

Well-acted Christie play keeps audiences guessing

By Tim Keller
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON — Murder and mayhem filled two hours of mind-twisting entertainment at the Shuler Theater over the weekend as Raton Community Theater presented Agatha Christie's beloved "And Then There Were None," also widely known as "Ten Little Indians."

Someone has mysteriously and successfully arranged for 10 people to gather at a British island resort, then stranded them there as he — or she — seeks retribution for past misdeeds. As the guests are killed off, one by one and each by a different method, the surviving guests try to unravel the mystery while growing increasingly fearful of their remaining companions.

The suspense thriller was a welcome change of pace for the local theater, challenging the audience to figure out "who done it." Of course, Christie was so accomplished at spinning her intricate yarns that the only hope of success was a wild guess. The fun was watching it unfold and learning who was guilty and how Christie kept the audience fooled for so long.

Veteran director Gail



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

As they realize that they're among 10 guests trapped at a British island resort, two women — played by Kathryn Engel and Brenda Ferri — discuss their options.

Dixon-Willden assembled a well-cast group of 11 local actors and — impressively — the company mounted this show with just four weeks of preparation. Although it's an ensemble play, and it was well acted in every role, some of the

actors gave standout performances.

Brenda Ferri's Vera Claythorne only slowly emerges as a central character, but Ferri had a ball playing her from start to finish, again demonstrating that she's among the sever-

al top-notch actors grown by Raton's vibrant theater scene.

As Sir Lawrence Wargrave, Michael Porter chewed the scenery — just as his character would. Like Ferri, Porter enjoyed pushing his performance to

further extremes as the play's climax grew nearer and nearer.

Janese Little was the pleasant surprise of the evening. A talented newcomer, her subtly accented Dr. Armstrong helped anchor the play.

Clint Henson's Philip Lombard had some great moments, especially early and late in the play, but he too often wore a smug smile as all those around him were increasingly fearful for their lives. Still, it was great fun to see Henson and Ferri work together late in the play, a reminder of their memorable star turns in "Man of La Mancha" two years ago.

Joe Zink's William Blore was a typically strong performance, while Kathryn Engel's Emily Brent was so delightful that one has to wonder why she isn't in every local community theater production.

Mark Jansen was convincingly deferential as Mr. Rogers, although he wasn't nearly so buttoned-down as any British butler would be. Mrs. Rogers, played by Desiree Martinez, was a maid who inexplicably wore red high-heeled pumps.

Bill Fegan, who has been at the Shuler Theater since 1963, gave what he's said

will be his final performance, as General Mackenzie. Unfortunately for the audience, which clearly loves him, his character spent most of the production sitting in a chair, largely hidden behind a couch, at the back of the stage.

Young Joshua Alcorn was fun to watch, confidently playing a little older than himself, having drinks and talking about racing his sports car. Jeffery Redlick's porter Narracott had little to do but earned a good laugh bragging about his role in hunting Moby Dick.

In fact, for a murder mystery, the audience got to laugh far more than it could have hoped, usually due to skilled line readings by accomplished actors.

Director Willden had fun with the production. Before the opening curtain, she joked with the audience about her great pleasure in being able to kill off her actors. She enticed the opening night audience to come back for more: each of the three weekend performances had a different ending, all devised by Christie for different productions. The Raton show was easily entertaining enough to make one consider seeing it three times.

Zion church to again offer Thanksgiving dinners

By Mike Albanese
The Chronicle-News

The Zion Lutheran Church will again be offering Thanksgiving meals to Trinidad residents who will not be surrounded by families or who won't be able to put a meal on the table for their families.

The dinner will be held Thanksgiving Day from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the church.

The church has been providing home-cooked Thanksgiving meals for 20 years to locals unable to be with their family or unable to afford one for theirs.

Last year, the church served 650 meals to families in the Trinidad area and it is expecting more to attend this year's dinner.

Norine Hazen, organizer of the event since the first event, said the church began the meals as a way to feed local college students who could not go home for Thanksgiving.

Only one college student showed up at the first dinner although 12 people from the city came.



Courtesy the Zion Lutheran Church

The Zion Lutheran Church prepared more than 650 meals last Thanksgiving for people in Trinidad. This year, the event will start at 11 a.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church.

Since then, the church has opened the event to the whole community and has seen an increase in attendance every year.

"Zion Lutheran is a small church, so everyone pitches in," Hazen said.

To prepare more than 650 meals, the amount of food and cooking that is involved is staggering, Hazen said.

Hazen said the church expects to prepare 24 whole turkeys, 10 hams, 18 gallons of sweet potatoes and more than 100 pies.

Hazen said people are welcome to bring food to the church. The church members will cook the food also.

Any food that is not eaten will be donated to the local soup kitchen. Last

year the church donated 10 cooked turkeys to the soup kitchen to use at its Christmas dinner.

"This is what Thanksgiving is, be thankful for what we have and give to others," Hazen said. "I know all of us leave saying, this is thanksgiving."

The meal is free, but donations will be accepted, Hazen said.

Hazen said the church will deliver food to local residents who are unable to come to the church for dinner.

For delivery information contact Hazen at 719-846-2844.

Contact Mike Albanese at malbanese@trinidadchroniclenews.com or 719-846-3311 ext 207.

Power companies want regulators to block new Pueblo energy station

Associated Press

PUEBLO, Colo. — A company's request to build an additional \$100 million turbine at its new Pueblo power station has other power companies asking Colorado officials to block the extra power.

The Colorado Independent Energy Association objects to the proposal by Black Hills Energy to add a third 88 megawatt turbine. The Pueblo Chieftain reports. The group argues the third turbine isn't necessary because there is ample electric power available for long-term purchase along the Front Range.

The utility has state permission to build another 42 megawatts of power at its new Pueblo station to replace the generating capacity it will lose by shutting down a coal-fired plant in Canon City.

The proposal before the Public Utilities Commission, however, calls for installing an 88 megawatt turbine.

Black Hills has the support of the Pueblo Board of Water Works for a settlement offer that would permit the utility to install a third turbine.

At least \$50 million of the cost would be passed on to ratepayers.

Who will pay for that additional 46 megawatts is the subject of the settle-

ment plan that Black Hills has submitted to the PUC and that the independent power companies oppose.

The association claims members have an ample supply of unused power — 1,200 megawatts — that would be a cheaper source of power to Pueblo ratepayers than having Black Hills build an additional \$100 million turbine.

"We're pretty confident the PUC will reject Black Hills' settlement proposal because of regulations that require utilities to seek cheaper alternatives before constructing new generating capacity," said Nick Muller, executive director of association.

The Pueblo Area Generation Station will be operated by two Black Hills subsidiaries. The first, Black Hills Colorado Electric, is the regulated utility that is dedicated to providing power to the 94,000 customers in Pueblo and the region.

The utility will receive power from two LMS 100 turbines, which generate 88 megawatts each and cost \$100 million apiece.

The other subsidiary, Black Hills Colorado IPP, will produce 200 megawatts of power from four smaller LMS 6000 turbines, plus two 20 megawatt steam turbines. The IPP subsidiary will provide power to the utility as well, but may sell

any surplus to other customers.

Chris Burke, Black Hills' vice president for gas and electric services in Colorado, told the newspaper that Muller represents power companies that want to sell power to Pueblo.

"Black Hills does have a nonregulated business of constructing power plants — a business they are very good at," Burke wrote in an email. "We see it as a plus that we have a division with a strong competency in building power plants capable of producing significant cost savings for customers."

That subsidiary is building the \$487 million, two-turbine Pueblo power station that is set to go online in January.

Muller said a new state law passed by the Legislature this past session is on the side of the independent producers. It requires all regulated utilities, such as Black Hills and Xcel Energy, to make public their bidding process when they are required to seek cheaper alternatives to new construction.

For some time, the PUC has had regulations requiring utilities to look for cheaper alternatives to new construction.

That bidding process has been confidential in the past.

Lawmakers rewrote that process this year.

Protesters forced to abandon downtown park

Associated Press

DENVER — Denver police have forced Occupy protesters to leave an encampment at a downtown park.

Police spokesman Sonny Jackson says four people were arrested Saturday for interfering with police officers who removed illegally pitched tents.

Jackson says police had advised protesters since Wednesday that their tents in Civic Center Park and on a nearby sidewalk were illegal.

Some protesters blocked a nearby street, which riot police quickly cleared. Police officers also doused a bonfire with a fire extinguisher.

Protesters have been marching in Denver for sixth straight Saturdays — with dwindling numbers.

On Friday, protesters who said they were with Occupy Denver tried to disrupt a conservative blogger conference at a downtown hotel. One man was arrested for trespassing.

Sacred Space Massage
127 Chestnut St. • 859-2778
Receive 1/2 off any service when you bring in a toy for the Toy Drive Nov 11 - Dec 20 Call • Text • Drop in for Appt.

www.facebook.com/TrinidadChronicle
News

FOX
BOX OFFICE OPENS 7:00
SHOW STARTS 7:30
now showing
STYLLER MURPHY
TOWER HEIST
PG-13
423 W. Main • 846-2851

MOVIE PICTURE SHOWHOUSE
3600 E. Main St.
719-846-0552
Movies for
FRIDAY, NOV. 11 - THURSDAY, NOV. 17

PUSS IN BOOTS
PG
FRI & SAT 7:00 9:00 PM
SUN MATINEE 5:00 PM
SUN-THURS 7:00 PM

JACK AND JILL
PG
FRI & SAT 7:15 9:15 PM
SUN MATINEE 5:15 PM
SUN-THURS 7:15 PM

IMMORTALS
R
FRI & SAT 6:30 9:05 PM
SUN MATINEE 4:20 PM
SUN-THURS 6:30 PM

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3
R
FRI & SAT 6:45 8:45 PM
SUN MATINEE 4:45 PM
SUN-THURS 6:45 PM

NO ONE UNDER 17 ADMITTED TO ANY "R" RATED MOVIES WITHOUT A PARENT. IDs ARE REQUIRED AND WILL BE CHECKED AT THE DOOR.
STARTS FRIDAY, NOV. 18TH
Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn
Happy Feet 2

The Cosmetology Department's Student Salon at TSJC
is open for appointments
Monday-Wednesday 1pm - 3pm
Thursday-Friday 10:30 am - 3 pm
We offer a full range of hair, skin, & nail salon services. Stop in today for a service menu & price list, or call 846-5539 to make an appointment!
TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE
TRINIDAD EST. 1925 ALAMOSA
Student Salon, Mullen Building
Trinidad State Junior College

Elks
BINGO
7 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 14
Doors open at 6 p.m.
120 S. Maple
50-50 Bingo
Progressive Game
Now Over \$195
Hot snacks available
No one under 12 allowed
No Checks accepted