

EVERGREEN players

Autumn 2004

Hilarity Detected in this Madcap Mystery

There are at least two kinds of detectives. There's the eccentric genius with super-keen powers of observation and deduction – Sherlock Holmes comes to mind. And then there's the plucky fellow who thinks he's a genius and may only be an eccentric. Evergreen Players' production of "Bullshot Crummond," opening Fri., Oct. 29 for a three-weekend run at Center/Stage, features a detective more bumbling than brilliant who's out to solve a madcap mystery full of thrills, spills and all-out laughs.

Captain Hugh "Bullshot" Crummond is a hero in his own mind, to be sure, and occasionally and quite by accident a hero in fact. A dashing daredevil with a "nose for danger," he's got more dash than sense.

When his arch rival, Otto Von Brunno plots to steal a secret scientific formula and take over the whole world, Crummond is on the case.

If ever there was a villainous villain, Von Brunno is it. The "second most dangerous man in Europe," the "Baron of Blitzkrieg" arrives on England's shores in the dark of night and in the company of his evil mistress, Lenya. Lenya delights in cruelty and has a strange attraction for Crummond. Will he fall prey to her wiles or will he win the hand of the beautiful Rosemary Fenton of Tunbridge Wells whose father, Professor Fenton, has suddenly and strangely gone missing?

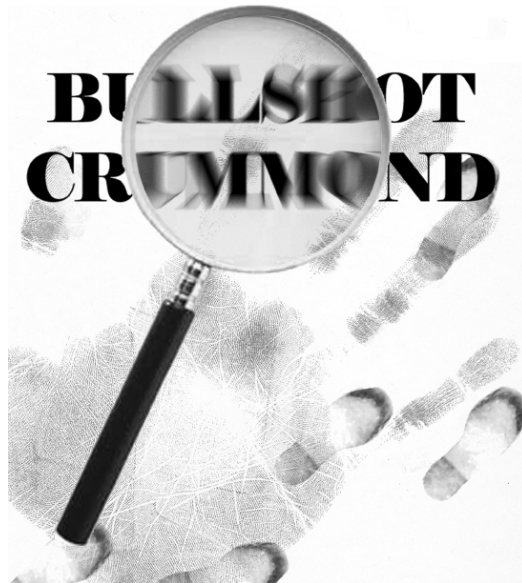
It's a story sure to keep you on the edge of your seat,

with plot twists and turns enough to keep a contortionist busy. This parody of 1930s "B" movies is all in grand fun and good cheer. Crummond calls to mind a long and distinguished line of bumbling sleuths – from Maxwell Smart and Bullwinkle to Inspector Clousseau and Austin Powers. And of course there is a host of sidekicks and henchmen to add to the fun, including Algy Longworth, Crummond's dimwitted school chum, the hunchback Marovitch who does Von Brunno's dirty work and even (shudder) Salvatore Scalicio, "the most unscrupulous gangster in America."

Amy Amani and Renye Ress direct the show, written by Ron House, Diz White, John Neville-Andrews, Alan Shearman and Derek Cunningham, based on an idea by Ron House and Diz White. In the cast are **Matt Bachus** as Bullshot, **Kerry Beebe** as Lenya, **Brian Dowling** as Von Brunno, **Scott Gibson** as Algy et al., and **Whitney Nuchols** as Rosemary. The production features set design by **Peggy Morgan Stenmark**, Evergreen Players' artist in residence. **Ray Berry** is stage manager. Producers are **Angela Berry** and **Molly Epstein**.

The show runs weekends Oct. 29-Nov. 14 at Center/Stage. Tickets are \$15 for adults,

\$12 for seniors (62 and up) and students (13 and up), and \$7 for children 12 and under. Make reservations on our website at www.evergreenplayers.org.



You don't have to be a detective to find the laughs in this spoof of 1930s "B" movies. Image by Richard Orf.

DRESS UP FOR A HALLOWEEN DISCOUNT
This is no trick. Dress up for undisguised fun and a detectable discount! Come in costume to any performance Oct. 29, 30 or 31 and we'll treat you to \$2 off admission.

Celebrate New Center/Stage Lobby and Gallery

You're invited to join us for a special celebration of the newly expanded lobby at Center/Stage.

Evergreen Players, Evergreen Chorale and Evergreen Arts Council are hosting a "Community Thank You" open house at Center/Stage, Sat., Nov. 6 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and there will be entertainment, refreshments and door prizes.

The newly completed lobby boasts triple the elbow room, plus Evergreen's newest gallery space, dubbed the Rotary Gallery at Center/Stage in honor of Evergreen Rotary's pledge of \$65,000 to complete the project.

The theater's old lobby always was more than cozy – it was downright cramped. Now there's plenty of room for a sellout crowd to mingle before the show and during intermission. The nearly \$250,000 expansion also features a revamped entryway, covered walkway and deck, a new larger counter and serving area, and office space. Good news for lighting operators, too: stairs to the light booth can now be reached without going outdoors. The project also created some extra downstairs storage space for set pieces, costumes and the like.

For many people in the Evergreen arts community, the lobby and gallery space completes a longtime dream of putting performing and visual arts under one roof. As **Mike Moore**, veteran Chorale and Evergreen Arts Council member, has said, it's the finishing touch on a vision many had more than 25 years ago – a jewel in the crown, if you will.

Moore and Evergreen Players' past president **John Davis** co-chaired the expansion project. **Hank Alderfer**, local contractor, and crew, once again handled the construction work.



Patrons enjoy newly expanded lobby at Center/Stage during Evergreen Chorale's run of "Music Man." The lobby includes Evergreen's newest gallery space.

Center/Stage Gallery Showcases Ellen Nelson's Photography

You've probably seen her work without realizing it. Ellen Nelson has been photographing performers at Center/Stage and around Evergreen for years now.



Ellen Nelson

She's been the Players' production photographer since 1999, getting started with "Bye, Bye Birdie." She also designs our programs. She photographs Evergreen Chorale and Evergreen Children's Chorale productions, too.

Nelson has gathered up some of her favorite Center/Stage photos for a first-ever retrospective of her work, opening with "Bullshot Crummond" at the end of October and continuing

through the end of the year.

Nelson, 48, practically grew up with a camera – an old Kodak box model – in hand. Her father was a writer who loved photography and she caught "the bug" for taking pictures and writing from him. She has degrees in technical communications from Michigan Tech and petroleum engineering from University of Oklahoma. These days she's a technical writer with her own freelance business. She's also a columnist and contributing photographer for several area publications including *Canyon Courier* and *Colorado Serenity*. In 30 years, she's photographed actors, politicians, news, sports, disasters and years ago even served as an Oklahoma City-based stringer for *TIME* and *Ms.* magazines.

Nelson lives in Evergreen with husband Dave and kids Scott and Becca. She's an active volunteer in Evergreen arts. This past summer, for instance, she was a member of our intrepid stage crew for our production of "The Secret Garden."

ACT Gives Players *Community Theatre* Award

Alliance for Colorado Theatre (ACT) recognized Evergreen Players with its "Community Theatre" Award. According to its website, ACT is "the voice of theatre education in Colorado." **John Davis**, Evergreen Players outgoing president, accepted the award at ACT's annual conference in September.

ACT offers continuing education for teachers working at all grade lev-

els, from elementary through college. The group supports not only drama teachers, but those who want to use theater in their curriculum. ACT also sponsors forums and sets professional standards for theater education. Its Board is made up of educators from all over the state.

ACT Board member **Tony Catanese** nominated Evergreen Players for the award. Catanese teaches at Grandland Country Day School in Denver.

He's also an accomplished actor and many will remember his performance as Louie in the Players' production of "Lost in Yonkers" in 2002.

In his presentation speech, Catanese offered some background on the Players and concluded by saying, "After seeing numerous productions over the years and having had the good fortune to appear in one of them, I continue to be impressed with the high quality of the production values the Players consistently demonstrate and with the sense of community and support they provide for everyone who becomes involved with the organization."

Former Administrator New President

At its September 2004 meeting, Evergreen Players Board of Directors voted **Molly Epstein** in as president. A Board member for three years, Epstein served as the group's first administrator from 1997 to 2001.

The slate of new officers also includes **Scott Ogle** as vice president, **P.K. Worley** as secretary and **John Davis** as treasurer.

Jan Hart retired from the Board. She served as vice president for five years. **Davis Bennett** completed his two-year term.

The Board also recently welcomed new members **Fran Gibson**, a perennial volunteer costumer, and **Lisa DeCaro**, who played the title role in "Sylvia."



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NEXT UP: *MIRACLE WORKER*

Mark your calendar for the classic drama, "**Miracle Worker**," the inspiring story of Helen Keller's teacher, **weekends Jan. 21-Feb. 6.**

Meet the Creative Mind Behind Our Posters

Richard Orf became a graphic design major on Day 2 of his studies at Colorado State University. For the brief shining moment he calls Day 1 he was sold on English Lit.

His interest in theater goes back to very early days. His family, especially his sister Jennifer, taught him to love the craft and he did a lot of acting high school. That's where he met **Brian Dowling** who sent him our way in 2003 when we just happened to be tearing out our hair trying to come up with a poster idea for "Inherit the Wind." Orf and Dowling once appeared together in the Players' production of "Dracula." Dowling is Otto Von Brunno in this season's "Bullshot Crummond."

Orf, 24, also designed posters for "Breaking Legs" and "Sylvia." We asked him to design posters for all four of our shows this season.

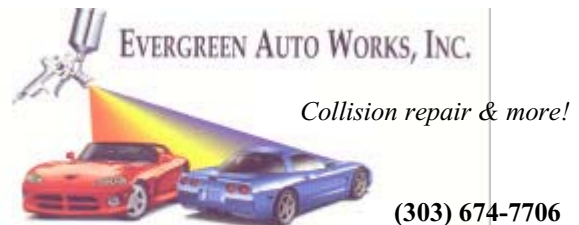
Orf also has worked with Gene and Janelle Kato's new company, Next Stage Productions, and the Ascot Theatre.

He says to come up with an image, he reads the play,

looking for universal images. "Posters are tricky in that you are looking for a single visual image that can convey many meanings.," he says. "A poster should convey the essence of a show to the public, to get them interested and get them motivated to see it."

He owns **Nyx-Calliopeia Production Co.** in Denver.

Special thanks to Jim Morton and Evergreen Auto Works for providing Evergreen Players and Mount Evans Hospice storage space!



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www.evergreenplayers.org



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