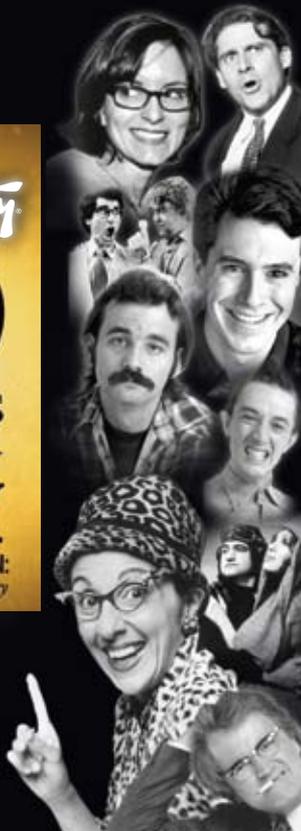
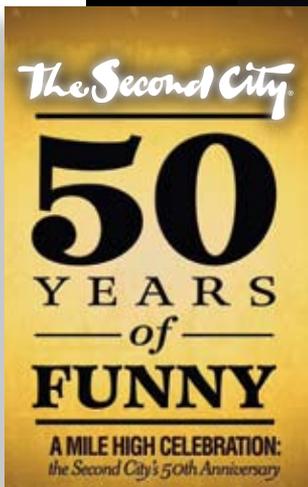


# YOU'RE ONLY AS OLD AS YOUR ACT

*Chicago's Second City  
has famously excelled  
at offending the audience  
for 50 years. And it's  
far from over.*

BY SYLVIE DRAKE



Sept. 14 – Oct. 10  
Garner Galleria Theatre

Sponsored by MillerCoors

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# WV

When the improv comedy group Second City began 50 years ago, it was the by-product of a frustrated group of radical students at the University of Chicago who were interested in theatre—people like Mike Nichols, Elaine May, Paul Sills, Alan Arkin and others. Paul Sills' Mom, Viola Spolin, had developed improvisational theatre games for kids that Paul thought might work for adults. They took those games, founded the Compass Players and started creating satirical scenes and songs. It morphed into The Second City and *voilà!* Instant success.

"People flocked to the theatre," says Kelly Leonard, Executive Vice President of Second City. "It never stopped, pretty much from day one. We still talk about the same stuff—sex, politics and religion. The difference between 1959 and now is that the scenes were close to 15 minutes. Now they're like five. People get it. What took a paragraph before is now sent in code. Look at text messaging."

This new show celebrates the company's half-century mark by bringing back the best material written over the past 50 years by Arkin, May, Nichols, and more recently Tina Fey, Steve Carell and Steven Colbert. A key to Second City's longevity?

This constant supply of new talent.

"These are young idealists with a whole different understanding of the universe," says Leonard. "I love working at Second City. You go up those stairs in the morning, the papers are there, the staff, the actors are all hanging out. We stop, we talk about what's going on, what's in the news, and guess what? We get to work on that and shoot it back to the audience."

Leonard relishes telling that he started at Second City in 1988 as a dishwasher. "I was a writer. I wanted to get involved. My dad was a theatre critic in Chicago [Roy Leonard with WGNTV and radio]. He got me a meeting with Bernie Sahlins [a Second City founder]. Bernie had just sold Second City. He was starting a new theatre and said, 'You can work for me, but that's not starting for six months. I can make a call and you can get a job at Second City.' I walked out on a high. I was sure I was going to be head of marketing at Second City. When I walked in, they took me to the kitchen. There was the sink. Man, I worked the double-shift on a Friday. My hands were raw. But on stage were Mike Myers, Bonnie Hunt, Joel Murray (Billy's little brother). I got to see the shows every night..."

Leonard got out of the kitchen by joining Sahlins' new venture. It fizzled. Newly married, he returned to Second City, where he was offered the job of daytime box-office manager by the gal who was the evening box-office manager. He dug in and started climbing the company ladder. By the time he made Associate Producer in 1992, his marriage broke up and he married that evening box office manager, Ann Libera, with whom he now shares two children—Nick and Nora—and a nice sense of humor.

He never left again.

"We say that when someone comes in here, they've drunk the Kool-Aid," he remarks. "They become evangelists for the work. A, it's fun; B, it's revelatory. Part of that is because this training is so powerful.

"One of the tenets of improvisation is called *yes-and*. When you're improvising on stage you can't say no. If you tell your partner, 'Hey, you're Frank,' and he says 'No,' the scene is over. You *have* to say 'yes.' Not only that, you have to say 'yes' and offer something to build on.

"Try to apply these principles. If, for one day, you choose not to say *no* and say *yes-and* instead, tremendous things happen. It's hard; we're very used to saying no. But when you say *yes* to an idea, even if it's not the greatest idea, you've empowered someone, because so many of us act out of fear of being wrong. In the improvisational world, it's OK to not be right.

"For 50 years we've been able to gestate without falling victim to overhype or crass commercialism or sacrificing integrity. We've kept ticket prices low and house sizes small. We don't try to please millions, only hundreds of thousands. Look at anything good in the world, any great discovery—it came after years of brave failure. We don't apply that in our educational system or in corporate America, and we need to. It makes us better thinkers and better human beings." ■

"We don't try to  
please millions,  
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— Kelly Leonard

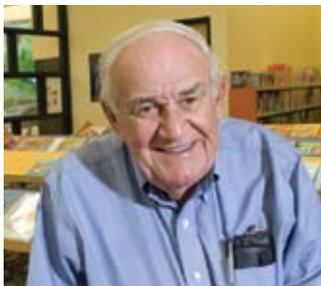
# BUILDING A BETTER COLORADO. TOGETHER.



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The Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado is delighted to enter its 10<sup>th</sup> season sponsoring **The Denver Center for the Performing Arts**. Fine arts and cultural awareness initiatives not only enrich people's lives, but also stimulate conversation, challenge stereotypes and bridge diverse racial, ethnic, economic, religious, sexual and cultural populations.

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MillerCoors is built on a foundation of more than 288 years of combined brewing heritage established by our founders, Frederick Miller and Adolph Coors. Today we have an unmatched portfolio of great brands enjoyed by beer drinkers everywhere.

Our founders also established an enduring commitment to corporate responsibility. A core aspect of this legacy is being good neighbors to the communities where we live, work and brew our beers. And we believe being good neighbors means we are investing money and time in our communities. Our dedicated employee volunteers support a variety of causes

important to them, such as providing food baskets to disadvantaged families during the holidays or working together to protect and preserve our environment and natural resources.

We also believe in community enrichment. That's why we support the work of The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, which engages our minds through creative and cultural entertainment.

We know that with brewing great beer comes great responsibility and by investing in and actively engaging our employees, we are working together to positively impact people, places, issues and causes important to all of us. ■



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MILLERCOORS



MillerCoors employees doing their volunteer work

“At MillerCoors we recognize the value in investing in our hometowns and we are proud to support the great work of The Denver Center for the Performing Arts in enriching the lives of those who live and work in our communities.”

— Al Timothy, Vice President, Community Affairs, MillerCoors



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The Second City

# STATE FARM:

## *Doing The Right Thing*

[State Farm] supports communities through sponsorships, safety programs, education leadership and service-learning. Its sponsorship of the Denver Center Theatre Company's... *The House of the Spirits* demonstrates its important work within the Denver area.



A proud sponsor of  
The House of the Spirits

State Farm®, well known for being a “good neighbor” by “being there” for its customers, was founded in 1922 by retired farmer and insurance salesman George Jacob “G.J.” Mecherle. The company now insures more cars and homes than any other insurer in the U.S. and is one of the leading insurers in Canada. A mutual company owned by its policyholders, State Farm is currently ranked number 34 on the Fortune 500 list of largest companies.

Mecherle’s original vision for State Farm was simple: operate fairly and do the right thing for the customers. While his vision still guides State Farm today, its continued mission is to be the *first* and *best* choice in the products and services it provides.

Originally a single line auto insurance company, State Farm now offers nearly 100 products and services, in five different lines of business, to help customers manage today and prepare for tomorrow. State Farm shows its commitment to policyholders by handling nearly 35,000 claims per day.

State Farm not only does the right thing for customers, it does the right thing for communities. It is heavily involved in and supports communities through sponsorships, safety programs, education leadership and service-learning.

Its sponsorship of the Denver Center Theatre Company’s current production of *The House of the Spirits* demonstrates its important work within the Denver area. “We are excited to align our company with The Denver Center for the Performing Arts,” said Colorado Vice President of Agency Eloy Martinez. “Our common goal of contributing in a meaningful way to bettering our communities brings us together and establishes a common tie — one that strengthens our neighborhoods and enriches the lives of those with whom we work and play.”

State Farm works to build safer, stronger and better educated communities across the United States and Canada. Known as a public leader in auto safety efforts, State Farm helped pass a number of seat belt laws and continues to fight for seat belt and teen driver safety.

It helps build strong communities by supporting programs that enable home ownership, create safe neighborhoods, and make homes and highways safe through activities aimed at preventing and reducing injury and loss.

In schools and communities, through statefarm.com or one of more than 17,000 agent offices, State Farm is there. ■



**Eloy Martinez,**  
Colorado Vice  
President of  
Agency

# WELLS FARGO:

## *Supporting the arts, serving the community*

BY TOM HONIG, REGIONAL PRESIDENT, WELLS FARGO'S MOUNTAIN WEST REGION



DCPA Trustee Tom Honig

The arts stretch our imagination and challenge us to explore thought-provoking issues. They educate, entertain and enrich our lives in so many ways.

A world-class performing arts organization goes beyond staging amazing performances. It contributes to a region's quality of life. That's why Wells Fargo is a long-time supporter of The Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA).

From its innovative local productions to Broadway touring shows, DCPA is a vibrant organization that inspires Coloradans and brings energy and vitality to our region's downtown hub. It's an honor for me to serve on its board of trustees.

At Wells Fargo, we support DCPA to help advance the performing arts in our state. We believe an investment in the arts yields great dividends for all Coloradans. The arts stretch our imagination and challenge us to explore thought-provoking issues. They educate, entertain and enrich our lives in so many ways.

One reason that The Denver Center stands out is its focus on lifelong learning. From theatre classes for young students to presentation training for business professionals, the DCPA is a great educational resource.

What's more, the DCPA and Wells Fargo share a commitment to diversity and inclusion. In the same way that Wells Fargo values and learns from the diversity of its team members, customers and communities, The Denver Center's shows and programs embrace the diversity of our state.

Giving to the DCPA is part of Wells Fargo's broader community efforts in Denver and Colorado. In an economic downturn, the needs of our communities only grow. To support our region in 2009, Wells Fargo contributed \$4.3 million to 1,000 Colorado schools and not-for-profits. Our team members in the state also recorded more than 20,000 volunteer hours during the year.

Community involvement is important to Wells Fargo because we are community-based. Colorado is my home and home to 6,700 Wells Fargo team members. Our customers are our neighbors and friends. Our vision is to satisfy all their financial needs and help them succeed financially. We do this by helping them save for their future goals, secure home loans, finance businesses, and much more. By staying true to its vision, values and conservative financial discipline, Wells Fargo has the strength and stability to help its customers and communities in every economic cycle—as it has for nearly 160 years.

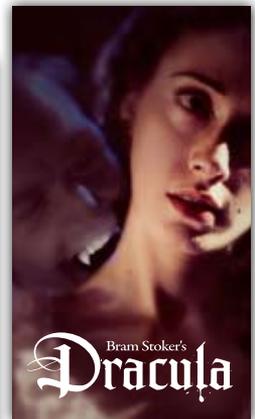
Over the last two years, many financial services providers retrenched; Wells Fargo did not. We continued to extend credit to creditworthy customers. By working hard to find solutions for businesses during a tough economy, Wells Fargo is Colorado's leading small business lender for loans under \$100,000 (according to Community Reinvestment Act data for 2008) and it is the state's No. 1 Small Business Administration (SBA) lender.

We build *relationships* with our customers. We've joined Wachovia with Wells Fargo in Colorado, and today we serve 1.8 million customers at 267 ATMs and 170 banking stores across the state—more stores than any bank in the state.

Colorado has always been a forward-looking state. As we all continue ahead on the on the road to economic recovery, you can count on Wells Fargo and its team members—6,700 statewide and 278,000 nationwide—to provide the financial guidance and community support that will help our state prosper and build for the future. And, we will all continue to enjoy the fine performances provided by The Denver Center. ■

WELLS  
FARGO

A proud sponsor of the  
2010/11 Denver Center  
Theatre Company Season



(L-R) MIKE HARTMAN, CHARLIE KORMAN, SAM GREGORY,  
GEOFFREY KENT AND MEGAN WOLF. PHOTOS BY ERIC LAURITZ,  
TERRY SHAPRO.