



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

September 24 - October 22

El Paso County reading program celebrates fifth anniversary

Pikes Peak Library District reveals 2006 selection

Pikes Peak Library District announced the 2006 All Pikes Peak Reads Friday: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Readers of all ages in El Paso County will be encouraged to read the Library's selected book by author Lewis Carroll.

"We wanted to select a book for our fifth anniversary that would have all of the project's key elements – great literary value, interesting topics for discussion at all ages, exciting potential for translation to the stage – and also lend itself to a fantastic celebration," said Dee Vazquez, PPLD Community Relations Officer.

This year, readers will experience the adventures of some of the most fantastic characters in literature – the Ugly Duchess, the Mad Hatter, the weeping Mock Turtle, the Queen of Hearts, and the Cheshire Cat in the nonsensical and humorous satire of rigid Victorian society. The story also takes us on a journey through the fears, anxieties, and complexities of growing up. Alice's stories continue to delight readers and to excite the responses of psychoanalysts, philosophers, mathematicians, linguists, historians, and many others. The Library District has selected a version of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* that includes the original illustrations by John Tenniel. Books will be available for check out now through the formal project in the fall, and beyond. Book discussion materials are also under development.

The month-long program, which will begin September 24, is a community wide effort to improve literacy and foster dialogue across social, cultural, and generational lines. Book discussion groups, children's programs and games, film screenings, and other captivating events based on themes selected from the book will be offered at the Library and other community sites.

Now in its fifth year, the program continues to capture the interest and imagination of a variety of readers. All Pikes Peak Reads was one of Colorado's first community-wide reading programs, and sets itself apart from other one-book programs around the country by incorporating an original adaptation of the book for the stage. Also unique to the program are curriculum guides that encourage participation in the classroom. Last year's project, featuring *Tales From the Arabian Nights*, reached more than 50,000 students and thousands more adults, far exceeding expectations of project founders.

ALL PIKES PEAK READS



Past selections include: *The Arabian Nights Entertainments*, edited by Andrew Lang (2005), Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* (2004), Marry Shelley's *Frankenstein* (2003), and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (2002).

THEATREWORKS at UCCS will partner with the Library for the fifth consecutive year, and will once again host *The Flying Machine*, the New York theater company that brought its talents to the APPR 2002 production of *Frankenstein*. That performance went on to a run off-Broadway and great acclaim. The two companies will produce an original adaptation of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* for APPR 2006 programming. Performances, which begin September 27, will be held in the Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater at UCCS.

For the third year, the Manitou Arts Theater will create a theatrical adaptation for children. The MAT's version of *Tales From the Arabian Nights* entertained more than 5,400 people in 2005, including school audiences and library patrons. Schools and organizations will have the opportunity to host the 2006 production as well, which will also be staged at the Business of Arts Center in Manitou and libraries throughout the community.

Pikes Peak Community College has also partnered on the project for a number of years, providing rich cultural offerings related to the featured novel. The contributions of partner organizations are critical to the success of All Pikes Peak Reads.

"Our patrons and the community as a whole have benefited from the creativity and commitment of so many organizations in the community that provide volunteers, programming, and promotions for APPR activities," said Vazquez.

New this year is a juried art competition. Artists age 18 and older are invited to contribute original poster art based on the book selection. Individuals can submit up to three works for consideration by a panel of local judges. The winning entry will be reproduced on APPR promotions throughout 2006. Finalists will have their works displayed in PPLD library art galleries this fall. More details will be available at ppld.org.

Poster art for THEATREWORKS was designed by Alan Flinn, a freelance illustrator with more than 20 years experience. A lifelong resident of Colorado Springs, his clients include Scholastic Books, Houghton Mifflin, Macmillian McGraw-Hill, and Sterling Publications.

Funding support for the project is critical as well. This year's Read is presented by *The Gazette*. Additional sponsorships are being finalized, and partnerships will include local bookstores, Pikes Peak Community College, The Colorado College, public and private schools, and various community centers.

A complete schedule of events related to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* will be published this fall in *The Gazette* and other local publications and on the Library's website at ppld.org.

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