

Fort Hays' Encore Series premieres, puts on shows from October to May

Musical ensembles, dance talents and theatrical musicians will all light up the stage in Fort Hays State University's 2011-2012 Encore Series.

All performances, except where otherwise noted, are at 7:30 p.m. in the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center in Sheridan Hall on the university's campus.

Featuring trampoline acrobatics, "Boom Town" will open the season on Monday, Oct. 17. Set in the 1860s small frontier town of Rosebud, an unlikely discovery sets off a series of explosive events, exciting brawls, an unexpected romance and a lucrative discovery. Reserved tickets are \$30 for the public, \$28 for senior citizens and children under 18, and \$21 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$26, \$24 and \$17, respectively.

Showcasing the extraordinary versatility of African-American tenors, "Three Mo' Tenors" is Thursday, Dec. 1. "Three Mo' Tenors" starts with classical opera and goes on to feature nine more musical styles that span 400 years of music including jazz and Broadway, all in one entertaining evening. Reserved tickets are \$30 for the public, \$28 for senior citizens and children under 18, and \$21 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$26, \$24 and

\$17, respectively. Set in 1869 Kansas, this century's new holiday tradition, "Prairie Nutcracker" is Saturday, Dec. 17, with a special performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18. "Prairie Nutcracker" is the perfect heart-warming American celebration for the heartland's holiday season. Reserved tickets are \$30 for the public, \$28 for senior citizens and children under 18, and \$21 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$26, \$24 and \$17, respectively.

John Patrick Shanley's "Doubt" will be on Wednesday, Feb. 5. "Doubt" opens with charismatic young Father Flynn beginning a sermon by asking "What do you do when you're not sure?" Audiences soon learn that little is certain in Shanley's brilliant play. Reserved tickets are \$30 for the public, \$28 for senior citizens and children under 18, and \$21 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$26, \$24 and \$17, respectively.

"My Fair Lady," the Broadway musical adapted from Greek mythology in 1913, is Tuesday, Feb. 21. The musical centers on a phonetics professor's efforts to refine the speech and manner of a Cockney flower girl for life among the gentry. The show's 1956 Broadway production was a smash hit, setting a new record for the lon-

gest run of any major theatre production in history. Reserved tickets are \$40 for the public, \$38 for senior citizens and children under 18, and \$31 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$36, \$34 and \$27, respectively.

America's "most romantic piano sensation," Jim Brickman, will perform Saturday, March 10. Brickman has received international acclaim as a concert performer and has revolutionized the sound of solo piano with his pop-style instrumentals and star-studded vocal collaborations. Reserved tickets are \$30 for the public, \$28 for senior citizens and children under 18, and \$21 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$26, \$24 and \$17, respectively.

The Italian Saxophone Quartet brings together four of the most established soloists in their field, who will perform in Hays on Tuesday, April 24. In 1984 and 1985, the quartet won several chamber music competitions and were awarded first prize in the "Premier Ancona" by Goffredo Petrassi. Reserved tickets are \$30 for the public, \$28 for senior citizens and children under 18, and \$21 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$26, \$24 and \$17, respectively.

The Broadway musical "In the

Heights" is Wednesday, May 2. "In the Heights" tells the story of a vibrant community in Manhattan's Washington Heights - a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change. Reserved tickets are \$40 for the public, \$38 for senior citizens and children under 18, and \$31 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$36, \$34 and \$27, respectively.

Through the presentation of varied forms of performing arts, the Special Events Committee strives to educate, inspire, invoke thought and entertain. Special hearing aids and large-print programs are available at all performances at no cost.

Season tickets are available for reserved seats at \$165 for the public, \$145 for senior citizens, \$100 for children ages 6-17, and \$60 for Fort Hays students. Unreserved tickets are \$140, \$120, \$75 and \$50 respectively.

For more information about the Encore Series or to purchase tickets, visit the website at http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/perf_arts/Encore1112, visit the Student Service Center in the Memorial Union or call (785) 628-5308.

Narrowbanding deadline nears

Farmers, fleet operators, schools and government agencies operating business band or Private Land Mobile Radio (PLMR) systems are facing a critical Jan. 1, 2013, deadline. By that date, the FCC has mandated that all private PLMR licensees operating below 512 MHz move to 12.5 kHz narrowband voice channels.

Nex-Tech Mobile Radio Supervisor Ryan McClung urges PLMR operators to act soon, as the narrowbanding licensing process can be time consuming.

"The required FCC paperwork can take anywhere from six to nine months to process. Since everyone is required to make this change, the FCC's approval process continues to lengthen," he said.

While the narrowbanding mandate may have caught some licensees off-guard, McClung said many operators are taking action now.

"Many of our law enforcement customers are aware of the changes and are well on their way to being narrowband compliant," said McClung. "They have either purchased the equipment to become narrowband compliant or we have

already transferred them over. Several schools are in the process now as well," he added.

McClung said operators most significantly impacted by the narrowbanding mandate will be those who are using older radio equipment.

"Most radios purchased within the last five years will be narrowband compliant," stated McClung. "The manufacturers have known since 1997 that this date was coming and that these mandates were going into effect in 2013."

Nex-Tech Mobile Radio will provide free narrowband walk-throughs for all customers, law enforcement agencies and schools, and will provide them with a current list of radios they have, indicate which radios are compliant or non-compliant, and provide them a solution to become narrowband compliant by the 2013 deadline.

With the narrowbanding deadline less than 17 months away, McClung encourages all PLMR operators to visit www.nex-tech.com/narrowbanding or to call Nex-Tech Mobile Radio toll-free at (800) 542-1315 for information.

Military veterans can gain key certifications for small businesses

Military veterans now have a service provided by the Kansas Small Business Development Center to assist them in applying for the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business designation (SDVOSB). In addition, veterans can obtain assistance in verifying their Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) and SDVOSB status with the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE).

The process of applying for the SDVOSB designation is tedious and often leaves veterans frustrated and in need of assistance to finish the process. KSBDC has teamed up with Karl Monger, owner of DriPowder LLC, a designated Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, and the founder of GallantFew Inc., an organization dedicated to assisting veterans in transition.

"In 2009, I was laid off from my job. In researching opportunities, I was stunned that President Bush in 2004 signed Executive Order 13360, mandating every federal agency set aside 3 percent of its procurement budget for SDVOSB's," said Monger.

"This has to be the best kept secret in the government," he said. "I took ownership of DriPowder LLC and completed the certification process, achieving the

VA's Certified Veteran Enterprise designation in July 2010. I then began sharing this information and coaching other veterans on the process. When I learned of the KSBDC's focus on growing veteran business, I immediately volunteered to help, and that has led to a partnership focused on identifying, coaching and growing Veteran-Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses."

Monger's military background includes commanding an infantry company and serving as a Ranger battalion staff officer. He parachuted into Kuwait at the end of Desert Storm. Following active duty, he joined a U.S. Army Reserve unit and ultimately achieved the rank of major, retiring in 2003. He presented a session on applying for the SDVOSB designation at the KSBDC 2010 Operation Veterans: Start Up and Grow conferences.

"We realized from the attendance at Karl's sessions last year that this was a popular area for veterans," said Greg Panichello, KSBDC state director. "We partnered with Karl because he brings a unique perspective as a veteran business owner and because he can make the process of applying for the SDVOSB designation much smoother for our clients."

In addition to assisting veterans with

the SDVOSB process, veteran business owners can obtain counseling for obtaining CVE verification. This verification ensures the business meets the guidelines for participating in the VA's buying authority. The CVE also provides vendor information pages that promote registered veteran-owned businesses to prime contractors and to the federal government. The CVE website (www.vetbiz.gov) provides links to the federal procurement pages, assistance program pages and more.

After attending the 2010 Operations Veterans Conference in Kansas City last fall, Dana Ward, co-founder and director of marketing for Great Day Moving, contacted KSBDC to obtain services from Monger.

"My husband and I met Karl at the 2010 Operation Veterans Conference. Since he and my husband are both veterans, they hit it off immediately. When it comes to helping others, Karl is a genuine giver and he basically walked me through the whole process of the CVE designation for our local moving company," said Ward. "Without Karl's help, I would have never known how to navigate the government websites and requirements."

Monger said the VA's CVE distinction is crucial because all federal procurement

officers turn to the VA CVE list to identify valid SDVOSBs. Three percent of the federal procurement budget in 2009 represented more than \$18 billion, yet less than half of that mandated amount went to SDVOSBs. This represents an incredible opportunity for veteran business owners.

Funding for KSBDC veteran services are provided by a grant from the US Small Business Administration. The grant does not restrict counseling to Kansas veterans. KSBDC provides the special veteran counseling services to veterans from any state in the United States. In addition, if a veteran initially receives assistance in Kansas but relocates to another state, counseling can continue through the KSBDC or with a local Small Business Development Center in their new location. A complete list of SBDC locations can be found at www.asbdc-us.org.

There are 17 KSBDC regional or outreach centers throughout Kansas. Each center is staffed with consultants who provide confidential, one-on-one business consulting at no cost. KSBDC also provides low-cost seminars and workshops in traditional areas of entrepreneurship and in areas of interest based on issues and trends in current events. The statewide host for the KSBDC is Fort Hays

State University.

Veterans in Kansas who are interested in KSBDC services may call (785) 296-6514 or toll-free at (877) 625-7232.

About KSBDC:
The Kansas Small Business Development Center Network is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Kansas Department of Commerce. KSBDC is nationally accredited through the Association of Small Business Development Centers by Congressional mandate.

KSBDC receives funding from and partners with higher education and economic development organizations to provide Kansas entrepreneurs with no-cost business consulting and resources for starting, maintaining and growing their businesses. For more information about the KSBDC Network, visit www.kansas.gov/ksbdc or call (877) 625-7232.

About GallantFew:
GallantFew Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to eliminating veteran unemployment, homelessness and suicide by a unique blend of coaching and mentoring by veterans for service members departing active duty. Visit www.gallantfew.org or call (316) 633-4599 for information.

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