic puppet guy, Millet, in the FAC's production of *Fuddy Meers* as well as acting in *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The 1940's Radio Hour*.

**Natalie Jensen** will play Belle and **Brantley Scott Haines** will be the Beast. Jensen was last seen as Belle in the FAC production of *A Christmas Carol*. Haines played Cinderella's handsome, charming Prince – and the Wolf in *Into the Woods*. He also performed in *Pirates of Penzance*, the FAC's top grossing musical of all-time. Gaston will be played by **Malcolm Ulbrick**, who has performed with Opera Theatre of the Rockies, the Colorado Springs Chorale and in the Colorado College's Summer Music Festival. When not singing, Ulbrick is a strength and conditioning coach at Colorado College.

**Sam Gleason** (Lafou), **David Plambeck** (Maurice), **Scott Rathbun** (Cogworth), **Shannon Wallnutt** (Babette), **Eryn Carman** (Mrs. Potts), **Nick Madson** (Lumiere), **Nan Rubley** (The Wardrobe) and **Jack Walker** (Chip) round out the principle players; all of whom have diverse and deep background in musical theatre throughout the region. One item to note: Madson made his New York comedy debut last year at Caroline's Comedy Corner and was voted one of the top 100 amateur comedians in the country by Comedy Central. Walker is a sixth-grader at Eagleview Middle School.

The creative team features **Mary Ripper Baker** (Choreographer) and **Sandi Shroads** (Musical Director). The design staff includes the incomparable Scenic Designer **Christopher L. Sheley**, who earned the 2006 Denver Post Ovation Award for "Best Set Design" for *Pirates of Penzance*; **Elizabeth Fry** (Costume Design), **Holly A. Rawls** (Lighting Design), **Steve Stevens** (Sound Design), and **Jessica Rose** (Properties Master).

### Special Features

Select members of the cast will be available following each show to greet members of the audience in the FAC lobby. Three Saturday Matinees will be performed at a reduced rate for families on May 17, 24, 31.

### 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
May 17, 24, 31	2:00 p.m.	Kids (12 and under) \$18 FAC members; \$20 non-members Adults \$23 FAC members; \$25 non-members

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

### Special Return Engagement!

**Defending the Caveman** | June 6-8

### FAC Youth Repertory Theatre

**You Can't Take It With You** | July 17-20

**Working** | July 18-20

The 2007-2008 Theatre Season is sponsored by El Pomar Foundation, Curtain Call Society, Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, Sherman E. Smith Family Foundation, and The Colorado Springs Independent.