



First Night Fort Collins 2011

Performance Descriptions

All the World is a Circus

This show uses the circus arts to take you on a performance based tour of the world. Circus arts have a rich tradition and history in cultures all over the world, from jugglers depicted in ancient Egyptian glyphs to the 4,000 year old tradition of Chinese acrobatics, to the contortionists of Mongolia, the Balletic Circus arts of Russia, traveling troupes of performers throughout Europe, Poi twirling amongst the native Maoris of New Zealand, fire spinning in Hawaii, Shamanic "clowns" of the Southwest Indians, on into the modern era of Vaudeville, Barnum and Bailey, Cirque du Soleil, and the current explosion of circus arts globally. This performance will showcase different skills from different corners of the globe while talking about humanity's long standing fascination with circus arts. What better way to explore the world than through the kinesis of circus arts.

Amazing Feats of Science

Join Science Matters of Colorado for an interactive science demonstration on the wonders of science. Amazing chemistry and physics experiments presented with everyday materials and equipment demonstrating that "Science really does matter"!

Bennett School of Irish Dance

Irish dancing for the whole family, presented by dancers of all ages. This group will display "Celtic" dance from easy to complex. Classic and modern Irish Dance in beautiful colorful costumes. Audience participation is always a part of their program, so come join in the fun.

Best of the TriMedia Film Festival

Come in from the cold and see the best of the TriMedia Film Festival at both theatres of the Lyric Cinema Café. From great family films, to documentaries, to award-winning short comedies and dramas, there's something for everyone at First Night! Don't miss your chance to see some of the best films from the TriMedia Film Festival! Enjoy your passport to the world with films from Australia, Italy, England, and Holland, and films for kids of all ages, not to mention fabulous documentaries, dramas, and comedies, including some by local filmmakers.

Bounce Land Inflatables

Bounce you way to the New Year! These giant inflatables include a huge slide, a castle with a legendary knight guarding it and an obstacle course! Located in the brand new gym of the Aztlan Center and right next to the ballroom with ongoing live performances, and face painting this is a Mecca of activity and fun during First Night. (All shoes must be removed in the gym and on the inflatables of Bounce Land, but make sure to keep on your smile!!)

Bruiser the Ragdog (wandering)

Bruiser the Ragdog meets the people around Old Town Square—Bruiser walks in that mysterious world of the imagination beyond reality and the stars. Is it a real dog? You decide...

Call Back the Sun: Bas Bleu Theatre

In the long winter night, we gather together, telling stories to keep away the dark. Will our vigil be rewarded? Come to Bas Bleu for this new play that draws on stories from around the world to Call Back the Sun!

Canyon Concert Ballet

Let dance usher in your New Year and experience a sense of America. Canyon Concert Youth Ensemble will perform "America's Treasures: Reflections of our National Parks." Come and be entertained by dancers ages 6 - 14 performing dances inspired by photos of our National Parks.

Choice City Singers: Legends

Come fly with the Choice City Singers and take a musical tour around the world! This entertaining 12-member a cappella vocal ensemble returns to First night with a "fill speed ahead" show of smooth vocal blends and contemporary stylings. The tour starts with pop, travels to jazz and stops by doo-wop and swing as familiar melodies keep the show rollin' along. Among the countries visited are Italy (William Tell Overture), Ireland (Danny Boy), USSR (Russian Dance) Spain (Barber of Seville) and more! A fun musical tour for the whole family!

Crafts

Come write your own resolution or create your own New Year's craft project. Stop by the Mountain View Church to warm your toes, see some of the shows and surround yourself with creativity. Just a "drop-in" event, no schedule restrictions.

Debut Theatre Company

Come SEE Debut Theatre's TnT Troupe perform *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*! The fairytales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this face-paced, rollicking ride as two narrators and four actors attempt to combine all 209 stories. It's a wild, free-form family comedy with lots of audience participation and madcap fun!

Destination, The Seven Continents

Former College Professor James Loshbaugh will take you on a journey to the seven continents. While there, through the use of puppetry, you will meet some of the endangered species found in these regions, using Mime, whisper, lip sync, and ventriloquism, you will be highly entertained by the antics of these animals. The California Condor, the Indian Python, the Blue Whale and the Magical Pygmy Rabbit are some of the characters you will meet and learn about. You may even get to help introduce some of these animals. This is great fun and educational family friendly activity.

Didgeridoo & World Instruments

Michael will play the Didgeridoo and Mbira along with other instruments from around the world! Along with music, he will be telling stories about the places he has been and the history of the instruments he plays. Come experience the world through these instruments and make sure not to miss this show!

Eric West Recycled Music Show

Eric West is a classically trained bass player and former teacher who has entertained children since 1982. Accompanied by an antique trunkful of unusual instruments and puppets, complimented by guitar and banjo, Eric will play a variety of interesting instruments which he made from *recycled* metals. Watch the wooden puppets dance to his music and the audience can become a part of this fun show.

Exquisite Brass -World Music Tour

Join the Exquisite Brass Quintet as we take a tour around the world with solo pieces from the United States, Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa. In a widely diverse program we'll showcase every instrument in the ensemble playing a solo work accompanied by the rest of the quintet. There's something here for everyone with folk songs, jazz music and classical hits. Combine the music with the unique sense of humor from the members of the group - and you're sure to have a wonderful time.

Face Painting

Make sure to adorn your face with the perfect First Night treat, face painting! Magical creatures, legendary designs, fairy masks, and much more are available tonight. Make one of the beautiful and lightning fast face paintings of Smilen' Faces yours on First Night at the Mountain View Church (downstairs) and at the Aztlan Center Classrooms. Or head to the Masonic Events Center for wonderful faces by the folks at The Best Face Painter!

Fale African Drum & Dance

Come on a dynamic cultural journey of traditional African drumming, dancing and fun! Through traditional dance and powerful drumming you can travel with the performers of Fale to a warm fishing village in Ghana, to Guinea for a coming of age ceremony, and on to Mali. Experience traditional performances that expose and bring community together through exciting energetic music and dance!

Fireworks - Old Town Square

Enjoy the finale of First Night at the Old Town Square fireworks show. The sparks will be flying and the Fort Collins Pipe Band (bagpipes & drums) will be playing! Ring in 2011 with a bang! Come down on the bus or walk over and enjoy this wonderful show beginning at 10:30pm.

Fort Collins Pipe Band

A favorite of First Night attendees! The Fort Collins Pipe Band features Scottish bagpipe and drum music, Highland dance, and education in Scottish culture, the instruments, dance, and music. Come watch their musical show tonight - Look for them in Old Town Square before the fireworks at 10:20pm.

Gill the Drummer: African Sounds

Drumming is a central part of African culture, used for communication, ritual, and celebration. Experience the drumming of Africa along with stories of the importance of drumming. Educational and fun and "YES" you will dance with them too!

Gob's O'Phun Irish Music

Gob's O'Phun are a vocal group accompanied by acoustic instruments (guitar, bodhran, sticks), performing a variety of traditional Irish and Scottish folksongs. The songs tell the stories. These stories have universal themes so they appeal to all cultural backgrounds. Come hear about the history, culture, customs and humor related to these lively and heart felt songs.

Grupo Aztlan Latin Music

A wide variety of Latin genre will be part of the evening with Grupo Aztlan. Come experience the beautiful array of Latin sounds to include: cumbias, boleros, Tex-Mex, and much more!

Grupo Tlaloc Danza Azteca

GRUPO TLALOC Danza Azteca is a non-profit traditional Mexica/Azteca group of Chicano/ Mexicano families and students of all ages dedicated to preserving and nourishing the ancient knowledge of their ancestors. Tlaloc means "He who fertilizes the Earth-liquor of the Earth. He is the rain, which makes things grow". Watch this show of elaborate feathered headdresses, dancers, drumming, ceremony and Aztec cultural traditions thousands of years old.

Historic Guided Walking Tour

Interesting to all ages, your guide Lynda will tell stories of early Fort Collins residents while strolling past the Old Town areas they inhabited in the 1800's. Come discover Downtown Fort Collins, rich in wild tales, colorful characters and wonderful old buildings. These walking tours last about forty-five minutes and meet at the Opera Galleria.

Ice Skating

Enjoy the holidays like they did in the olden days, with a beautiful skate outside in the town plaza. The Old Town Ice Skating Rink is only \$1 to skate with your First Night button. (Rentals are not included, but are available for \$1/person) Rink is located on the north end of Old Town Square and rentals available at the Downtown Information Center. So come enjoy the outdoor rink and take a skate for old time's sake!

It's A Small World Show

Welcome to Tin Razzle and Rainy Day Smiles arts of the world! What a small world it is too!! Laura and Erin intend to delight, amuse, and amaze you with a cornucopia of new tricks, stories and surprises, Includes audience participation bits and an amazing new (Little People) disappearing/reappearing box. We will do a little bit from around the world but our main focus will be the wee folk of Ireland. With Leprechauns involved the night will indeed be magical.

Kids' Countdown

This event kicks off the whole evening at 5:00pm. Confetti will go flying, and the talented Beth Epley will lead the children in song, tell stories, and play interactive music with the children on the museum steps. There will be instruments for the children to play, adding to the festivities and of course the New Year's Eve March and Madness, a procession through the Museum courtyard.

Magic Around the World

Come enjoy magic with Amazing Dave! Magic Around the World entertains audiences with magic tricks as well as the history of magic and the fact that magic is universal and found in cultures everywhere. Magic from countries including Egypt, France, China and the USA.

Masonic Lodge Event Center

Again this year we very pleased to be able to partner with the Fort Collins Masons in the use of their Masonic Event Center. Be sure to visit their museum where you can learn ancient secrets of the Masons! Also at the Masonic Event Center this year, face painting by Best Face Painter, Debut Theater Company & the Pirate Adventure Comedy Show.

Pirate Adventure Comedy Show

The entire family will enjoy this fun comedy adventure show! Come join in the fun and become part of the show in "A Pirate's Adventure" were you will encounter sea monsters, mermaids and treasure. Explore this funny, curious world like a pirate of old!

Presto-Digitators Magic Show

Experience the magic touch and see many illusions at this ever-popular show! Classic and new innovative magic illusions are performed by these First Night favorites as they explore the realm of possibility. The show will feature NEW feats of conjuring, prestidigitation, illusion and fun with a worldly flavor!

Science Toy Magic (wandering)

Matt Hannifin will appear as "Jerry the Janitor" in Old Town Square near the Science Toy Magic Store. "Jerry the Janitor" is the unicycling janitor who leaves your space messier when he's finished than it was when he started! "Magic Science Guy" pulls science out of his wizard's robe to amaze even the most sophisticated scientist!

Skys Around the World: Discovery Science Center Star Lab Planetarium Shows

Come to the Star Lab Planetarium Show to see constellations and experience the skies as people around the world do! Families with children of elementary age or older will enjoy this unique experience. (Be sure to arrive early to pick up your free tickets, and do some astronomy activities while you wait seating is available.)

The Art of Murder - Play

Nonesuch Theater presents ... See selections from the next show "Art of Murder" by Joe DiPietro, creator of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change". A contemporary thriller with a little of the dark side of "CSI" and the heart of "Hitchcock Presents." Great characters and great dialogue in a perfect space for live theater and the actor in all of us.

The Crawdads Cajun Music

The Castle Rock Crawdads will perform groovy Cajun music and Southern Rock. The trio features guitar/fiddle, percussion, and Cajun accordion. Come tap your foot, shake your groove thing, and celebrate the New Year in a good ole' fashioned Cajun way!

The Klez Dispensers Band

What do they do? Well come on over and hear the wonderful music from Eastern Europe. This music is largely of dance tunes and instrumental display pieces played at Jewish weddings and other celebrations. Come join the Klezmer fun!

Top Hogs

The "Top Hogs" show is an exciting, fun-for-the-entire family trick pig act which has entertained thousands all over the US. Racing pigs are over in seconds, however, Mudslinger and Digger perform a non-stop 30-minute act from sports, (soccer, skateboarding basket-ball...) to impersonations of famous entertainers (Stevie Wonder, Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and more). The show is also choreographed to fun and existing music. They were both adopted from a pig rescue organization before becoming big stars. The Top Hogs comedy show is a fun, educational & crowd-pleasing performance which draws large audiences. "The most talented pigs in the world!" - Jay Leno, The Tonight Show. Don't miss this show!

Wayne & Wingnut

Up, Up and away... with ventriloquist Wayne Francis & Wingnut. Let Colorado's premier comedy duo barnstorm their way into your hearts! Laugh as this pair brings a fanciful romp to the stage! With original comedy, music and lots of audience interaction, you couldn't be in better hands.

Discover Downtown

Art Lab

Wander into Art Lab for our Awesome New Year's Show! Everitt Merritt- Singer/songwriter. Everitt is a high school student who lives in Fort Collins. He started playing music at a very young age and hasn't stopped. He is influenced by many genres and musicians, and his original songs reflect that wide range of influences. He will be performing at Art Lab from 6:30 until 10:00.

CoCo Artist Studio

Coco Artist Studio is the newest art destination in Old Town Square. Come experience the working studio of award - winning local artist Coleen Cosner (Coco) who specializes in transforming your favorite photo into a work of art. Portraits, landscapes, or the family pet, stop by today to discuss the possibilities!

Illustrated Light Gallery of Fine Art Photography

The Illustrated Light Gallery of Fine Art Photography features the photography of award winning nature photographer David Clack as well as fine art nature photography from several other states. Come enjoy original artwork on this night of Fort Collins Arts celebration!

Old Firehouse Books

Come see us at the bookstore and enter in a story-telling contest! There will be three judges listening to two rounds of live story-telling from whoever wants to sign up. We'll begin registering people at 7:30 and start the event at 8pm. For the first round, storytellers may read from a prepared work. The second round, they'll have to go from memory!

Stuft:a burger bar

Try our Build Your Own Burgers! Tonight offering \$1.50 kids burgers .99 fries, and FREE kid's balloons. Adult Happy Hour is from 3pm-6pm and 9pm through midnight: \$1 Slider Burgers

Trimble Court Artisans Co-Op

At Trimble Court Artisans Co-op, exceptional arts and crafts of the region are offered for sale to people who value handcrafted items of the highest quality. Be sure to visit this uniquely Fort Collins gallery in its historical location - home since 1971. Trimble Court Artisans Co-op is open late to celebrate! Artists on duty, we're right up your alley in Old Town! The night will feature lots of creative endeavors served up with popcorn!