

BROADWAY OF THE WEST: VIRGINIA CITY OPERA HOUSE CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIRGINIA CITY, MONT. – Without exaggeration, the Broadway of the West is here in this historic city where theatre flourishes in a main street opera house celebrating its 60th anniversary this weekend.

With more actors per capita than any other Western city, the commemoration of the Illustrious Virginia City Players offering performances during 60 years of uninterrupted seasons is “really remarkable,” said this year’s director, Gerry Rose, Rocky Mountain College professor of theatre arts. Rocky Mountain College assumed operation of the historic theatre this year.

As a celebration of the Virginia City Opera House achievement as Montana's longest running live-theater, nearly 100 Virginia City Players from the past 60 years are expected to return for a reunion. Many will join the current cast for a weekend of “Varied Vigorous Vagary Vivacious Variety Acts,” the popular and zany finale to each play’s presentation.

“We’ll have some people who performed more than 50 years ago and some who were in the company 10 years ago,” Roe said. “We’ve invited them to join us on stage Saturday, July 25th to do an olio, which is like a little musical ditty. Those are the signature variety acts at the close of all Virginia City Players performances.”

The reunion weekend – called “We’re Back!” – begins Friday, July 24 with the performance of “Aggie, the Mail Order Bride,” an adaptation of Moliere's “School for Wives,” written by Prof. Roe.

Saturday morning all past and present players will parade “both ways” through Virginia City. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. At 2:00 p.m. everybody can join the crowd for “Rustle Your Bustle,” a vintage musical written by Jimmy Moore, a member of this year’s company.

After a barbecue for all current and past players, hosted by Rocky Mountain College at the Bale Of Hay Saloon, the old and the new will join together at 7 p.m. for a full evening of olios.

“This is the event you won’t want to miss,” Prof. Roe said, “It’s a full show of the hilarious and the tender, the silly and the patriotic.”

Sunday, all Players present may want to join for breakfast at the Bale of Hay.

For more information, call 406-843-5312 or check online virginiacityplayers.com.

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On the Web:

Curtain goes up on players' 60th year:

http://billingsgazette.com/news/features/magazine/article_b89cfdfd-c0bd-5344-82aa-f6a88b4afb43.html

Rocky takes lead role with Virginia City troupe:

http://billingsgazette.com/news/features/magazine/image_a2c78e59-b005-5d84-a5a8-04639d51376f.html