

# WYOMING SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL COMPANY

*Performs the Classics*



Organized in 1999 by Artistic Director Diane Springford, the Wyoming Shakespeare Festival Company (WSFC) formed for two reasons: to provide Wyoming audiences with quality Shakespeare productions that introduce them to the classics; and giving Wyoming theatre majors and community actors experience with a touring company. The WSFC performs before thousands of spectators annually, and involves typically thirty to fifty actors in theatre productions every year.

The company's headquarters are located in Lander, although the company tours the state annually (see touring schedule, next page). WSFC is led by a six-member Board of Trustees, which is comprised mostly of art enthusiasts from the Lander area. The WSFC website, [www.wyomingshakespeare.com](http://www.wyomingshakespeare.com), lists the Wyoming organizations that partner with the company to assist in the production of their performances. Those listed are: Cheyenne Botanical Gardens, the Pinedale Fine Arts Council, Fremont County Library, Fremont County Museum at Dubois, Gillette College, Community Fine Arts Center of Rock Springs, Green River Fine Arts Council, Nicolaysen Art Museum, ARTCORE of Casper, the Wyoming State Honor Farm and the Wyoming Territorial Prison (among others).

WSFC performs Shakespeare's classics in all categories, including such well-known tragedies as *Romeo & Juliet* to comedies such as *As You Like It* and histories like *King John*. In addition, the company performs full-length Renaissance and contemporary pieces (see next page for 2010's feature, *Tartuffe* by Jean Baptiste Poquelin de Moliere). WSFC also operates the Shakespeare Summer Theatre Academy (for actors ages 6-13), and provides learning opportunities for students of all ages as well. The classes train students to use creative expression through artistic works; heighten critical thinking skills; teach how to incorporate artistic works into one's daily life; and teach students how to place artistic works into a historical and cultural context. Working with others to create a production also inspires hard work, determination and discipline, as well as team work. ([www.wyomingshakespeare.com](http://www.wyomingshakespeare.com))

*Photos provided by Wyoming Shakespeare Festival Company*



WSFC on their upcoming production of Summer 2010, "Tartuffe":

"Summer 2010 Wyoming Shakespeare Festival Company rides again, touring the state; June 27th-July 29th, presenting Jean Baptiste Poquelin de Moliere's irrepressible comedy Tartuffe. Written in the 17th century, fifty years after the death of William Shakespeare, Tartuffe is a soap opera depicting a middle class family whose household head, Orgon, like Shakespeare's King Lear, has withdrawn feeling from those around him; straining or breaking all natural bonds of love. The reason? Like many another middle aged man, he has been alarmed by his failing powers and authority. He compensates by adopting extreme religious severity. He comes under the influence of Tartuffe, a wily opportunist who imposes upon Orgon by a pretense of sanctity and is soon established in their home as honored guest, spiritual guide and moral censor. The play Tartuffe is high satiric theater, precisely constructed, like a Mozart opera, to make audiences delight in stepping into a world where everyone speaks in rhyming verse and shamelessly acts out the ridiculous. What is more, it has a rainbow happy ending.

Visit WSFC online:

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Diane Springford, Director



## WYOMING SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL COMPANY PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE "TARTUFFE"

June 27	CASPER Nicolaysen Art Museum 1:00 pm
June 30	LANDER Lander City Park 6:00 pm
July 7	LANDER Lander City Park 6:00 pm
July 8	GILLETTE Gillette College 5:00 pm
July 10	CHEYENNE Cheyenne Botanic Garden 5:00 pm
July 14	LANDER Lander City Park 6:00 pm
July 15*	DUBOIS Dubois Museum 6:00 pm
July 17*	ROCK SPRINGS Bunning Park 6:00 pm
July 21	LANDER Lander City Park 6:00 pm
July 23	PINEDALE Pinedale City Park 6:00 pm
July 24	THERMOPOLIS Hot Springs State Park 6:00 pm
July 27*	RIVERTON Riverton Honor Farm 6:00 pm
July 28	LANDER Lander Library, Carnegie Room 6:00 pm

\* To Be Confirmed

