

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | December 11, 2020**

**Chanticleer Community Theater's *A 1940's Radio Christmas Carol***

*PACE and Chanticleer Community Theater move the magic of theater online, free to skilled and assisted living facilities; PACE announces \$50,000 Matching Grant*

**COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA** - Chanticleer Community Theater announces the online release of their holiday production, *A 1940's Radio Christmas Carol*. Enjoy the magic of the theater, from the safety and comfort of your own home! Tickets for the online viewing of *A 1940's Radio Christmas Carol* are \$10, and access will be made available by December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ticket holders will receive an email with the link to view the production.

In addition to online tickets being available for purchase by the general public, Chanticleer also hopes to share the joy of the holiday season for free with some of the hardest hit by pandemic, the residents of local skilled and assisted living facilities. Many of which are still subject to facility lockdowns and strict social distancing protocols due to COVID-19. PACE has reached out to several facilities in the area to help make this happen.

Christine Gochenour, Marketing Coordinator with Bethany Lutheran Health Services, and life-long supporter of Chanticleer Community Theater is excited about the partnership. "We have had to come up with new and innovative ways to engage our residents and community members to keep them active and thriving. This gift from Chanticleer and PACE will bring a small piece of normal to our community members and will not only bring back fond memories of years past but give them a sense of hope," Gochenour said. "We can't thank PACE and Chanticleer enough for this opportunity to watch our people smile and grin from ear to ear, remembering their Christmases and reliving the 'good old days'."

The production will be streamed in common areas with hygiene and social distancing protocols in place, as well as available on the closed-circuit TVs in resident apartments.

"I love the idea for this project," Chanticleer Advisory Committee President Denise Putman said. "Having a relative in a skilled nursing facility, I know how hard it is to come up with ideas during the pandemic to keep the residents entertained and enjoying the holidays."

"The radio show takes place on Christmas Eve in 1943 and is a hilarious take on Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. Whether it is the noisy plumbing, electrical blackouts, or the over-the-top theatrics, it is entertaining to watch," said Putman. "And there are great holiday songs and carols woven into the story. As a holiday escape, this show hits all the right notes."

Putman also stated that she is thankful to the resilient cast and crew who followed safety protocols and quickly modified the production for an online platform so Chanticleer can still connect to their faithful members and patrons. They were hoping to perform in front of a live audience after being "dark" since March, but like many theaters they had to cancel their in-person shows in December for the safety of everyone involved.

Chanticleer Community Theater has shared its love and passion for music and the arts on stage since 1952. "We need something to tie our community together," said Chanticleer Advisory Committee President, Denise Putman. "And right now, YOUR community theater needs us. We miss all of you and cannot wait until we are all back together again in our beautiful theater space. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday!"

PACE also just announced an anonymous \$50,000 matching grant for their end of year appeal. Every dollar donated will be doubled up to \$50,000. They ask that you remember PACE as you make your year end contributions. Any contribution, no matter how small, really has an opportunity to make a difference.

“Like many other arts and culture organizations, PACE, Chanticleer, and our Partners are struggling,” said PACE CEO Danna Kehm. “The Hoff Center has been closed for a total four months in 2020 because of the pandemic, causing severe losses in revenue. Uncertainty still looms for 2021. However, our team has been tirelessly working to provide safe, and socially distanced programming for all ages, as well as creating digital content like *A 1940’s Radio Christmas Carol* for those who have not been able to visit. Life inside the new Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center has changed, too, but it has not stopped.”

The Arts will help us heal during these challenging times. We are all creative beings - and whether we’re making art, music, dancing, or sharing in the experience, we’re all connected. To continue offering these safe, memorable, and truly unforgettable experiences for the community, PACE, now more than ever needs your support.

To make a donation to PACE, visit <https://www.paceartsiowa.org/donate>, or mail your donation to PACE, 1001 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51501. The free streaming of *A 1940’s Radio Christmas Carol* is made possible by generous donors like you!

To purchase your \$10 online ticket to watch the performance of *A 1940’s Radio Christmas Carol*, visit <https://www.paceartsiowa.org/theater>.

If you are a skilled or assisted living facility located in Pottawattamie County or southwest Iowa, and you would like free access to the online production for your residents, please call 712-890-5600 or email [info@paceartsiowa.org](mailto:info@paceartsiowa.org).

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## **ABOUT PACE**

**Pottawattamie Arts, Culture & Entertainment (PACE)** PACE developed and manages the Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center which includes a theater, rehearsal areas, gallery, artist studios, classrooms, teaching kitchen, and more. It is the home for multiple nonprofits including PACE, Chanticleer Community Theater, Kanesville Symphony Orchestra, American Midwest Ballet, and Kitchen Council. Together, we increase access to the Arts and promote Council Bluffs as a center for excellence in the Arts. For more information visit [www.paceartsiowa.org](http://www.paceartsiowa.org).