



Fine Arts Center
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Director, New Name, New Vision **FAC unveils new theatre company with new Producing Artistic Director**

COLORADO SPRINGS (April 24, 2007) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) has a new artistic director, a new theatre company name, a new vision and plans for a new performance space. **Alan Osburn** was named the new director of the Performing Arts Department and Producing Artistic Director of the new Fine Arts Center Theatre Company.

NEW DIRECTOR

Alan Osburn, who has served as interim artistic director since September 2006, comes to the FAC after serving as the Artistic Director for Aspen Theatre in the Park for four years. He has worked as a producer, director, teacher, and actor for over 30 years. His acting credits include being seen both on Broadway and in the National Touring Companies of *Les Misérables* as Inspector Javert. He was the Assistant to the Artistic Director at the Hartford Stage Company and also served as the Assistant to the Associate Artistic Director, Bruce Sevy, at the Denver Center Theatre Company. During his tenure at the Denver Center Osburn also acted in several main stage productions, and was on the faculty at the National Theatre Conservatory. During his 15 years in New York City, he directed five world premiere plays and was the Coordinator for the Directors Company at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, where he also taught musical theatre performance.

NEW NAME

Since 1988, the Fine Arts Center has been producing theatre as the REP Theatre Company. Both Osburn and Dr. Michael De Marsche, FAC President and CEO, want to more closely align the theatre and the art school with the museum, as the FAC opens its doors to a whole new world of cultural diversity with the August *Extremely Grand Opening* and the \$28.4 million renovation and expansion project unveiled.

“There is so much potential with this theatre,” said Osburn, who has served as interim artistic director for the past seven months. “Our aim is to raise the artistic level of the productions and create a new and improved relationship with the Actor’s Equity Association. The name is the only thing that is changing. The previous director, Sandra Bray, made great strides in paving the way for this new and exciting journey. ‘The REP’ is still here; it just answers to a different name ... the Fine Arts Center Theatre Company.”

NEW ERA

"Over the years, the great musicals of our time have been the foundation of the theatre at the FAC, and in the spirit of this great tradition, I have selected Stephen Sondheim's masterpiece *Into the Woods* to be the inaugural production of the new Fine Arts Center Theatre Company," said Osburn.

Into the Woods, a musical of fairytales turned reality, features three Broadway actors Susan Dawn Carson, Kelly Walters and Mercedes Perez, who the *Rocky Mountain News* named the 2006 'Top Actress, Musical Theater' in Colorado. This production plays May 11 - June 3. (Please see separate press release for *Into the Woods*.)

"This is only the beginning," said Osburn. "I am using this production as a template of what is to come at the FAC. We have more professional actors in this cast than any previous FAC show and it's the biggest production in terms of staging and set design. If you liked the ship in *Pirates of the Penzance* or the plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*, you will really enjoy what Chris Sheley and his design team has in store for you in this show."

Sheley earned the 2006 Ovation Award from the Denver Post for 'best set design' for *Pirates*.

NEW VISION

Osburn's vision for the theatre includes a new performance space. What is now the theatre company's rehearsal space will be completely transformed into a flexible black box theatre that will hold 90 seats, turning the Fine Arts Center into the only theatre complex of its kind in the Pikes Peak Region.

"Adding this additional performance space will give the company the freedom to produce more diverse material and delve into more drama," said Osburn, "while continuing our current offerings of standard musicals and comedies in the SaGāji Theatre."

Another part of the Osburn vision is to use this new space to develop new works, having personally worked with new play development both at the Denver Center Theatre Company and at NYU. Osburn has already contacted the Denver Center about the possibility of partnering with their new play development program.

In the shadow of the new museum, the Performing Arts Department has also been a part of FAC renovation in the SaGāji Theatre, with the installation of state of the art lighting and sound equipment and a completely renovated auditorium and fly loft. This past October the completion of a new scene shop and rehearsal space were added to the complex, and coming this fall, the theatre will also enjoy their new costume shop.

TO SUM UP

Alan Osburn, new Producing Artistic Director ... the Fine Arts Center Theatre Company formerly known as the REP Theatre Company ... a new black box performance space ... and professional production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* opening May 11.

A new director, a new name, a new vision and an American masterpiece.

ABOUT THE FINE ARTS CENTER

Founded in 1936, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre, and arts education center. The FAC is currently embarking on a multi-million dollar building initiative. The renovated and expanded Fine Arts Center will open to the public on Aug. 4, 2007, with an Extremely Grand Opening celebration featuring a blockbuster traveling exhibition, special guests and events. Visit www.csfineartscenter.org.