

De's Dazzles

July 2021 – Hidden Gem

Moana Jr, our youth musical was a huge success in many ways. As I watched the show take shape during rehearsals, I was awestruck! When an eighth grader has the patience to help a second grader find their spot; when one spills water, another cleans it up; when friendships are formed with people from other communities; when an actor asks for suggestions from the director after a rehearsal to better themselves; when confidence blossoms in a child; when respect is given for each other; when actors faces light up with joy for a job well done, and the list of positive experiences makes being a part of the arts very rewarding and worthwhile.

I am delighted that attendees at our Moana Jr. performances came from many Iowa locations: Bedford, Casey, Cedar Rapids, Clive, Creston, Centerville, Chariton, Delhi, Des Moines, Emerson, Glenwood, Imogene, Indianola, Johnston, Lenox, Moravia, Mt Ayr, Newton, Nodaway, Omaha, Pella, Prescott, Red Oak, Sergeant Bluff, Shenandoah, Stanton, Treynor, Villisca, and Winterset. Other states represented were Arizona, California, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Utah. I am saddened that Corning only had about 10% of the audience.

I recently gave tours to people from three different states. A tour contains stories of Corning history, theater history, architecture, restoration process, current events and advocating for the arts and Adams County. These people were stunned to learn that Adams County is only about 5% of our normal show attendance and rentals. One tour group said we have a “diamond in the rough” and another well-travelled couple from Maine said that “in the Corning Opera House they had found the best hidden gem ever!” I would encourage you to bring your family or friends to a tour.

The arts improve mental health, well-being, spark creativity, have a positive social impact, improve academics, strengthen the economy, and generate revenue for our Main Street. I would encourage you to try something different, meet new people, relieve some stress, and attend one of our award-winning shows which come from across the United States. Make it a date night, or maybe the grandparents can show the grandkids the music they enjoyed or invite your co-workers. The arts unify communities, let us start in Corning and Adams County.

God Bless America,

De Heaton, Executive Director

www.CorningOperaHouse.com.