



THE GHOSTS OF HILBERT'S HOTEL

A Solstice Celebration

at the Dairy Arts Center
Gordon Gamm Theatre
December 20th, 21st, + 22nd 2024



WELCOME YULE!

The Rocky Mountain Revels is back for another year, and with it all of its cherished holiday traditions. Along with our fellow Revelers in eight other cities, we do our best to keep alive the spirit that started in 1971 at Harvard Square in Cambridge with the first Revels. As a local chapter we are given some latitude to design our own show, and this year we've adapted an old English hotel ghost story into a more modern, Colorado-based tale. But like a gymnastics routine, we hit the required elements: an Ode to the Shortest Day poem, the audience sing-along *Dona Nobis Pacem*, the ancient and haunting Abbott's Bromley dance, and of course, the ridiculous Mummer's play making fun of local current events, as it has for centuries (now minus the castle and a local Prince to play the actors).

With all of this focus on tradition you might think the players, writers and producers of this show are obsessed with history... and there is some of that. But at its heart this is a community group, and the fact that we are a theater troupe is a secondary happenstance. Our shared goal is a performance for our friends and family. But our real purpose is building connections between people from all walks of life in our community. Between racks of costumes in storage lockers, late-night script writing sessions, dance rehearsals, running lines and memorizing complex songs, old and young, we get to know each other. In a rapidly changing society full of screens, creating an opportunity for human connection in the real world is our true achievement.

I am grateful for the many hours of effort from our talented cast and supporters. Put on your Revels scarf and enjoy the show. Welcome Yule!

Darren Kelly, President of the Board

Welcome to our 2024 Solstice Celebration, "The Ghosts of Hilbert's Hotel." Longtime fans of Revels productions know that there is a "library" of scripts that is shared by the nine regional organizations that run Revels shows. Our script is based on a tale of an old English hall, haunted by ghosts who appear each year on the solstice with merriment in mind. We re-imagined the story in the mountains of Colorado, where we could "mine" local history and mix our locally flavored stories and characters with signature Revels elements. We hope you are ready to sing (and dance!) along with the Ghosts of Hilbert's Hotel, as well as the family of "mortals" who must decide the great hall's fate. Thank you once again for supporting our endeavors with your presence, and "Welcome Yule!"

Alastair Norcross - Drama Director and Script Director

PROGRAM NOTES: THE GHOSTS OF HILBERT'S HOTEL

We are excited to bring you “The Ghosts of Hilbert’s Hotel,” a new Revels production that includes songs of different eras and stories about early Colorado, woven with the tale of a modern family facing a difficult decision.

The concept for our show began over the summer, when our story-writers met and put on their miner’s hats, seeking the golden nuggets of this state’s rich history. In 1859, the Colorado Gold Rush, later known as the Pike’s Peak Gold Rush, drew an estimated 100,000 people to this area, many of them European Americans. Other precious metals were also discovered in the Rocky Mountains, railways were built, and small mining camps became bustling cities. Today, mining towns are still scattered throughout Colorado: Leadville, Georgetown, Cripple Creek, and Central City, among others. Some have turned to gambling to draw visitors.

We loved the idea of two brothers who had made their fortune mining in the Rocky Mountains and chose to build a grand family hall. Over the years the hall would have been passed down within the family, with each generation leaving its stamp on the building; it became Hilbert’s Hotel, and once housed a casino. We decided to inhabit the Dairy Center’s Gordon Gamm stage with a lively mix of reveling ghosts from four different eras: Pioneer, Victorian, 1940s, and 1970s. We compiled a list of songs to help us tell our story, some easily recognized while others you may be hearing for the first time. Costuming our actors was a blast!

While rooted in the past, our story takes place in the present. The descendants of the two brothers and current owners of the hotel have few ties to the area. They are visitors in the place their ancestors called

home, and they are keepers of traditions they no longer share. Estranged from the past, the living family struggles to make sense of the present, unsure of what the future will bring. It is up to the ghosts to remind them of what’s important, so they can reach a decision satisfactory for all.

Contribute



Today!

THE PROGRAM

ACT I

Scene I. The great hall of Hilbert's Hotel.

Overture

Brass Quintet

The Christmas Song

-- Robert Wells and Mel Torme

Sarah Gibson, James Biard, Lauren Freels,

Ryan Lawrence, Lucian Gaddis,

Juliana Iannetta, Giustina Iannetta

Call to Celebration

Alastair Norcross

Masters in this Hall

Chorus

Here We Come A'Wassailing

Chorus & Children's chorus and audience

Chorus lyrics:

Love and joy, come to you,

and to you your Wassail too,

And God bless you and send you a happy new year,

and God send you a happy new year.

Hey Ho! To the Greenwood

-- Thomas Ravenscroft

Chorus

Scene II. A Children's party in the great hall.

Pioneer Children Sang as They Walked

-- Marvin Goldstein

Children's chorus

Ghost children's Morris Stick Dance

Ghost children

Tommyknocker Story

-- Fictional tale of the creation of Hilbert's Hotel

I've Been Working on the Railroad

-- American Folk Song

Children and Chorus

Scene III. The "Rose Room,"

a part of the Hotel with a view of the outside rose gardens.

Down by the Salley Gardens

-- Poem, William Butler Yeats, 1889

Sarah Gibson, James Biard

O Come All Ye Faithful

-- Christmas Carol, 1751

Kathleen Schelle, Norah Beatty, Bridget Kraus,

Darren Kelly, James Boyd, Paul Kapustka

Dance -- We'll Meet Again

Soldiers, Sisters and party guests

-- Vera Lynn, 1939'

Angels Hovering Round

Anna Thompson, Lucy Thompson

-- American Folk Hymn, 19th century

Hard Times Come Again No More

Quintet: Norah Beatty, Leah Meromy,

-- Stephen Foster, 1854

James Biard, James Boyd; Chorus

Lord of the Dance

Chad Boltz [solo] Elizabeth Burdge, Andrea Qureshi;

-- Set to the tune of a Shaker melody, Simple Gifts,

Chorus & Audience

it is a part of every Revels performance across the country.

Audience joins on refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance said he
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

-- END ACT I --

ACT II.

Scene I.

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance (Arranged by Matthew Dane)

Good King Wenceslas

Chorus; Quartet: Loren Uecker, Amy Sanders,

-- J.M. Neale, 1854

Leah Meromy, Darcy Raulston

Westward

Loren Uecker

-- Poem, Ellen Palmer Allerton (October 17, 1835 – August 31, 1893) was said to be composing and reciting poems before she could read or write. She was a schoolteacher before her marriage in 1862, and in 1879 actually traveled from Wisconsin to Kansas by covered wagon. The poem included in our show is an excerpt of a longer work by the same name.

The Holly and the Ivy

Children's chorus

-- Familiar version of English carol.

Dona Nobis Pacem

Chorus with Audience

-- A round for peace

Sae Will We Yet

Trio: Bridget Kraus, Elizabeth Burdge, Lauren Freels; Chorus

Mummers' Play.

-- Folk plays were performed in England and Ireland and throughout Europe by amateur actors, frequently lampooning self-important individuals, and involving a hero or champion who dies and is reborn (in Revels symbolizing the death of the Old Year and rebirth of the New Year with Spring)

Vive la Compagnie

*Soloists: Alastair Norcross and Darren Kelly
Darren Kelly and Paul Kapustka;
Darcy Raulston and Leah Meromy; James Boyd; Chorus*

O Holy Night

-- Adolphe Adam (arr. Ed Hirschman)

*Soloists: Kathleen Schelle; Amy Sanders;
Chorus*

The Shortest Day

-- Susan Cooper poem celebrating the Winter Solstice

Alastair and Diana Norcross

Sussex Mummers Carol

-- Collected by Lucy Broadwood in the late nineteenth century, this carol was sung by the mummers, or "tipteers" as part of the folk play in Horsham, Sussex. This closes every Christmas/Midwinter Revels as a New Year's Blessing.

Chorus and Audience

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PERFORMERS AND PRODUCTION TEAMS

Caretaker (Hamish): James Biard

Caretaker's Grandson (Horatio): Lucian Gaddis

Mother: Lauren Freels

Father (Alex): Ryan Lawrence

Older Daughter: Juliana Iannetta

Younger Daughter: Giustina Iannetta

Grandmother: Sarah Gibson

Dealer: Alastair Norcross

Old Grandma Ghost: Diana Norcross

OPENING SCENE SPEAKING GHOSTS:

Bridget Kraus; Norah Beatty;

Darcy Raulston; Amy Sanders;

Andrea Qureshi; Atif Qureshi;

Loren Uecker; Oriah Uecker;

Wilhelmina Qureshi

CHILDREN'S PARTY & DANCE

Oriah Uecker; Wilhelmina Qureshi; Peter Freels; Alistair Qureshi;

Anna Thompson; Lucy Thompson

TOMMYKNOCKER STORY:

Tristan: Lucian Gaddis

Jago: Jacob Freels

Paper Boy: Peter Freels

Sailor/Horace Greeley: James Boyd

SISTERS AND SOLDIERS SCENE & DANCE:

Sister 1: Kathleen Schelle

Sister 2: Bridget Kraus

Sister 3: Norah Beatty

Soldier 1: Darren Kelly

Soldier 2: James Boyd

Soldier 3: Paul Kapustka

Additional dancers: Andrea Qureshi; Atif Qureshi; Ryan Lawrence;

Loren Uecker; Elizabeth Burdge; Leah Meromy

ABBOTS BROMLEY DANCE:

Ryan Lawrence; James Boyd;

Peer Freels; Norah Beatty;

Darcy Raulston; Elizabeth Burdge; Andrea Qureshi; Atif Qureshi;

Sarah Gibson; Bridget Kraus

MUMMERS' PLAY

Room: Sharon Amirfathi

Father Christmas: Amy Sanders

Alferd Packer: Darcy Raulston

Sasquatch: James Boyd

Chop: Darren Kelly

Doctor: Atif Qureshi

Nikola Tesla: Kathleen Schelle;

Tesla Girls: Norah Beatty, Sarah Gibson

Beer Fairy: John Hyde

SWORD DANCE

Jacob Freels; Lauren Freels;

Bridget Kraus; Andrea Qureshi;

Elizabeth Burdge; Loren Uecker

CHORUS AND CAST

Sharon Amirfathi Norah Beatty

James Biard Chad Boltz

James Boyd Elizabeth Burdge

Jacob Freels Lauren Freels

Peter Freels Lucian Gaddis

Sarah Gibson John Hyde

Giustina Iannetta Juliana Iannetta

Paul Kapustka Darren Kelly

Bridget Kraus Ryan Lawrence

Leah Meromy Alastair Norcross

Diana Norcross Mary Ann Tomasko Perry

Alistair Qureshi Andrea Qureshi

Atif Qureshi Wilhelmina Qureshi

Darcy Raulston Amy Sanders

Kathleen Schelle Anna Thompson

Lucy Thompson Loren Uecker

Oriah Uecker

Dance Captain/Choreographer

August Plummer

Script writers and editors

Alastair Norcross Diana Norcross

Paul Kapustka

DIRECTORS

Artistic and Music Director

Chad Boltz

Assistant Music Director/Rehearsal Accompanist

Michelle Diggs Thompson

Drama Director and Script Director

Alastair Norcross

Stage Manager

Heather Biard

Instrumentalists:

Fiddle, Zina Lee; *Guitar*, Charles Anthony Branch;

Flute & Whistles, Lisa Yowell

Percussion: Garrett Aman

Flagstaff Brass Quintet:

Trumpets, Rich Gabriel; Leonard Fahrni;

Trombone, Mike Obert;

Horn, Kimberly George; *Tuba*, John Hyde

Brass Quintet Arrangements/Transcriptions: John Hyde

PRODUCTION TEAMS

Costumes

Logan Prewitt, *Head Costumer*

Sharon Amirfathi Diana Norcross

Kathleen Schelle Darren Kelly

Props

Sharon Amirfathi, *Coordinator*

Heather Biard August Plummer

Set Design

Diana Norcross Chad Boltz

Lighting -- Sam Botnick

Sound – Angie Dickenson Mickle

Volunteers (non-cast members)

Jay Uker, Karen Gruber, Henry Kroll,

Ellen Kroll, Matt Freels, Melissa Penn,

Gaddis Family, Steven Weinstein

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REVELS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darren Kelly, President Kathleen Schelle, Secretary
Dianna Orf, Treasurer Paul Kapustka Bridget Kraus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thank you to our Advertisers, who helped make the program possible

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Alastair and Diana Norcross

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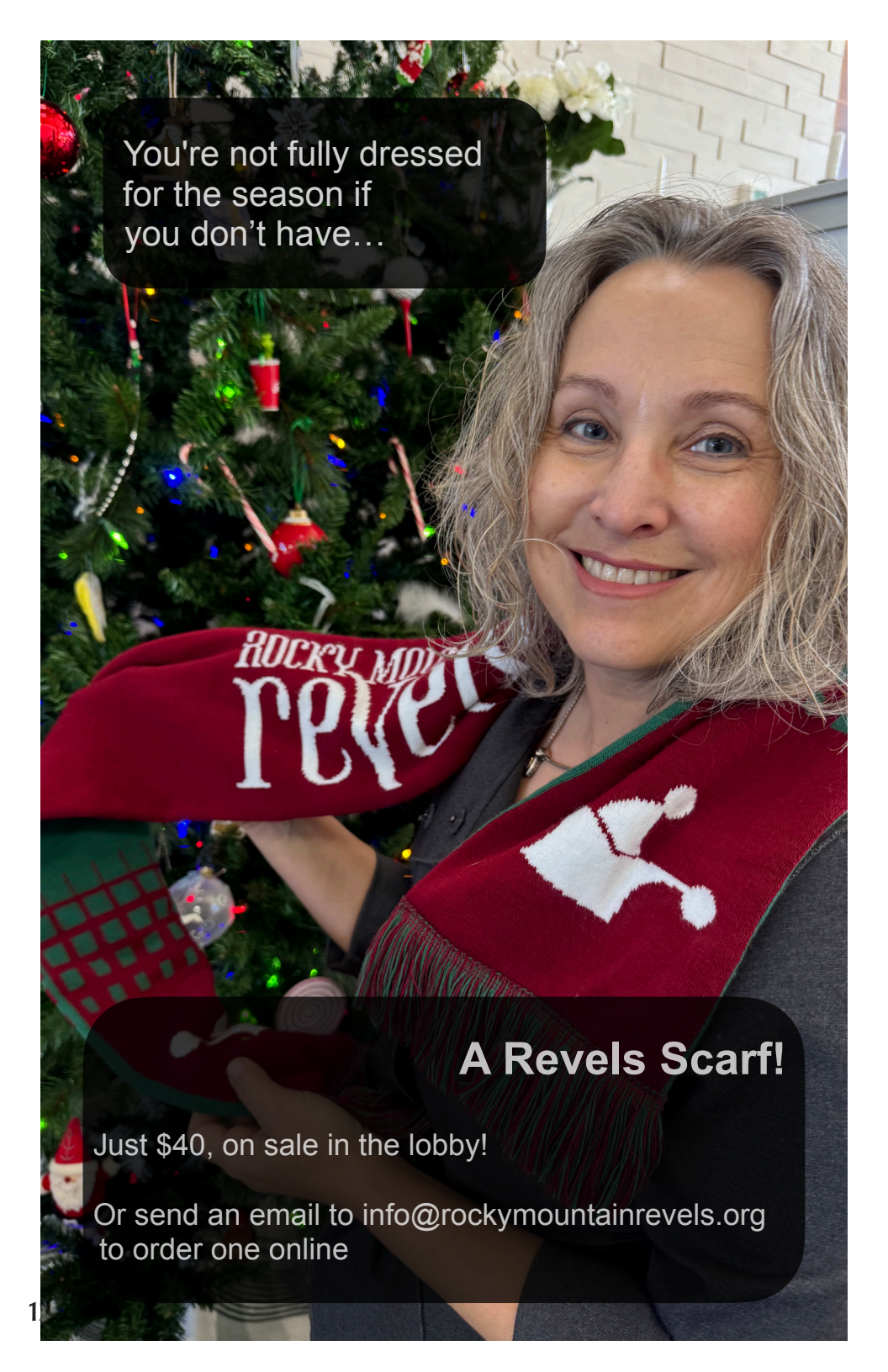
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