



The Peoples' Theatre

Dear Theatre Lover:

Several years back, I came across a wonderful quote from one of the Center's founders saying that the Morrison Center was intended to be "the peoples' theatre". That concept resonated with me and I wanted to take a moment to share with you my thoughts on this important part of our mission.

Ranked as the number one university presenter in the nation for its size, the Morrison Center is a major destination for arts, culture and world-class entertainment. Currently, in a given year, as many as 130,000 patrons will pass through our doors for approximately 200 events. Patrons come from every major town in Idaho, but also from around the nation. Our performers and their production crews come from all over the world. With such a large sampling represented, it is understandable that our programs vary widely. We strive to have something for everyone, not just by providing a diverse offering of programs, but also via access and opportunity through varying pricing and arts education initiatives. A true peoples' theatre cannot present or host only one type of art form; it must strive to provide many artistic opportunities and viewpoints in order to enrich lives and challenge sensibilities.

This mission leads to providing both traditional programs and new and exciting live performances. What form these take is not always easily defined, nor should it be filtered or censored. Both have their place and their audience. Given that, I am amazed by the volume of positive feedback we receive from our constituents regarding our programs. It should also be recognized that we receive constructive criticism on a regular basis. We appreciate all feedback. Your input helps us to provide the best service and programs we can on a consistent basis.

While we strive to present something for everyone, not every show is for everyone. Unlike the movie industry, live performances have no formal rating system regarding their content. Advisories are provided by the performer or the show and not the venue that hosts the event. Whenever a content advisory is provided, the Morrison Center makes every effort to supply that information prominently at the point of sale. Please note that several of our programs this year include such advisories regarding mature or explicit content. Also note that these same performers or shows are leaders in their field, selling out theatres around the nation or world, and have received critical acclaim for their respective work. Ultimately though, it is up to each patron to research a show or performer to make sure it is right for them prior to purchase. Since not all shows have an advisory, the Center has added some general guidelines to its website. For more information visit: <http://www.MorrisonCenter.com>

It is said that the arts connect people to their community and others, while promoting civic engagement. The Center feels comfortable in that role. Our performances bring people together from all walks of life with all points of view, not only to experience the performance, but also in the form of over 400 volunteers providing over 19,000 hours of annual civic service. Like our nation, a true peoples' theatre is a living, breathing organism. We appreciate your ongoing patronage and participation in our exciting journey. Together, we are fulfilling the important role of creating a peoples' theatre for Idaho and beyond.

See you at the theatre!

James Patrick
Executive Director