

Our History

The Yampa Valley Performing Arts Council was officially designated as a non-profit organization in January 2016. However, the Piknik Theatre Festival has been producing shows since 2008; and our producing organization – The Great American Laughing Stock Company – has been a part of local “show business” since 1971. We have deep roots in Steamboat Springs and a long tradition of high quality in the performing arts. The two shows this year will mark 20 total productions ranging from pantomime to Shakespeare that have been performed during the Piknik Theatre Festival alone. Our collaborations with the Yampa River Botanic Park, the Bud Werner Library, and now the Steamboat Springs High School this year demonstrate our enthusiasm for providing FREE public

performances throughout the community. Our mission is “to enhance and diversify the performing arts in the Yampa Valley,” and this year is no exception. This year’s productions “The Merchant of Venice” and “The Chosen One” focus on the value of diversity. We hope you are provoked to question and discuss these works long after our final bows. To reach out to our Artistic Director, please email at shandloff@hotmail.com or call 970-355-9403. To donate and support the Yampa Valley Performing Arts Council, please go to our website www.galsco.org and click the “Donate” button. Thanks and enjoy our shows!

THE YAMPA VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL IS A
501(C) 3 NON-PROFIT, EIN # 81-1129278



THE GREAT AMERICAN
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COMPANY
Est. 1971

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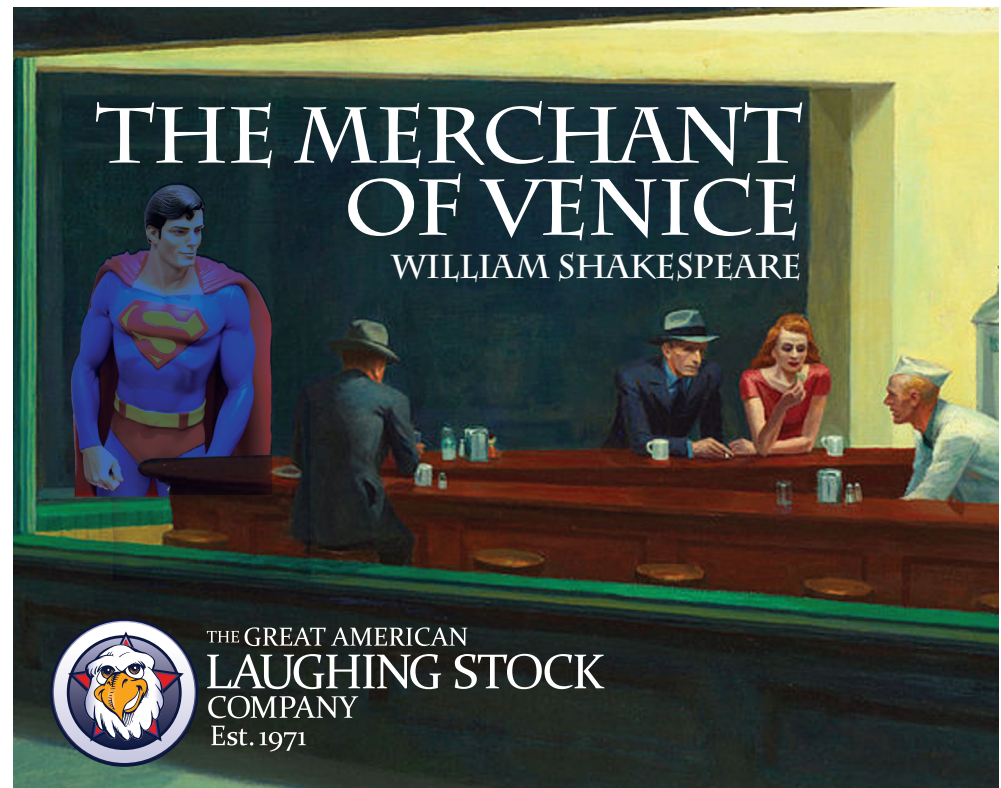
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The Stone Family
Mary McClure
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Mark Fischer
Dianne Stoyko and Jim Kurowski
Craig Isell and Holly Van Deursen



Photos by George Fargo



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THE CHOSEN ONE



from Andrew Garret Karl
and The Mimesis Theatre
Project

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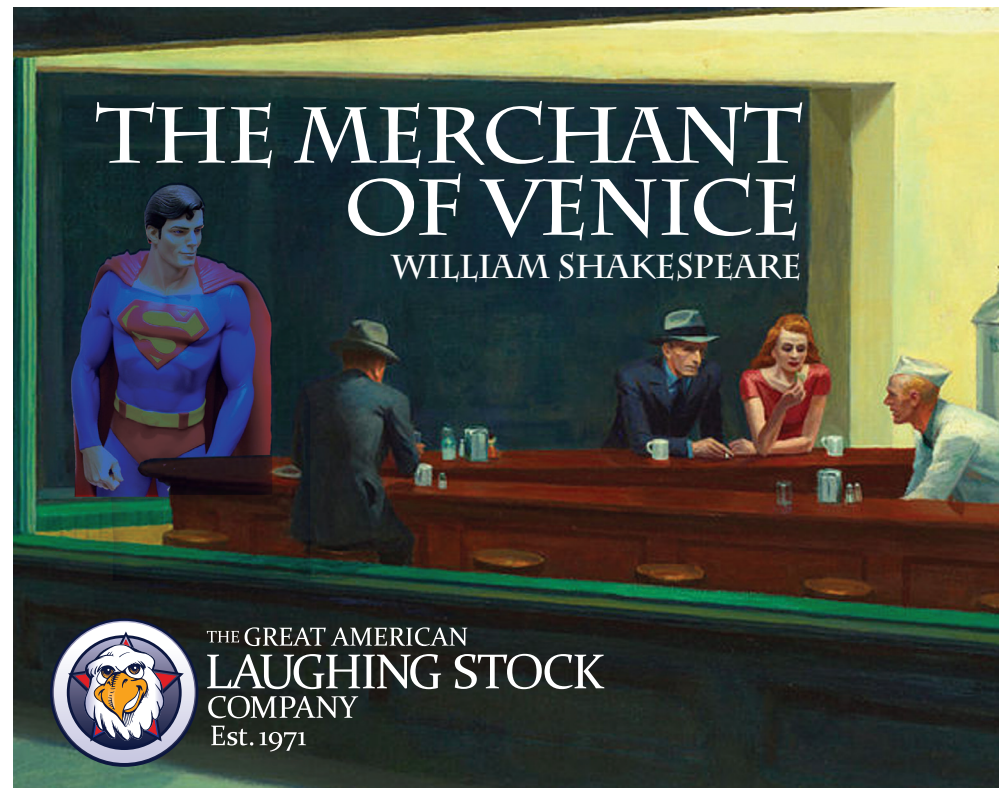
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THIRTIETH

SEASON

STRINGS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, July 29: Rhapsody in Blue "Live and on the Air"
- Sunday, July 30: The Mavericks
- Wednesday, August 2: Romantic Favorites: Mendelssohn & Chopin
- Saturday, August 5: Strings Orchestra Season Finale
- Tuesday, August 8: Asleep at the Wheel
- Friday, August 11: Take 6
- Wednesday, August 16: Maceo Parker
- Sunday, August 20: Michael McDonald

stringsmusicfestival.com
970.879.5056

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steamboatlibrary.org

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2017 Piknik Theatre Festival Cast cont...

OLIVIA HOBSON: Olivia is a senior at Steamboat Springs High School where she has been apart of numerous Sailor Stage productions. She has also been involved in local community theatre with the Chief Players and Young Bloods Collective. She is so happy to be a part of this show and to have learned more about Shakespeare from all of these amazing performers!

ANDREW GARRET KARL: Andrew is a New York City based Director and devised theatre artist. In 2012, he started The Mimesis Theatre Project that seeks to forward social communications through the collaborative efforts of the musical theatre. Thanks to Stuart for the opportunity, Margaret for undying support, Iris for sweet music, and Koko for the most beautiful adventure. Enjoy!

LARRY KLINGMAN: Child actor, still acting up. 1st professional film role. . . found the gun on a river piling in "Chicago Syndicate" starring Dennis O'Keefe --1955. At a screening my dad sneezed and missed my big scene. He had to sit though the movie a second time.

ALEX MACINTYRE: Alex studied music at Butler University and has attended the Interlochen Camp for the performing arts. He recently realized a dream playing opera in the pit orchestra for the Grumo Festival in Italy.

CHAD MCGOWN: Chad stopped for lunch in Steamboat Springs many years ago and is still trying to make enough money to leave town. He is very excited to be in a sixth Piknik production. And he is positively thrilled to again share a production with his bright, talented, and highly organized daughter, McKendrey!

MCKENDREY MCGOWN: McKendrey will be a junior at the University of Wyoming in fall getting her BFA in acting performance and plans to move into to Stage Managing/Producing. She has participated in shows at the Steamboat Springs High School, Steamboat community theatre (Cabaret, Pirate Theatre), and is returning for her second summer at Piknik Theatre Festival. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work and for helping her have a fantastic summer.

LEAH ROWSE: Leah has been acting since she was young enough to go to theatre camp with Stuart, and this is her second production with Piknik Theatre. She has thoroughly enjoyed it and hopes you all enjoy the show! Leah will be attending the University of Portland in the fall.

LUCAS ROWSE: Lucas is a former ski jumper who has taken a liking to the more exciting world of outdoor theatre. Lucas will be a high school junior in this upcoming school year.

MACAYLA SCHEIDT : Macayla is playing in her second season of Piknik Theatre and is super excited to be a part of The Merchant of Venice this year. She hopes you enjoy the show!

CAROLINE WILSON: Caroline is in her second season of Piknik Theatre and has a love for dancing, dogs and traveling. She is really glad I get to be apart of this amazing cast!



Dates and Times

Each performance runs 75 minutes!

Friday, July 28, 6pm: The Chosen One - Botanic Park
Saturday, July 29, 6pm: Merchant - Steamboat H.S.
Sunday, July 30, 6pm: The Chosen One - Botanic Park

Wednesday, August 2, 6pm: Merchant - Botanic Park
Thursday, August 3, 6pm: The Chosen One - Botanic Park
Friday, August 4, 6pm: Merchant - Botanic Park
Saturday, August 5, 6pm: The Chosen One - High School
Sunday, August 6, 6pm: Merchant - Bud Werner Library

Wednesday, August 9, 6pm: The Chosen One - Botanic Park
Thursday, August 10, 6pm: Merchant - Botanic Park
Friday, August 11, 6pm: The Chosen One - Botanic Park
Saturday, August 12, 6pm: Merchant - High School
Sunday, August 13, 6pm: The Chosen One - Library

Saturday Shows at Steamboat High School are Alcohol Free!

mi-me-sis (ma'mēsis)

the deliberate imitation of the behavior of one group of people by another as a factor in social change.

Good Evening,

In 2012 The Mimesis Theatre Project was founded with a mission to use the collaborative efforts of the musical theatre as a vehicle for social change. In layman's terms: we fuse different forms of dance, text and music to engage our audience in thoroughly new experiences that invite conversation.

What you are about to see tonight is a direct response to William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. The characters in *Merchant*, specifically Antonio and Shylock, are blind to each other's humanity due to their religious beliefs. Because of this, my hope for *The Chosen One* is to enlighten our audience as to what is shared between the Jewish culture and our modern American culture.

Since I am a musical storyteller, I narrowed down my field of interest in to two key elements that this show will focus on: Folk Music and *Stories of Triumph*. I would like to note that these two themes are a minor representation of the presence of Jewish culture in our everyday lives. I hope that this show excites you enough to discuss the matter with your families and dive in to your own research. It is our sincerest hope as a company to provide experiences that remind us all that we aren't that different from one another.

Thank you so much. Enjoy the show!

Andrew Garret Karl
Artistic Director, The Mimesis Theatre Project

For more information please visit
andrewgarretkarl.com/themimesistheatreproject



from Andrew Garret Karl
and The Mimesis Theatre
Project

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2017 Piknik Theatre Festival Cast

KIRK AIGNER: When Kirk isn't working for Horizons Specialized Services he can be often be found on the stage at the Chief Theater acting as part of the Chief Players. Doing Shakespeare in the summer is always a good change of pace!

NICK DEMAREST: Nick is delighted to return for a third summer of Piknik theatre. Previously he has played in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Colonisation*, and *As You Like It*. He would like to give a big thanks to the Yampa River, the Bud Werner library and arts community, and the Botanic Park!

HANNAH DUBNER: Hannah, an Ithaca College grad, is grateful to be back in Steamboat sharing these timeless stories and climbing these gorgeous mountains! Originally from no-cell reception Connecticut, Hannah is now a NYC-based actor, writer, and yoga teacher. Favorite credits include: *Bad Jews*, *As You Like It*, *Lysistrata Jones: The Musical*, *Funny Girl*, and *My Big Gay Italian Wedding*.

IRIS GARRISON-DRISCOLL: Iris is a recent graduate from the Ithaca College BFA Acting Program. She is an actor and songwriter based in New York City and is so excited to be working in Steamboat this summer. Check out irisgarrisondriscoll.com and sheisiris.com for more of her work.

KORY GELLER: Kory is a New York based dancer, actor, singer, and teacher. He is loving being in a place where he can see the stars. Check out korygeller.com for more!

IAIN GRANT: Iain is a recent graduate of Steamboat Springs High School and can barely remember his first Piknik Theatre Festival when he jumped in the Spring Creek Pond. Iain is planning on attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles early next year.

STUART HANDLOFF: In addition to directing *Merchant of Venice*, Stuart is the Artistic Director of Piknik Theatre and the Executive Director of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra. He is so very glad to share the stage in this production with so many brilliant performers.



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rehearsal and performance featuring
SSO conductor Maestro Ernest Richardson
and local students
November 4 & 5

CAST - THE CHOSEN ONE

ENSEMBLE

Hannah Dubner*
Iris Garrison-Driscoll
Kory Geller*
Andrew Garret Karl



from Andrew Garret Karl
and The Mimesis Theatre
Project

CAST – The Merchant of Venice

Antonio.....Chad McGown
Gratiano.....Andrew Garrett Karl
Bassanio.....Nick Demarest
Portia.....Hannah Dubner *
Nerissa.....Caroline Wilson
Balthazar.....Macayla Scheidt
Shylock.....Stuart Handloff
Jessica.....Iris Garrison-Driscoll
LauncelotIain Grant
Lorenzo.....Kory Geller *
Salarino.....Kirk Aigner
Morocco.....Lucas Rowse
Solanio.....Iain Grant
Arragon.....Olivia Hobson
Tubal.....Larry Klingman
Duke.....Leah Rowse
* Courtesy of Actor's Equity Association

Merchant of Venice – Director's Note

The Merchant of Venice is one of Shakespeare's most unusual comedies. If you think of your favorite works from the comedy side of the canon, it's likely that the characters fit into set categories: the noble duke (Prospero, The Tempest), the determined lover (Orlando, As You Like It), the damsel in distress (Viola, Twelfth Night), the misguided villain (Leontes, The Winters Tale), and so on. But there are few archetypal characters in Merchant; all the characters are written in very human terms, with both good and evil written into the leading roles. Nowhere is this more controversial than for the character of Shylock, the Jewish moneylender.

Shakespeare was a product of his times; and his Elizabethan England had not seen Judaism openly practiced in over three hundred years. Jews had been forced out of the country in the year 1290. Jews had been reviled as Christ killers, cursed for their money lending (adopted when other occupations were forbidden), and stereotyped with all the anti-Semitic labels you've heard even today.

The Christian characters in this play you will see this evening are written as virulently anti-Semitic. They spit on Shylock, call him "misbeliever and cutthroat dog." Even in this heavily edited version of the text that I have assembled, it's clear that Shylock is subject to all sorts of indignities, culminating with his forced conversion to Christianity in the climatic trial scene. But Shylock is no innocent martyr! He seeks vengeance, and spurns mercy (that "gentle rain from heaven"), even when it's in his better financial interest to do so. But he gets no Christian mercy either, even from the noble Portia. To borrow a phrase from Romeo and Juliet, "All are punished" with the stain of humanity; our strengths and weaknesses; our frailties and our virtues.

Our cast has sought to reveal the complexities of Merchant through humor. Our goal is to make you laugh; and think. React with laughter, "laughter that Shakespeare at once sought to capture and to unsettle," to quote from Will in the World by Stephen Greenblatt. But it's one thing to laugh at another's distress when it's the pompous politician slipping on a banana peel; and something different when we laugh at behavior that is racist or discriminatory. Hopefully, this comedy will force you to reflect on how hundreds of years of prejudice against others due to race, color, creed, or sexual orientation have so ingrained themselves into our psyches that action we perceive as a comic situation isn't quite so funny after all. We want you to see that some of the humor in this play is dark and disturbing. So please laugh – it's a comedy, after all – but think about exactly what frames the comedy in each situation.

Three questions in particular deserve some investigation: what is Shylock's ideal goal or resolution to the courtroom scene? Is Shylock so committed to revenge against the merchant Antonio that he is willing to violate one of the basic tenets of Judaism – the Ten Commandments directive "Thou shalt not kill"? What freedom does Shylock have in the capitalistic world of Venice as a Christian that he does not have as a Jew?

There will be a discussion of the themes played out in The Merchant of Venice following each performance and led by a prominent member of our local Jewish community.

For another take on The Merchant of Venice, please read Stephen Greenblatt's brilliant analysis in the July 10, 2017 edition of The New Yorker magazine:

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/07/10/shakespeare-cure-for-xenophobia>

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