



SPOTLIGHT

Volcano Theatre Company's Monthly Newsletter

Season Tickets are THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

The Volcano Theatre Company has announced its fantastic 2023 season and it has something for everyone, making giving a season ticket the best gift ever! And, BONUS, you get the 5th show FREE!

Beginning in the Cobblestone Theatre in April, we begin our year-long celebration of our fabulous 50th season by re-staging our very first production, "Prisoner of Second Avenue" to be directed by long-time member/director, Bob Duzdevich. This Neil Simon script premiered on Broadway in 1971 and received multiple Tony Award nominations, including for "Best Play". You may also recall the film version of this classic starring Jack Lemmon and Anne Bancroft. The story revolves around the escalating problems of a middle-aged couple living in New York City, beginning with a job loss, an economic recession, an intense summer heat wave, a garbage strike, difficult neighbors, a burglary and the list goes on. It gets wild! Constant, and at times comedically over-the-top challenges make for great laughs in this classic Neil Simon script. Auditions for this production will be held at the Cobblestone Theatre on January 15th at 2 p.m. and the 16th at 6:30. Auditions are open to the public, so come on down and check it out! For further information about this production, contact Director Bob at 209.419.0744.

The first summer production in the outdoor amphitheatre, opening in June, will be "Beowulf (and the Bard)" by Christopher R. Barlett and Vidas Barzdukas, with another veteran director, Judy Elliott, at the helm. Beowulf is a fun-filled, freewheeling comedy that "updates" the Old English epic about the warrior Beowulf, the first-ever Super Hero, and is told through the eyes of the epic's writer, the Bard, who is suffering from a bad case of writer's block! The events unfold just a bit differently than the original story, as a reluctant and out-of-shape Beowulf is being asked to save his new friends from a hideous beast, Grendel, who has been terrorizing Heorot, the mead hall (oh NO, not, the MEAD HALL!) and eating all the warriors. What's a hero to do? Yes, there will be swords! Yes, there will be ogres! And, YES, there will be men in tights! Too much fun to be missed!

Continued . . .



2023 Season & Season Tickets, continued . . .



For the first time since 2017, a second summer production will be offered in the amphitheatre this year! Lauren Gunderson's historical drama "Silent Sky" will be directed by Amber Adams (who last directed "Steel Magnolias") and will open in August. "Silent Sky" tells the true story of Henrietta Leavitt, the astronomer ahead of her time. It is 1900, and Henrietta has the opportunity to work at Harvard University as a human computer. As a woman in this field, she works to overcome obstacles, leading her to a scientific discovery that has profound and lasting impacts on the field of astronomy. "Silent Sky" is a poignant tale of a woman's dedication to the stars, and the human touch that makes life under the vast sky beautiful and timeless. And what better venue to enjoy this production than under the stars in the beautiful outdoor amphitheatre!

When the weather chills and the leaves fall, we invite you back into the Cobblestone Theatre, where we will continue to celebrate our 50th season, with "Blithe Spirit", the other original production of our 1974 premier season. A Noel Coward classic, this comedy is centered around a novelist who inadvertently invites the spirit of his deceased spouse into his life by means of an eccentric clairvoyant who conducts a séance! Needless to say, the novelists' current spouse is not amused! First time director, Margaret Lewis, says "it is too faint-hearted for a haunted house, but is certainly entertainment fit for the fall, as you enter the season where worlds meet and ghosts walk amongst us . . . to tickle your funny bone!"

And what would the holidays be without a Christmas production in Volcano! 2023's production, opening in November, is "Dashing Through the Snow" by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten, and directed by another first-time director (but veteran VTC actress!), Roxanne Fausett. All the action in "Dashing Through the Snow" takes place at the Snowflake Inn, a quaint bed and breakfast in a little town of Tinsel, Texas. You will be introduced to an array of crazy guests, all of whom have their own agendas during the holiday season. From ending a long-standing family feud between cranky aunts to visiting actors from a local production of "A Christmas Carol" trying to fulfill a promise made to a loved one to a weirdly comedic romance between Mrs. Claus and . . . well, let's just leave it there! Add a people-pleasing-until-she's-not inn keeper, a cranky cook and a demanding guest who refuses to leave, and you have a holiday recipe for hilarity that hammers the holidays home! You'll appreciate the sanity of your family after meeting THESE fruitcakes!

This fabulous FIVE PLAY SEASON will make THE BEST Christmas gift! Give a pair of season tickets to your spouse and you have an automatically guaranteed 5 built-in date nights! Give them to your kids for a great excuse to spend family time together! And for those friends who have everything, what a great excuse to get together throughout the year! Season Tickets are the gift that keeps giving all year long!

And remember, you save money too! Buy FOUR tickets and get the FIFTH SHOW FREE! Another bonus is that Season Ticket holders will get first dibs on picking the performance dates of their choice long before tickets go on sale to the general public.

Purchase Season Ticket Gift Cards by visiting our website at www.volcanotheatre.net or by calling Business Manager Bob at 209.419.0744.

Happy Holidays and see you in Volcano in 2023!



Coming Attractions:



- December 13th - **BOARD MEETING**, 6:30 p.m. at offices of Van Hulzen Financial Advisors, Jackson
- December 13th - **OPENING NIGHT** - **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** at Amador High School (12/13, 15, 20, 22 @ 6 p.m. and 12/17 @ 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.)
- January 15-16 - **AUDITIONS** for *Prisoner of Second Avenue* by Neil Simon directed by Bob Duzdevich at the Cobblestone Theatre. 2 p.m. on the 15th; 6:30 p.m. on the 16th
- February 18th - **SAVE THE DATE** for our 2023 KICK OFF PARTY! Theme: *Enchanted Forest*

Need More Gift Ideas for the Person Who Has Everything? Check out Page 4!

Adopt a Chair or Buy a Brick!



Volcano Theatre Company's HELP US "SET THE STAGE"

We are a 501(C)3 not-for-profit theatrical corporation run ENTIRELY by volunteers! For almost 50 years! We love what we do - putting on fabulous award-winning theatrical productions for our community - and we're pretty darn good at it, if we do say so ourselves. And we do this while also preserving the historic character of our venues: the Cobblestone Theatre, originally built as a cigar emporium in 1855 and the Amphitheatre, the façade of which was a saloon and a law school.

The proceeds from ticket sales fund future productions, paying for utilities, taxes and general maintenance of our theatre venues. But we have plans for significant improvements that will affect the quality of our performances and "set the stage" for the future.

Our current "wish list" for big ticket projects will make everyone's Volcano Theatre experience much better - for our patrons, actors and volunteers. If you are in ANY POSITION to "adopt a project", make a general donation, or if you can donate your time, materials and/or talents, PLEASE HELP!

Our current "wish list" includes:

- Re-wiring all the electrical in the Cobblestone Theatre! As we upgrade sound and lighting systems, we find that the current (very old) wiring needs complete replacement. Estimate: \$20,000
- Adding two new 10' x 10' barn-style sheds for storage of props and costumes on a base rock pad. Estimate: \$3,000-\$5,000 EACH
- Extending the light booth in the Amphitheatre to allow more effective placement of light and sound equipment. Estimate: \$3,000-\$5,000
- Updating HVAC system in the Cobblestone Theatre to a more efficient system for the comfort of our patrons and actors. Estimate: \$15,000 or more!

If you can help in any way, please contact us through our website:

www.volcanotheatre.net

or via email at: volcanotheatrecompany@yahoo.com

We THANK YOU for supporting YOUR community theatre!

With Much Gratitude . . .

Giving Tuesday was a grand success and we would like to thank all the generous people who made donations for the benefit of the Volcano Theatre and Amber Adams, Bob Duzdevich, Alison Galloway, Judy Elliott (and Jim Estes, behind the camera) for working the VTC table at the event!



**THANK
YOU!**



Congratulations to the Cast & Crew of If It's Monday, This Must Be Christmas!

Director Dana Cohen & her hard working cast & crew were rewarded for all their hard work by having a completely sold out run AND even added two extra matinees!

CONGRATS ALL on a GREAT SHOW!





Project Cushy Tushy!

Have You Been Following the Drama in the Cobblestone Theatre?

We were gifted with "free" theatre chairs and tore out the old chairs and the old carpeting.

Under that old carpeting we discovered ROT and the ENTIRE AUDIENCE AREA had to be re-built, including relocating a beautiful not-seen-in-years stone floor, tons of cement, piles of wood, thousands of screws and gallons of paint!

Basically a TON of hard work and a BUNCH of unplanned expenses . . .

And all during a year we were closed for business due to the pandemic!

You can support this remodel effort by **Adopting A Chair** through **Project Cushy Tushy!**

Your chair will have a plaque with your name and choice of brief comment or dedication (for example: "in memory of . . .", a favorite quote, or just something silly . . . Have fun with it!)

Visit us online at www.volcanothatre.net to adopt your chair today! Only \$150

AMPHITHEATRE: STONE BY STONE, BRICK BY BRICK

Maintaining and improving our beautiful outdoor Amphitheatre is an on-going adventure. You can help by buying a brick. For each \$100 donation, a brick engraved with your name will be added to the walkway in the Amphitheatre! Complete below and mail with your check to VTC, P.O. Box 88, Volcano, CA 95689 OR visit us online at www.volcanothatre.net Your tax-deductable donation will be greatly appreciated!

Name: _____

Address: _____

NAMES TO BE ENGRAVED: _____

Amount of Donation: \$_____

2023 Board of Directors

President, Jim Estes / jimbob2x2@gmail.com / 209-304-1535

Vice President, Alison Galloway / talkingskullranch@gmail.com / 831-212-9479

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