

First Night Fort Collins 2012 Performance Descriptions



Almost, Maine Play Vignettes: Bas Bleu Theatre

The northern lights hover in the star-filled sky in this compelling story of love, light and illumination in a small Maine town. Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. This performance features 3-ten minute vignettes from the original Bas Bleu Theater Company production, *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani.

Amazing Dave- Vaudeville Magic

Come enjoy magic with Amazing Dave! Magic Around the World entertains audiences with magic tricks as well as the history of magic with the old vaudeville flavor. Magic in tonight's show is universal and found in cultures everywhere, including Egypt, France, China and the USA.

Arias at Avo's

The Fort Collins Opera Guild - Opera rocks with: Passion, Love, Death, Betrayal and Blue Jeans at Arias@Avo's. It is an informal, intense, musical experience. Instead of going to five or six different Operas, you can go to Arias@Avo's and listen to the best Arias from those operas. Enjoy live classical and music theater performances in a relaxed, informal family friendly environment, 4-5:45 p.m. at Avogadro's Number restaurant, 605 S. Mason St. The program is sponsored by Opera Fort Collins Guild.

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.

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—5:30-8:30pm Bruiser walks in that mysterious world of the imagination beyond reality and the stars. Is it a real dog? You decide...

Canyon Concert Youth Ensemble

Presenting: "Chloe's Castle", a beautiful ballet choreographed by Amy Hughes and Amber Mazurana for Canyon Concert Dance Center's Youth Ensemble. Enjoy this magical journey where a young girl named Chloe explores and discovers new and exciting things in every room of an enchanted castle. Come and be entertained by dancers of all ages performing this original ballet.

Choice City Singers

The Choice City Singers they kick off the show with Bugs Bunny's theme "*This is It!*" and treat audiences with all time favorites from the 1940's, 50's and 60's! Come sing along with this energetic group as they dance and sing on stage to bring beautiful song and music into your final night of 2011. This entertaining 12-member acappella vocal ensemble returns to First night with a "fill speed ahead" show of pop, swing and doo-wop.

Debut Theatre Company

Debut Theatre's TnT Troupe presents: *Totally Red!* The show begins with a humorous version in the Storybook Theater style, followed by Melodrama with audience participation (The Perils of Being Miss Red), Elizabethan (*Much Ado About Red*), Hip Hop (*Redz in the Hood*) and Avant-garde (*Call the Moment Red*).

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!

Doc Brown Science Show

Doc Brown from Back to the Future is the zaniest scientist around! Come be entertained by his science experiments, learn how to make slime, and have a blast with other household ingredients as science spirals out of control! Edutainment for sure!

Exquisite Brass' Carmen

Who says opera isn't funny? The Exquisite Brass performs George Bizet's Carmen as you've never seen it before. Experience all the hits from the opera - and be ready to join in, cheering for your heroes and villains. Who knows, this one may even have a happy ending.

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 Community of Christ Church and at the Aztlan Center. Or head to the Masonic Events Center for wonderful faces by the folks at Best Face Painter!

Fale African Drum & Dance

Come on a dynamic cultural journey of traditional African drumming, dancing and fun! The show kicks off with a Zulu folktale "Where the Stories Come From" Through traditional dance and powerful drumming you can travel with the performers of Fale to Togo, West Africa, on to Liberia with the tale of King Leopard and on to Guinea for a coming of age dance. Experience traditional performances that expose and bring community together through exciting energetic music and dance!

Fireworks Show- 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 at Opera Galleria from 9:30-9:45pm then see them in Old Town Square before the fireworks at 10:15pm.

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. The show will include songs from famous Latin artists including Vincente Fernandez, Carlos Santana, and Selena. Come experience the beautiful array of popular Latin music including cumbias, boleros, rancheras, corridos, 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. Tours will highlight the founding of the "Fort" this year. 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!

Istari - The Legend of the Drum

Hear the legend of the first musical instrument...the drum. After the human voice, the drum became the most important musical instrument for dance, communication, and entertainment. Istari World Percussion will be in authentic African costumes as they demonstrate drums and percussion instruments from around the world! Ancient and modern rhythms and come try the Caxixi from Brazil, the Djun Djun from West Africa, and the Zils from the Middle East! Come listen and dance the New Year in with Istari!

Japanese Taiko by Toni

Powerful Taiko drumming, centuries old and rich with cultural tradition thunder through First Night for the first time. Enjoy music from the other side of the world as the drums and bamboo flute take the audience through traditional Japanese folksongs, contemporary compositions and a Japanese lullaby mixed with American Jazz.

Jon Gates Yo Yo Show

Nearly every culture in the world has their version of the Spin Top, Yo-Yo and other spinning toys and Jon Gates has mastered almost all of them. Come see this highly entertaining show from the National and World Spin Top champion and see Yo-Yos from around the world in action!

Kids' Countdown

Located in Old Town Square at the stage, this event kicks off the whole evening at 5:00pm. Confetti will go flying, and the talented Beth Epley performs The Rising Curtain Show, leading children in song, telling stories, improvisational games, and playing high-energy interactive music with the children. There will be instruments for the children to play and of course confetti for all to kick off the evening's events.

Masonic Lodge Event Center

First Night Fort Collins is pleased to be able to partner with the Fort Collins Masons in the use of their historic gem, The Masonic Event Center. Be sure to visit their museum where you can learn ancient secrets of the Masons! Also showing at the Masonic Event Center this year, face painting by Best Face Painter, Debut Theater Company's *Totally Red*, Fale- African Dance & Drumming, Grupo Tlaloc Aztec Dance and the Wild & Zany Family Comedy Show.

Meet the "stars" of the show! Discovery Science Center Star Lab Planetarium:

Come to the Star Lab Planetarium to see the real "stars" of the show! Blast off on a journey through the universe in our Star Lab hearing stories about our constellations and skies! 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 or New Year's Eve crafts while you wait, limited seating is available.)

New Year's Eve Crafts

Come write your own resolution or create your own New Year's craft project. Stop by the Fort Collins Mennonite Church to warm your toes, see a show and surround yourself with creativity. New Year's Eve Crafts is a "drop-in" event, no schedule restrictions.

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 and the magicians behind the effects. Chris Angel, Harry Houdini, Harry Blackstone are just some of the masters to be celebrated tonight as the Presto-Digitators perform escapes, mindreading and sawing a woman in half! The show will feature feats of conjuring, prestidigitation, and mind-blowing illusion!

Puppets Revealed

Yes, YOU can let the show begin. This show not only entertains but you will learn about three forms of puppetry. Easy Ventriloquism, mime puppetry and translation. You get a chance to learn and be able to put on your own show by the end! So come "Let your Show Begin!"

Rattlesnake Jake - Cowboy Show

The one and only Rattlesnake Jake performs this fun filled cowboy music show. Jake entertains audiences with guitar, accordion, sign-along songs as he spins funny tales of life on the ranch with rope tricks, cowboy jokes and heaps of fun!

Science Matters Show

Come ring in the New Year at the Science Circus. Play *Science Shuffle*, discover *Burning Water*, see the *Exploding Pringles Can* and much, much more. Start the New Year with a scientific bang. Science really matters!

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!

Sventastic Circus Extravaganza

Stop Time Begin. Life is the greatest show on Earth and you are the star! That's the message in this action packed extravaganza from one-man circus mastermind Sven Jorgensen as he continues his tradition of premiering new shows at First Night Fort Collins. Featuring a wide array of circus arts, this show will amaze, amuse and inspire audiences of all ages. Stop Time Begin; living your dream starts now.

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 Show

Let the show begin with music and laughter as comedy ventriloquist duo Wayne and Wingnut take the stage. Have big fun as you soar with laughter on a ride through Wayne's imagination with puppet characters, life-sized puppets, original comedy/music and loads of fun!

Wild and Zany Family Comedy Show

The entire family will enjoy this fun comedy show with performer extraordinaire Bryce Jackman! Come join in the fun and become part of the show that is perfect for all ages from the youngest to Grandma and Grandpa. Come see juggling, balloons and laugh your socks off!

Discover Downtown

Avogadro's Number

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Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream

Ben & Jerry's Scoop Shop is located in the center of the First Night festivities. Since 1996 we have scooped the only Super Premium in Fort Collins. We are locally owned and operated. Come in and warm up with our 98¢ coffee, killer hot chocolates, fresh baked muffins, and 35 flavors of ice cream, frozen yogurt or sorbet! Happy New Year!

Global Village Museum

The Global Village Museum of Arts and Cultures offers the people of Fort Collins the chance to visit a place which highlights our connections to the world, and informs learners of all ages about our amazing planet. Join us for "Tibet: Rooftop of the World", a view into a rich and secluded culture that is not usually accessed by people outside of China. Our folk art in miniature and tribal and indigenous art galleries are sure to enthuse as well.

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!

Juiced on Imagination

Wishes on the Wind was inspired by the practice and theme of Tibetan Prayer flags that are designed to spread wishes and blessings across the environment and the people. We will be conducting an open house atmosphere with face painting and "make it-take it" projects. We invite guests to create their own Hope Flags and Blessing stones, join in the creation of a collaborative installation piece where the visitor can weave their wish throughout the work of art. We hope that you all will join us in wishing all a New Year.

Savory Spice Shop

Savory Spice Shop provides 400 freshly ground and hand blended herbs and spices to people who enjoy cooking and eating. First Night samples of easy, tasty treats will be available. Stop by and enjoy a taste of the world!

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!