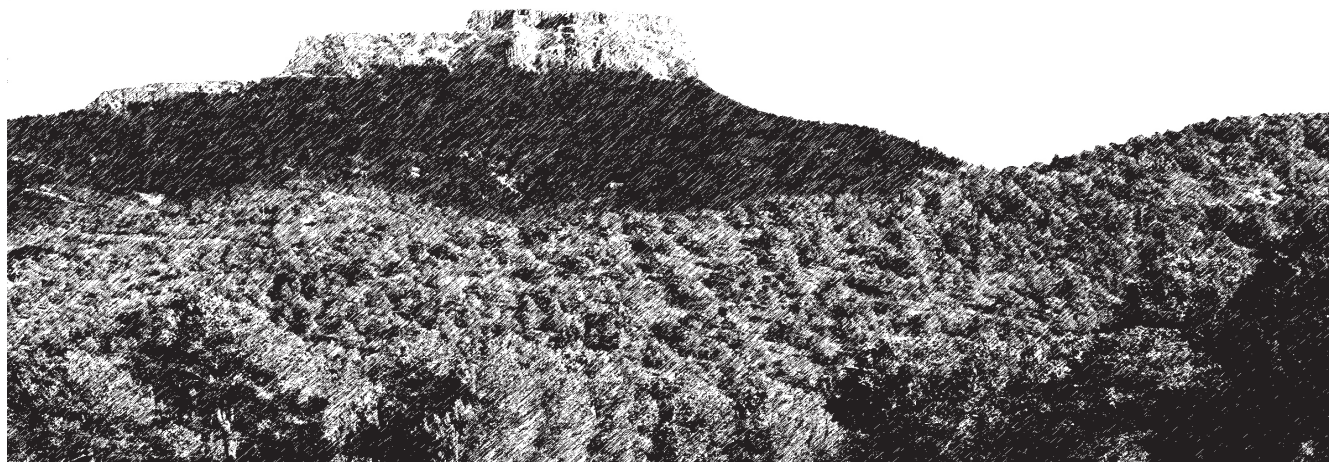


OVER THE PASS



"I'm diabetic and my doctor says I have to walk 10,000 steps a day. I go to the gym to walk for an hour and do the weight machines."

— Pat Tessari Schlitt, Boise, Idaho (Trinidad)



"I do low-impact aerobics to praise-and-worship music. I've done that for decades. It feeds my spirit and soul while I work my body."

— Claudia McCall, voice and piano teacher (Trinidad)

TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

By **Tim Keller**
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Question of the Week:

"What do you do for exercise?"

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



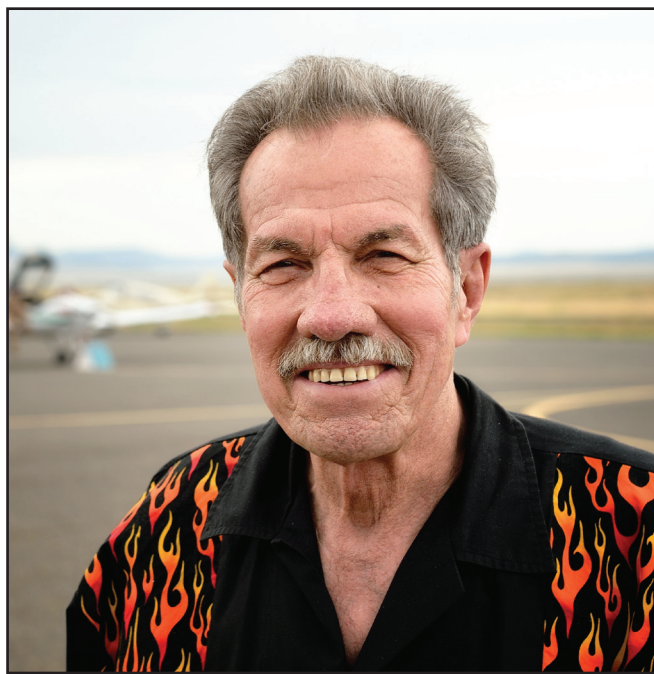
"I'm a racquetball player. I run, walk and play racquetball pretty much every day but Sunday."

— Dan Martinez, retired Denver explosives manufacturer (Raton)



"I ride my bike a lot. I work. I stay very active."

— Cactus Crane (Trinidad)



"I don't exercise. I just watch what I eat. I do yard work and woodworking, but that's it."

— George Tomsco, musician, The Fireballs (Raton)



"My mom and I go walking for an hour almost every night, either downtown or on the track at the football stadium."

— Kayce Bustos, college student (Raton)

THE ARTS

Lies lead to laughs in SCRT's 'Liar'

By **Tim Keller**
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Pair an arrogant, silly fool who cannot tell the truth with his new servant who cannot tell a lie. Add a pair of beautiful women. Make them all speak in rhymed couplets. Shake and stir. Hilarity ensues.



The action and characters revolve around Dorante, the title character who is perfectly played by Denver actor Jeff Jesmer. He crashes through life like a bull in a china shop, making up a new lie at each turn. He takes on a servant, Cliton, who is incapable of lying. The set-up propels the plot, but it's the dialog and acting that provoke the laughs.

New Yorker Chris Krenning plays Cliton, opening the play as a kind of host/narrator. He's often hilarious, especially when addressing the audience directly. Cliton's truth-teller is a good foil to Dorante's liar, who tells his servant, "All the world's a lie and all the men and women in it merely liars." He continues, "In a world where priests and princes lie, the liar blends in like a butterfly," and justifies his lies by saying, "The unimagined life is not worth living."

Lying gets Dorante nothing but trouble, especially when he spies a beautiful woman and fancies himself immediately in love. His quest confuses her with her best friend, propelling the comedy and confusion all the way to the closing scene.

Played by New York actresses Jaclyn Rahmlow and Adelina Feldman-Schultz, blonde Lucrece and brunette Clarice, respectively, enjoy all of the atten-

tion and often the confusion. Adding to the fun, each of the ladies has a servant — Lucrece's Isabelle and Clarice's Sabine — twins played by Denver's quick-changing Jean Shuman.

There's more. Dorante's father, Geronte, played by Alex Markowitz, is trying to match his son with Clarice, who is secretly engaged to Alcippe, played by Shonn McCloud, who has relatively little to do but earns big laughs doing it. Alcippe's friend Philiste, played by James Scott, falls for Sabine even as Cliton falls for her twin, Isabelle, leading to yet more mistaken identity and comedy.

If it all sounds too confusing to follow, don't worry. The production works better on the stage than on the page, thanks to great acting under Vaugeois's direction. Comic complications build to the climax, where truth finally prevails and lots of happy couples take their bows.

Jesmer and Krenning are perfectly cast as Dorante and Cliton, while Markowitz takes some getting used to as Geronte: He looks more like Jesmer's son than his father.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Clockwise from above, Jeff Jesmer owns the stage as "The Liar," riveting the attention of Adelina Feldman-Schultz's Clarice and the audience. Confusion reigns in this presentation with most of it caused by the fatuous title character played by Denver's Jesmer, center, who is joined (left to right) by New York actors Jaclyn Rahmlow, Feldman-Schultz and Florida actor Alex Markowitz. Feldman-Schultz and Rahmlow savor a suitor's letter as their characters, Clarice and Lucrece, respectively, receive the confused advances of "The Liar" in SCRT's delight-filled new production.

Greg Loftus's revolving set design works well through frequent-but-quick scene changes. A beautifully lit red-curtain backdrop provides a sumptuous contrast to the more frequently used blue-screen background that looks bright and cartoonish. The intention may have been to give the action a cartoon quality — in that sense, it works.

As the plot skitters from curve to curve, Ives's wonderful script gives SCRT's accomplished cast a comedic romp, built on hilarious wordplay and often based on humorous rhymes, mixing today's vocabulary into a costume farce set almost 400 years ago. It's great fun.

Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre presents "The Liar" at The Famous Performing Arts Center, located at 131 W. Main St., in downtown Trinidad. Performances continue on July 11, 12, 27, 31, and on August 7, 8, 17, 24 and 29. Tickets and information are available online at scrtheatre.info, by phone at 719-846-4765, or in person at the SCRT box office at 131 W. Main St.

"The Liar" is a farce both old and new. Acclaimed American playwright David Ives's modern adaptation of Pierre Corneille's 1643 French classic debuted just four years ago at Washington, D.C.'s Shakespeare Theatre Company. Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre took a risk by bringing a little-known new/old comedy to Trinidad, but the payoff should reward theatergoers, the performers and the playhouse itself as word gets out about the fun on stage.

Speaking of risks, having nine characters speak an entire play in rhymed iambic pentameter is a recipe for either great failure or great success. Ives obviously had a ball writing the lines, inserting plenty of modern references in the period comedy, and director Harriet Vaugeois's eight-member cast masterfully wields every line to great effect. Some of the biggest laughs come from the characters' comic struggles to rhyme.



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Registration for new students that live in the Hoehne School District and are attending Hoehne School for the first time, will be held July 9 through 11th, 2014. Please call 719-846-4457 for more information.