



10075 Commons St. Lone Tree CO 80124 www.lonetreeartscenter.org

Contact: Lisa Rigsby Peterson, Executive Director
(for Katie Maltais, Marketing Director)

Phone: 720-509-1005

Fax: 720-509-1101

Email: lisa.peterson@cityoflonetree.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2015

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON ANNOUNCED BY THE LONE TREE ARTS CENTER

2015-16 season includes world and regional premieres, international artists, and the Denver launch of the National Geographic Live Speakers series

LONE TREE, CO – After four short years, the Lone Tree Arts Center (LTAC) has established a reputation for presenting outstanding and engaging professional performances for audiences reaching far beyond its south metro Denver location. 50,000 people a year attend performances at the Arts Center, with ticket sales topping \$1 million annually. At a private subscriber event on Saturday evening, Executive Director Lisa Rigsby Peterson announced LTAC’s fifth anniversary season. **The upcoming 2015-16 season features two self-produced theatrical works (one a regional premiere and one a world premiere), a long roster of national and international touring performers, continued collaborations with the Colorado Symphony and the Colorado Ballet, new collaborations with the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra and Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company, and the Denver launch of the popular National Geographic Live! Speakers Series.**

The LTAC season is anchored by a four-show subscription package. “When we opened five years ago, we didn’t think it was possible for us to produce our own theatrical work.” says Rigsby Peterson. “Starting two years ago with *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, though, we began committing our resources and artistic energy towards creating our own productions. In the upcoming season, that commitment really pays off when we

produce the regional premiere of *The Explorers Club* as well as the world premiere of *Reunion '85*. The two shows couldn't be more different, but both will be great demonstrations of the talented artistic staff and teams we are now known for putting together." *The Explorers Club* debuted at the Manhattan Theatre Club in 2013, and won the 2014 Outer Critic's Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play. *Reunion '85*, created by Susan Draus, Music Director for the National Tour of *Book of Mormon*, is an interactive part concert, part comedy show (in the spirit of *Tony and Tina's Wedding*).

For the holidays, LTAC will bring back the nostalgia and impeccable musicianship of the *John Denver Holiday Concert*. In April 2016, LTAC will continue its tradition of partnering with outstanding regional theatre companies by presenting the Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company's (BETC) production of *Cyrano*. BETC's home theatre, the Dairy Center in Boulder, will be undergoing extensive renovation in 2016, necessitating a change of venue for this award-winning company. According to BETC's Artistic Director, Stephen Weitz, "We couldn't be more excited about partnering with LTAC on this production. *Cyrano* is a tremendous story and I'm thrilled to be able to share our work with a whole new segment of Colorado theatergoers."

Other season highlights include collaborations with the Colorado Symphony, Classical Ballet of Colorado, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra and the Colorado Ballet, as well as performances by national and international touring artists as diverse as Irish music group Cherish the Ladies, two-time Tony Award-winning actress Christine Ebersole, Charlie Ross' *One Man Star Wars*, and Shanghai-based GuGu Drum Group. All told, twenty one different performances are part of the Main Stage season.

The 2015-16 season will also mark the metro Denver debut of the acclaimed National Geographic Live! Speakers Series. This series, featuring some of National Geographic's best photographers and adventurers, combines breathtaking photography and videography with first-person accounts of exploration and discovery. The first season of National Geo Live! at LTAC includes NASA scientist Kobie Boykins, speaking about Mars exploration; female mountaineer Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner, an Austrian climber who

is the first woman to have summited all of the world's fourteen 8,000 meter peaks without supplemental oxygen; and underwater photographer David Doubilet and Aquatic Biologist Jennifer Hayes.

In addition to the Main Stage season, LTAC will soon announce its Tunes on the Terrace summer concert series, as well as its extensive programs for seniors, children, and those with cognitive, intellectual or developmental disabilities. LTAC's innovative *Arts in the Afternoon* program, featuring monthly professional concerts for seniors mid-week at 1:30 pm, followed by refreshments, Q&A and meet and greets with the artists, is entering its fourth year, consistently playing to capacity houses. Similarly, *Passport to Culture*, for children from 4 – 10; *Seedlings*, for children from 1 – 4; and a robust student matinee program also attract sold-out audiences. LTAC's newest program, *SF Family Tree*, features sensory friendly programming for individuals on the autism spectrum, with sensory sensitivities, or intellectual or developmental disabilities.

LTAC's full 2015-16 Main Stage season can be found below. 2015-16 subscription orders are being taken now. Single tickets will go on-sale August 3. For more information, visit www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org or call 720-509-1000.

#

LONE TREE ARTS CENTER 2015-16 MAIN STAGE SEASON

Colorado Symphony Orchestra Series

The Colorado Symphony Orchestra and the Lone Tree Arts Center continue their four year partnership in the 2015-16 season. Colorado Symphony programs will be announced later in the spring, and will highlight chamber music and versatile ensembles with favorites selected by the musicians themselves. LTAC's outstanding acoustics and intimate venue make it a perfect place to hear the region's top professional orchestra.

October 4, 2015 at 7:30pm

November 22, 2015 at 7:30pm

May 8, 2016 at 7:30pm

***The Explorers Club* by Nell Benjamin**

October 15 – 24, 2015

REGIONAL PREMIERE

London, 1879. The prestigious Explorers Club is in crisis: their acting president wants to admit a woman and their bartender is *terrible*. True, this female candidate is brilliant, beautiful, and has discovered a legendary Lost City, but the decision to let in a woman could shake the very foundation of the British Empire, and how do you make such a decision without a decent drink? Grab your safety goggles for some very mad science involving deadly cobras, irate Irishmen, and the occasional airship. From the award-winning composer and lyricist of *Legally Blonde*, *The Explorers Club* was the winner of the 2014 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play. Originally produced by Manhattan Theatre Club.

National Geo Live! Speakers Series



Exploring the Red Planet **NASA Engineer Kobie Boykins**

October 25, 2015 at 7:30pm

Few events in the last decade of space exploration have captured the world's imagination like NASA's ongoing Mars Exploration Program. In 2004, the successful deployment of the Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, launched a new era of scientific investigation of our nearest planetary neighbor. For Kobie Boykins, a mechanical engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the rovers' success was also a personal triumph: he helped design and build the solar arrays that enabled the rovers to keep going long after their planned 90-day life. Boykins' boundless enthusiasm for unraveling the mysteries of outer space, and Mars in particular, is infectious. Join him for an engaging evening exploring the Red Planet, with an update on the very latest chapter in the ongoing story of Mars exploration.

Rock Legends

October 31, 2015 at 8:00pm

Part rock concert...part rock tribute...all rock n' roll. *Rock Legends* combines all of these elements in a multimedia journey. From the 50s rock and roll of Elvis to the 60s of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Janis Joplin, to the groove of the 70s and the Bee Gees, Fleetwood Mac, the Eagles and the piano men, Billy Joel and Elton John, all the way to the 80s with Tom Petty, U2 and more *Rock Legends* is one of a kind. In this unique rock and roll revue created by audience favorite Billy McGeehan, ticket buyers are polled to determine the songs and music they want to hear, and the set list is custom designed for each audience. No two shows are alike!

A Nat King Cole Christmas

November 29, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Jazz crooner Allan Harris returns to LTAC with a holiday concert fit for the great Nat King Cole. A three-time winner of the New York Nightlife Award for "Outstanding Jazz Vocalist," Allan brings depth and elegance to the stage as he sings the holiday songbook of Nat King Cole in a concert featured in New York last December. From "The Christmas Song" and beyond, this nostalgic evening features hits from each of Cole's Christmas albums as well as other jazz holiday favorites. Don't miss the man Tony

Bennett has called “my favorite singer” and the New York Times heralded as “a supremely relaxed and tasteful crooner in the Nat King Cole tradition.”

Classical Ballet of Colorado’s *The Nutcracker*

December 4 – 6, 2015

Over eighty professional and pre-professional dancers take the stage for this return engagement of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker*. Perfect for families, this classic holiday celebration transports the audience to the Land of Sweets and the enchanting Sugar Plum Fairies. Celebrate the holidays with this timeless ballet.

Tartan Terrors Christmas

December 9, 2015 at 7:30pm

Get ready for a riotous holiday show with the irreverent and always-fun Tartan Terrors! Featuring traditional favorites like “Pachelbel’s Canon” on bagpipes and “Christmas in Killarney,” this show blends comedy, music and step-dancing into a fun-filled way to brighten your holiday season!

John Denver Holiday Concert

Created by Randal Myler and Dan Wheetman

Directed by Randal Myler

December 15 – 20, 2015

Settle in for this lovely holiday concert celebrating the music of John Denver and the Rocky Mountains. Featuring modern and traditional Christmas carols as well as some of John Denver’s most memorable hits, including “Aspenglow,” “Christmas for Cowboys,” and “Back Home Again.” Led by Tony-nominee Dan Wheetman, a world class picker ‘n fiddler and former member of the John Denver band, the band features four outstanding musicians and two vocalists.

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus

Classical Holiday Featuring Excerpts from Handel’s Messiah

December 22, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Fresh from their concert at the Vilar Center in Beaver Creek, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus help audiences welcome the Christmas holiday with timeless songs of the season as well as excerpts from Handel’s stirring *Messiah*.

One Man Star Wars

December 30, 2015 at 7:30pm

Charlie Ross stripped down the original Star Wars trilogy and created a show with no costumes, no sets, and limited props. Using just his body and his voice (and considerable acting talents), Ross recreates all of the larger-than-life scenes that you remember so well. All. By. Himself. From Luke Skywalker to Jabba the Hutt, the whole cast is assembled on stage for your post-holiday entertainment!

Christine Ebersole – Big Noise From Winnetka

January 21, 2016 at 7:30pm

For over thirty years, two-time Tony Award winning actress Christine Ebersole has captivated audiences on the Broadway stage, television series, films, concert appearances and recordings. This high energy, Broadway concert will leave you mesmerized.

Reunion '85

Conceived by Susan Draus

Written by Susan Draus, David Larsen, and Cody Jamison Strand

WORLD PREMIERE

January 28 – February 13, 2016

Ever wondered what it would be like if you actually *wanted* to go to your high school reunion? Well, the time capsule you buried during your senior year in 1985 has just been unearthed! Mix a killer band, photo booth, a ton of laughs and drink specials, and you have *Reunion '85*! This world premiere interactive experience will keep you engaged all evening long – buckle up and remember back-to-school fashions, the amazing homecoming game, prom and graduation. Featuring live music from 'your' 1985 graduation year and audience participation, *Reunion '85*, part concert and part comedy extravaganza, takes place in the LTAC Event Hall for three weekends only. Conceived by Susan Draus, Musical Supervisor of last year's *Guys and Dolls in Concert* and Music Director for the national tour of *Book of Mormon*.

Sheryl Renee's Salute to the Legends

February 20, 2016 at 8:00pm

Joined by an eight piece jazz band and outstanding vocalists, local favorite singer Sheryl Renee returns to Denver for a musical trip down memory lane. This Salute to the Legends features stories and music of some of America's true music legends, including Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand and Stevie Wonder.

National Geo Live! Speakers Series



Passion 8000: Dream of a Lifetime
Mountaineer Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner
February 21, 2016 at 7:30pm

Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner didn't climb K2 because she wanted to be the world's first woman to summit all 14 8,000-meter peaks without oxygen. But that's exactly what she did. She grew up skiing in the mountains of her native Austria, then worked as a nurse, on weekends climbing the local Alps. Her unstoppable appetite for adventure finally drove her to blaze a trail into the male domain of high altitude mountaineering. Share the dramatic story, told with breathtaking photos and video from the roof of the world, of how this astonishing mountaineer prepared for and triumphed on K2, earning Kaltenbrunner recognition as *National Geographic's* Explorer of the Year.

GuGu Drums

March 12, 2016 at 7:00pm

This award-winning ensemble of twenty artists from Shanghai, China, amaze audiences with their athletic, musical and dramatic drum work. The GuGu Drums artists weave traditional Chinese tales, stage fierce battles between the ox and the tiger, and enchant through their virtuosic work with instruments as small as finger cymbals and as large as massive standing drums.

Cherish the Ladies

March 19, 2016 at 8:00pm

Celebrating thirty years on the road, Cherish the Ladies has performed all over the world with their rousing Irish music and extraordinary step dancers. This all-female band has been named Best Musical Group of the Year by the BBC and Top North American Celtic act by NPR Radio's "Thistle and Shamrock" program.

Colorado Ballet Director's Choice

April 1, 2016 at 8:00pm

Each season, the Colorado Ballet dazzles on stage at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Enjoy the power and beauty of three repertory pieces by Colorado's premier classical dance company in the intimate setting of the Lone Tree Arts Center.

National Geo Live! Speakers Series



Coral Kingdoms and Empires of Ice

Photographer David Doubilet and Aquatic Biologist Jennifer Hayes

April 8, 2016 at 8:00pm

Explore a hidden universe through the eyes of the photographic team of David Doubilet, one of the most prolific living *National Geographic* photographers, and Jennifer Hayes, an aquatic biologist and globally published photojournalist, who is also Doubilet's wife and underwater partner. Join them in exploring Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea, which is the center of the world in terms of marine biodiversity. Discover an unspoiled wilderness of water crowded with layers of life from fingernail-size pygmy seahorses to 60-foot-tall towers of barracudas. Journey south to the cold ice-filled waters of Antarctica, where the team moves through and under the ice to capture images of the hidden world of the leopard seal, penguins, shipwrecks, and Doubilet's newest work on the sculptural beauty of icebergs. Finally, follow the team north to Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence, an extraordinary world of whales, wolfish, salmon and harp seals.

Cyrano

By Edmond Rostand

In a new adaptation by Michael Hollinger and Aaron Posner

A Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company Production

April 21 – 30, 2016

Rich with swashbuckling swordplay and witty wordplay, this irresistible story of romance, passion and panache has been adored by audiences for centuries. This is the timeless tale of Cyrano de Bergerac, a warrior-poet with a protuberant proboscis, who vies for the love of Roxane against the handsome yet bumble-tongued Christian. Love, laughter and longing abound in this heroic story. Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company,

led by Artistic Director Stephen Weitz, is an award-winning Colorado troupe dedicated to presenting profound theatrical stories.

About LTAC

The Lone Tree Arts Center is celebrating its fifth anniversary in 2015. This professional, innovative LEED-certified multidisciplinary venue serves over 50,000 patrons each year with a dynamic mix of self-produced plays and musicals, collaborations with the region's premier arts companies, and the presentation of national and international touring artists. Additionally, the south metro Denver area's fastest growing arts center has created extensive arts engagement programs for children as young as 1 year old to seniors as old as 95. LTAC's latest initiative is its SF Family Tree series, providing regular sensory friendly arts experiences for those with autism, sensory sensitivities, and intellectual or developmental disabilities. LTAC is also an important event rental venue for corporate, civic, private and community arts groups.

#