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Sohrweid takes his final bow with "Quilters"

Director, actor, set creator ends long career in mountain community with western musical

By **Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt**
YourHub Contributor

Opening night of the Evergreen Chorale's winter production of "Quilters" Feb. 17 marked the grand finale of the long and varied career of celebrated director Larry Sohrweid.

Sohrweid has been involved with Evergreen and metro Denver theater since 1978, working with 162 different shows. He has directed 30 musicals for the Evergreen Chorale, 18 for the Evergreen Children's Chorale, five for the Evergreen Players, 14 for Marshdale Elementary School and 12 chancel dramas for Evergreen Lutheran Church. Sohrweid has also performed as a cast member in 41 productions.

Sohrweid was the Center/Stage building manager for 11 years, and artist-in-residence



The cast of *Quilters*: Lara Sohrweid, Norika Zehnder, Shelley Krane, Elaine Sohrweid, Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt, Amanda Cyphers and Janice O Grady. John Gaudreau, YourHub Contributor

for Jefferson County Schools (mountain area) two different times. The Evergreen Chorale named him resident director in 2006, and the Evergreen Area Council for the Arts named him Person of the Year in 1999.

His artistic talent has also been seen in an astounding 149 different shows for which he designed, constructed, painted, decorated or worked in various combinations of these areas of set creation.



Larry Sohrweid

The shows Sohrweid has directed for the chorale have been as diverse as "Little Shop of Horrors," "My Fair Lady," "Nunsense" and "Fiddler on the Roof." Sohrweid's final show is a reprise of the musical "Quilters," which he staged in Evergreen in 1996. This unique Western musical premiered 30 years ago at the Denver Center Theater Company and received nominations for six Tony awards. The Evergreen Chorale production runs Fridays and Sat-

"It will be difficult to find someone to fill Larry's very large shoes, and we will miss him," said chorale Artistic Director Christine Gaudreau.

urdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through March 4. Tickets are \$21 for adults, \$17 for students and seniors, and \$14 for children 12 and younger. For more information or tickets, go to www.evergreenchorale.org or call 303-674-4002.

"Quilters," written by Barbara Damashek and Molly Newman, had a short run on Broadway in 1984, directed by Damashek, who also wrote the music and lyrics. The musical was nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The musical depicts the life story of Sarah, a stoic pioneer woman, and six women referred to as her daughters, as they face the challenges of frontier life in the American West.

Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt is a member of the Evergreen Chorale.