

## All-youth musical ‘Giants in the Sky’ packs the house opening night

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It was standing room only for opening night of the Lighthouse Repository Theatre’s latest production, “Giants in the Sky.”

Lighthouse president David McPhail said the theater, at 1072 3rd St. and now in its 41st year, seats 54, but the headcount neared 60.

He had a feeling there would be a popular response to the group’s first all-children’s musical in two years. “Of course, all the parents came. But they brought all the family, too: aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters,” McPhail said.

To attract a larger audience, said McPhail, the production, which features 24 youths ranging in age from 8 to 13, really is appropriate for all ages.

This story features an exploration of what lies beyond the known, into the unknown. In this case, a world of giants who live above the clouds.

“It has an uplifting message,” McPhail said. “It teaches kids about being friends and the value of honesty.”

As the story unfolds, the audience learns that ever since they left Earth long ago, the giants have made a life keeping the sky beautiful. They polish the stars, poke the clouds to let out rain, and paint the sunsets.

Yet there’s one curious giant who wonders what life would be like on Earth. So, she steals a key to the locked-up “beanstalk” and embarks on an adventure down below the clouds.

Directed by Dan McGlasson and produced by Kurk Kurtis, the cast of “Giants in the Sky” features nearly all first-time actors. McPhail said this presented its challenges over the eight weeks of rehearsals, four days a week, in particular keeping the myriad sets of actors occupied while another set was learning their lines and songs.

To keep things simple, the actors suited up in various shades of colorful t-shirts, each representing a different faction within the giants’ community.

“My team is very well organized,” he said. “It went smoothly, especially with the help of choreographer Cassidy Chase and Maxine McKenny, who is stage manager.

“But with so many first-timers, I think it can be kind of exciting, too. Rehearsals can be tiring, but they were all so excited after opening night that they were ready to go at it again.”

Performances continue Aug. 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees Aug. 11 and 18.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults, and \$12 for students and seniors, with a \$55 family discount for a group of four people. Tickets are available at Del Norte Office Supply, 240 I St., or at the door if seating permits.