

Town 'Saga' returns for final run

The over-the-top play pleases young and old

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SILVERTON — Scotts Mills, Waldo Hills, Pudding River, Abiqua Creek: they're not just area place-names anymore. No, in this year's rendition of Brush Creek Playhouse's "The Saga of Silvie Creek," the theater's final play of the season, the over-the-top characters take on the historic names of familiar places.

The melodramatic play, written in part by the Brush Creek's co-founder Shannon Copeland, has been a mainstay and audience favorite at the playhouse since the quaint-yet-historic building re-opened as a theater in 1984.

According to Brush Creek Playhouse longtime director Norman Gouveia, "The Saga of Silvie Creek" is full of "over emoting and overacting."

"This is my last melodrama I'll be directing, and this is a salute to all the years we've been doing it," said Gouveia.

And with characters named "Scot Mills," "Abby Qua Creek" and "Great Granddaddy Puddin' Creek," it's no wonder "The Saga of Silvie Creek" has run over and over again.

The play consists of two acts, each with three scenes, and lasts little more than an hour. Also, in honor of the historical building the play is in and the melodramatic play itself, the acts are divided by olios — skits and singing that were popular in theater at the turn of the century.

"The Saga of Silvie Creek' definitely has a traditional plot," Gouveia said. "We've got an evil villain who tries to take advantage of a situation and a dull yet bright sidekick who outsmarts the villain and gets the ingénue love."

To get audiences pumped about the characters and the storyline, Gouveia said that people are almost inserted into the play.

"We love audience participation," he said. "We've got signs that say 'BOO,' and 'HISS,' and 'APPLAUD.' It really drives this kind of theater."

"We used to give people popcorn and peanuts to throw on stage, but then the little kids got really good at hitting the villain," Gouveia laughed.

After the play's opening last weekend, Gouveia is hoping for larger audiences during the following weeks.

“The show was good,” he said. “The audience was small, but they seemed to enjoy it.”