



HOTEL TEATRO

T H E P L A Y B I L L

Volume 8 Issue 12

December 2011

PACKAGE SPOTLIGHT

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Ok, admit it, you say it every year... " I'M NEVER DOING THIS AGAIN!" You know, the overage of champagne or chocolate martinis, beer with Red Bull or maybe a few shots of Jagermeister to say hello to New Year's morning really DID sound like a good idea. Take heart. No one at Hotel Teatro is pointing fingers. In fact, we have just the thing to take away that foggy, painful aftermath of a New Year's Eve well spent.

Hotel Teatro's New Year's Eve Recovery Package takes care of you before and after the festivities. Upon arrival, you may kick things off with a bottle of Veuve accompanied by commemorative wine glasses for your collection. If champagne bubbles are not your style, then you may opt for 6 Microbrew beers with flutes or glasses to keep. With the party underway, the rest of the evening is up to you. Upon returning to your room, the recovery process kicks in. You will have extra bottles of water and a hang-over patch. Upon waking, nothing works better than a light continental breakfast with 2 Bloody Mary's; a little "hair of the dog that bit ya." Check out is typically at noon but, in this case, you have until 2 pm to pull things together. The world will no longer be spinning and you can meet 2012 with a smile and happy heart — rather than heartburn!

The NYE Recovery Package is available on December 31, 2011 only.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM JIM TURNER, GM



What a wonderful time of the year to experience the excitement, the decorations, the lights, the events and everything else Downtown Denver has to offer! The holiday season list of possibilities is endless and it's hard to know where to begin! The annual Parade of Lights through downtown on December 2 and 3 really helps get everyone in the spirit. You

might want to stop by the Denver Christkindl Market in Skyline Park, featuring European vendors, food and entertainment daily through December 23 – it's an easy two block walk from Hotel Teatro on Arapahoe to the 16th Street Mall.

It is hard to imagine going through the holidays without taking in a performance of *The Nutcracker!* The Colorado Ballet's annual rendition of this classic is on stage now through December 24 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, right next door in the Denver Center for Performing Arts. Another perennial seasonal favorite is Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol", currently playing at The Stage Theatre, also in the Denver Center for Performing Arts. If your tastes run a bit more towards the non-traditional, you may want to check out "Balls! A Holiday Spectacular", billed as a "rollicking variety show with flashy guest stars, audience sock puppet sing-alongs, spontaneous Haikus and worthless prizes." Shows are on December 12 and 19 at Lannie's Clocktower Cabaret, also just a two block walk over to Arapahoe and 16th, with **proceeds benefitting Project Angel Heart.**

Whatever your holiday fancy, the place to begin, and end, each day is Hotel Teatro. What a perfect location to easily access all of these festivities and so much more.

All of us at Hotel Teatro wish you and yours the very best this enchanted time of year has to offer, and a healthy and happy 2012!

CONCERT SPOTLIGHT:

AMOS LEE



On December 9 at the Buell Theater, **Amos Lee**, one of the freshest voices and literate songwriters working today will take the stage. Boulder native, Brett Dennen, will open for him.

Amos Lee

was born Ryan Anthony Massaro in Philadelphia.

His family moved to Cherry Hill, New Jersey when he was 11. As a child, music was not of interest to him. Then he heard his first John Prine album, acquired his first guitar and worked in a record store where they played great music. The rest, as the say, is history.

He graduated from University of South Carolina with a degree in English. He worked as a school teacher and bartender before deciding to focus all of his energies on a music career.

Mr. Lee is a singer/songwriter whose music style is not one to be pigeon-holed. His work encompasses influences from folk, rock and soul but his sound is his own. He has 4 albums on Blue Note Records and has toured as an opening act for music legends as diverse as Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello, Norah Jones, Paul Simon, Merle Haggard, Van Morrison, John Prine, Dave Matthews Band and Adele. This year, his album, **Mission Bell** debuted as No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200 chart. The prominent hit from that record is "Windows are Rolled Down," though the song "El Camino" is running neck and neck with it. With guest artist Willie Nelson on the CD's reprise of "El Camino," Amos Lee's versatility within a single song is evidence of his prowess as a musician.

Opening for Amos Lee is pop/rock singer-songwriter Brett Dennen, a Boulder native, who continues to entertain audiences across the country. He has toured with John Mayer, Jack Johnson, Jason Mraz and Dave Matthews. Named as "Artist to Watch" by *Rolling Stone*, he has played at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, Mile High Music Festival and various others. Brett is a staunch supporter of the Bay Area *Mosaic Project* which brings together children with diverse backgrounds and the foundation for a peaceful future.

DECEMBER EVENTS, CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE

LIVE MUSIC/PERFORMANCE TOURS

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| December 6 | Rise Against | The 1st Bank Center |
| December 9 | Amos Lee w/ Brett Dennen | The Buell Theater |
| December 8-11 | Disney on Ice: Toy Story 3 | The Pepsi Center |
| December 9-10 | Russian Ballet's Nutcracker | The Paramount Theatre |
| December 10-11 | Mannheim Steamroller | The Buell Theater |
| December 11 | Guns N' Roses | 1st Bank Center |
| December 11 | B-52's | The Ogden Theater |
| December 16 | War/Tower of Power | The Ogden Theater |
| December 23 | Roger Clyne & Peacemakers | The Ogden Theater |
| December 26 | Trans-Siberian Orchestra | The Pepsi Center |
| December 29-31 | Railroad Earth | The Ogden Theater |
| December 29-31 | WEEN | The Fillmore Theater |
| December 30-31 | Pretty Lights | 1st Bank Center |

THE COLORADO SYMPHONY AT BOETTCHER CONCERT HALL

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| December 9-11 | Colorado Christmas; mood lighting, favorite carols and special guests from the North Pole enhance this annual celebration featuring the CSO, CSO Chorus and Children's Choral. |
| December 16-17 | Too Hot To Handel; the annual gospel performance of Handel's <i>Messiah</i> pays homage to this musical masterpiece. It raises the rafters and your spirits. Singing along is encouraged! |
| December 12 | Celtic Women have become a tour de force of popularity. From stages around the world, they arrive at Boettcher Concert Hall for their first ever symphonic performance where they will sing Christmas favorites in true Irish form. Sold out on line, please contact the concierge for possible seating options. |
| December 31 | A Night In Vienna; this concert is a festive way to ring in the new year as it features polkas, waltzes and marches from the romantic city of Vienna. The performance is at 6:30 pm, allowing time for enjoying holiday lights in downtown Denver and the fireworks later in the evening. |

BLOSSOMS OF LIGHT AT DBG

The Denver Botanic Gardens is probably not the first place you imagine visiting in the dead of winter. But the Gardens have a remedy for the winter's cold and short days. **Blossoms of Light**. Your holiday season can be enhanced and joy brought to all with a tour of this fabulous lighting exhibit. The much-anticipated HoloSpex glasses will be provided for additional effect.

Blossoms of Light is opened nightly from December 2 through New Year's Day, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. Warm drinks and tasty treats will be offered. On select evenings, there will also be holiday themed entertainment. Hours are 5:30 pm—9:30 pm.

New this year are four ice sculptures paced strategically around the property. One sculpture is a 3-D interactive ice sleigh, perfect for taking family photos! Thousands of lights in the amphitheater will be synchronized to favorite holiday tunes.

The Tropical Conservatory will not be open but orchids, indoor waterfalls and more may be enjoyed in The Orangery and Marnie's Pavilion.

Tickets may be purchased for **Blossoms of Light** on line, at the Gardens York Street Visitor Center or at any King Soopers Grocery (for non-members).

Prices are:

- ~ \$9.50-Adults
- ~ \$7.50-Adult Member
Student, Over 65
- ~ \$6.50- Child, 3-12
- ~ \$4.50-Child Member

** \$2 off admission for veterans, active military and their families. Please have ID available.

No Pets Please



TRAIL OF LIGHTS AT CHATFIELD

The Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Arboretum offers a true rural Colorado experience. Located in southwest Denver, just a minute off of C-470, this display of holiday lights is one of the most unique in the state!

The foothills present a breathtaking backdrop to this event in which more than one million sparkling lights illuminate a winding path through the countryside. As with the downtown Gardens location, this display runs every night from December 2 through January 1. Admissions are the same as well.

Fun features for this year's Trail of Lights include:

- New Children's Play Area with lights synchronized to holiday music
- Illuminated antique and model tractors on display
- A warming hut where children may also make holiday crafts
- Hayrides on Fridays and Saturdays (weather permitting) for an additional \$5 per person
- Hot drinks for purchase and seasonal entertainment.

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield is located at 8550 West Deer Creek Canyon Road in Littleton. For more information, please contact them at 303-973-3705.

No Pets Please



DECEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

THEATER

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| <i>West Side Story</i> | December 13—Jan. 1 | The Buell Theater |
| <i>For Girls Only</i> | December 1—31 | The Galleria Theater |
| <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> | December 1—18 | The Space Theater |
| <i>A Christmas Carol</i> | December 1—24 | The Stage Theater |
| <i>Collapse</i> | December 1—10 | The Curious Theater *** Th.-Sun. Only |
| <i>Kafka on Ice</i> | December 2—17 | Buntport Theater ** Visit on line for dates |

DENVER BRONCOS AT SPORTS AUTHORITY FIELD AT MILE HIGH

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| December 11 | v. Chicago Bears | 2:05 pm |
| December 18 | v. New England Patriots | 2:15 pm |

COLORADO AVALANCHE AT THE PEPSI CENTER

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|---------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Dec. 4 | v. Red Wing | 6:00 pm | Dec. 13 | v. Sharks | 7:00 pm |
| Dec. 17 | v. Capitals | 7:00 pm | Dec. 19 | v. Flyers | 7:00 pm |
| Dec. 21 | v. Blues | 7:30 pm | Dec. 23 | v. Lightning | 7:00 pm |
| Dec. 27 | v. Jets | 7:00 pm | Dec. 29 | v. Coyotes | 7:00 pm |



THE STAGE DOOR: Our Stage Door sheds light on people and places that play an important behind-the-scenes role when it comes to making our guest's visit fabulous. It is unusual for us to stray from our staff and business associates in this section of our *Playbill*. However, last week the City of Denver lost a popular restaurateur but, more importantly, a humanitarian extraordinaire who created a landmark restaurant, Strings, where not only beautifully crafted cuisine is served, but also the powerless and poor are aided by the Cunninghams' endless generosity.

Noel Cunningham, a friend and business associate to this author, died very unexpectedly last Thursday and, as former Governor Bill Ritter summarized, "his passing leaves a big, big hole in this community." Ritter met Noel and his wife Tammy over 20 years ago and worked on several charity projects with them. "Tammy and Noel together were a force to be reckoned with and I don't know any other couple in Denver so devoted to making others' lives better."

Noel was born in Dublin in 1949 and left school at age 14 to assist his uncle who was chef at Dublin Airport. His culinary journey took him to London's famed Savoy Hotel as an apprentice and where he made sous chef status by the age of 23. He spent the 70's in Beverly Hills creating dishes at trendy spots like Touch for the celebrities and other high profile guests that frequented the venue. The 80's brought him to Denver where he opened Strings, the 17th Avenue mainstay.

Noel's sudden death has left a city grieving and wondering who could possibly fill the void left by this wild Irishman with the thick brogue who simply would not take "No!" for an answer. For legendary New York chef, Danny Meyer, who served with Noel on the national nonprofit *Share Our Strength*, the legacy is obvious. "If you could spell the word 'entrepreneur' with the word 'heart' at the beginning, that's the way he made business decisions...He was deeply interested in what was happening in Denver, but also in the world."

When Noel moved to Denver he made an early acquaintance with Pat Miller, better known as The Gabby Gourmet. Together they started *Taste of the Nation* which, by 2010, had raised more than \$78 million for 450 groups working in the U.S. to end hunger and poverty. "He had charisma like no one had," Miller said. "He was always giving back.."

Last year, Noel launched *A Dinner of Unconditional Love* which benefited Dr. Rick Hodes, an American doctor living in Ethiopia whose mission is to help heal the poor. Noel's dream was to make this event as big as *Taste of the Nation*, growing it to cities across the country and raising \$10 million in 5 years so Dr. Hodes could build a hospital. Knowing Noel, Tammy and their friends, this will become a reality.

In Noel's own words, "Why can't we learn a little bit of unconditional love and realize the cup is half full, not half empty?"

Noel's friend of nearly 30 years, Volunteers of America spokesman Jim White called Noel's death "a huge loss. I don't know who is going to pick up that torch." Noel's dreams can be met if friends and business partners make it a priority to help Tammy meet those lofty but pertinent goals.

Codladh samh, Noel.

