

COLLEGE AVENUE

Volume 18 | Issue 3 | Spring 2023
A Rocky Mountain Student Media Publication



Ace Gillett's Lounge

Where Music and Community
Flow from Underground

Funny You Mention That

A Closer Look at the
FoCo Comedy Scene

Behind the Curtain

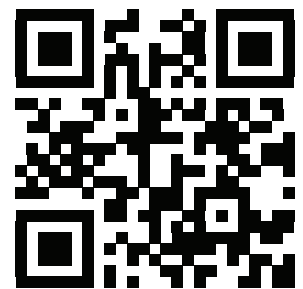
The Dedication and Passion
that Transforms the Theater



Transform an ordinary event into a memorable occasion.

At LSC Catering, we combine a team of talented specialists and professionals in a world-class facility. Our professional chefs manage dedicated student staff using the most contemporary tools in the region's most innovative kitchen space. Let LSC Catering help you develop a menu that meets both your personal preferences and budget. We utilize green products and locally-sourced foods when available.

Our Catering Coordinators are ready to advise you on menus, dietary needs, pricing, finishing touches, and more.



<https://lscatering.colostate.edu/>



LORY STUDENT CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Send us an email or give us a call to get connected with one of our Catering Coordinators today!
(970) 491-5332, lsc_catering@mail.colostate.edu

COLLEGE AVENUE

Editors

Kailey Pickering, Editor-in-Chief
Avery Coates, Multimedia Editor
Sasha Beran-Hughes, Visual Editor

Copy Editors

Holly Middleton
Annie Weiler

Contributors

Kailey Pickering
Hania Nini
Sasha Beran-Hughes
Cassidy DuFore Payne
Macy Taylor
Sterling Volz

Photography

Milo Gladstein
Gregory James
Sasha Beran-Hughes
Michael Marquardt
Grayson Reed
Sophie Stern

Design

Sasha Beran-Hughes
Kaylee Congdon
Tessa Glowacki
Charly Frank

Social Media

Sterling Volz

Advisor *(the man who made this possible)*
Jake Sherlock



@collegeavemag
collegeavemag.com

College Avenue Magazine

CSU Lory Student Center, Room 118
Fort Collins, CO 80523
(970) 938-1184
collegeavemag.com
editor@collegeavemag.com

Advertising Inquiries

advertising@collegian.com

Employment Opportunities

editor@collegeavemag.com



This publication is not an official publication of Colorado State University, but is published by an independent corporation. Approximately 59% of Rocky Mountain Student Media Corp's income is provided by the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCSU) for the purpose of fostering student careers post-college and greater campus awareness and engagement.



From Your Editors

The performing arts and entertainment in Fort Collins breathes magic into the air that draws people together and provides a space to gather and enjoy one another's company. Whether people gather at Ace Gillett's Lounge to hear live music, The Comedy Fort to get a good laugh, or The Lincoln Center to witness state-of-the-art performances, different spaces in Fort Collins provide escapes into different worlds where we all share an experience. Not only do communities like the Karaoke Club at The Lyric provide a space for people to gather and be themselves, but programs like Colorado State University's concentration in theater production train the future generation to create the worlds that we so often love to get lost in.

In this edition, we want to celebrate the variety of passions, dedication, and stories that the performing arts and entertainment venues in Fort Collins hold. We strive to highlight these unique communities and recognize the work and commitment that is invested by those in the community to make these a possibility. We hope that you will be swept away in the performing arts of Fort Collins.

Avery Coates
Multimedia Editor

Alexandra (Sasha)
Beran-Hughes
Visual Editor

Kailey Pickering
Editor-in-Chief

CONTENTS



ACE GILLETT'S LOUNGE	10
BEHIND THE CURTAIN	14
MEET THE STUDENTS	20
THE LINCOLN CENTER'S HISTORY	24
THE KARAOKE CLUB	30
FUNNY YOU MENTION THAT	34

Thank you for voting us
BEST PIZZA
for 13 years



KRAZY KARL'S
— P I Z Z A —

**BEST WEEKLY SPECIALS ON
FOOD & DRINK**

BEAT THE CLOCK

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS | 5-8PM

THE TIME YOU CALL IS THE PRICE OF YOUR
LARGE 1-TOPPING PIZZA

WE DELIVER!

1124 WEST ELIZABETH
970-224-2000

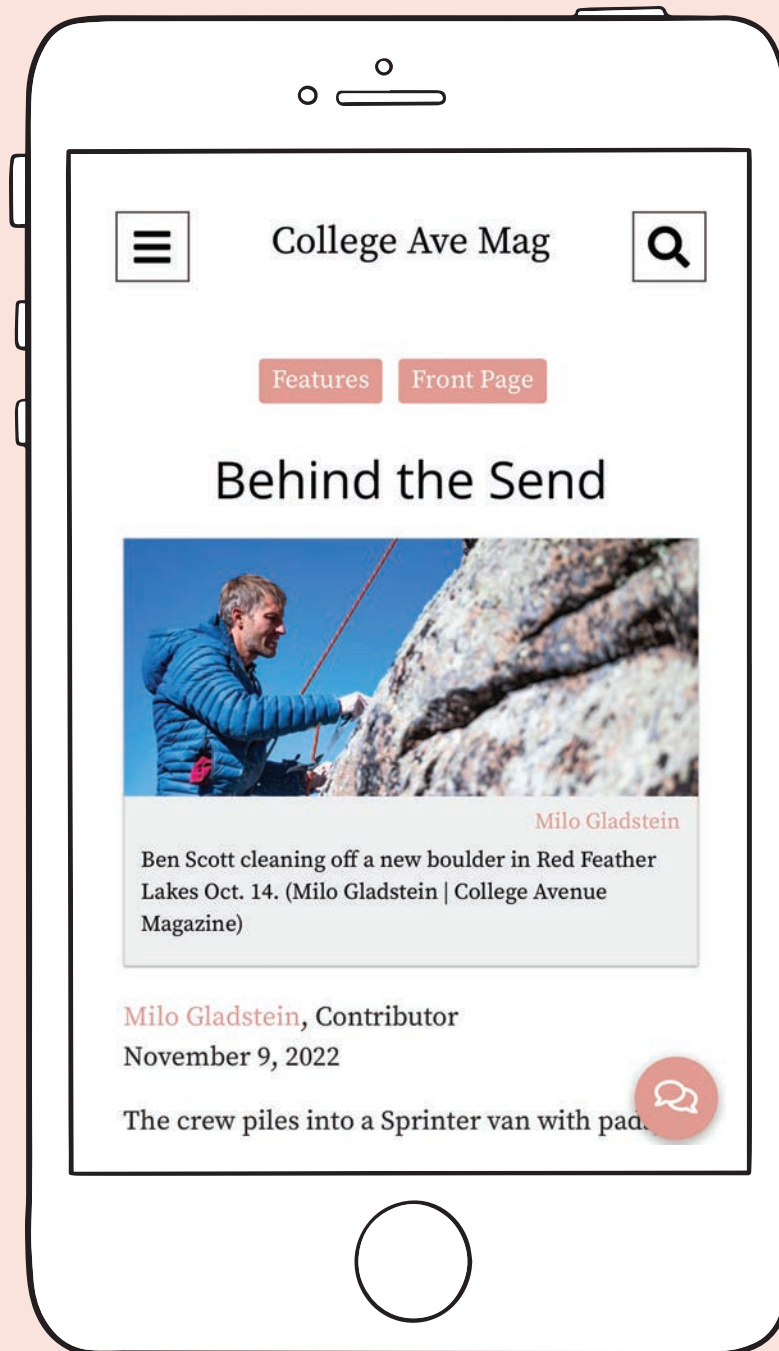
2620 S TIMBERLINE
970-223-8600

KRAZY BEER SPECIALS

krazykarlspizza.com

PROUD PARTNER WITH CSU ATHLETICS AND BUDWEISER EVENTS CENTER

*There's more to
this edition!*



Visit collegeavemag.com
for more College Avenue content

COLLEGE AVENUE



FORT COLLINS' ONE AND ONLY HIDDEN GEM
21+ REC/MED CANNABIS DISPENSARY

**PACK YOUR ESSENTIALS
HERE AT ACE'S**

WE HAVE OUR MASTERS IN BEING LIT



\$60 OUNCES TAX INCLUDED



**LOYALTY
REWARDS!**



**HUGE
SELECTION!**



GREAT PRICES!



DAILY DEALS

MUNCHIE MONDAY

BUY 2 EDIBLES
GET ONE
FOR 50% OFF

TWISTED TUESDAY

ALL NON-INFUSED
SINGLE JOINTS
50% OFF

WAXY WEDNESDAY

BUY 2G CONCENTRATE
GET THE 3RD 50% OFF

TERPY THURSDAY

CARTRIDGES AND
TOPICALS 15% OFF

FREAKY FRIDAY

PREMIUM 1/8TH
FOR \$20

SMOKIN' SATURDAY

PREMIUM PACKED
BUD 10% OFF

SAVIN' SUNDAY

BUY A PREMIUM
1/8TH GET 1G FOR \$1

(970) 472-5107 • ACESPLACEFOCO.COM
1101 ACADEMY CT #4, FORT COLLINS, CO 80524



WARNING: Overconsumption of Marijuana Concentrate may lead to Psychotic symptoms and/or Psychotic disorder, Mental Health Symptoms/Problems, Cannabis Hyperemesis (CHS), and Cannabis use disorder/dependence, including physical and psychological dependence.

BEST SOUTHSIDE DISPENSARY!



DAILY DEALS

MONDAY

10%
OFF

ALL EDIBLES

TUESDAY

20%
OFF

SENIORS/VETERANS

WEDNESDAY

10%
OFF

ALL CONCENTRATES

THURSDAY

10%
OFF

CARTRIDGES

FRIDAY

1 CENT
PRE-ROLL

W/\$60 PURCHASE

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

\$100 0Z
0Z NUGGS

SELECT STRAINS
ONLY

Price drop on flower!

Skip the Line!

PRE-ORDER ONLINE, PICK UP IN STORE

KINDCARE.CO



@kindcarecolorado
#KEEPCALM



@kindcarecolorado
#PASSITON

**6617 S. College
Avenue just south of
Trilby!**

970.568.8020





WashingtonsFoCo.com | (970) 232-9525

132 LaPorte Ave Fort Collins, CO

SUPPORTING LIVE AND LOCAL MUSIC IN DOWNTOWN FORT COLLINS

ARMORY

**THE ARMORY, 314 EAST MOUNTAIN AVE.
DOWNTOWN FORT COLLINS**

ARMORYFOCO.COM

ACE GILLETT'S *Lounge*

WHERE MUSIC AND COMMUNITY FLOW FROM UNDERGROUND

By Sasha Beran-Hughes

Photos by Sophie Stern



As one descends the stairs into the basement of The Armstrong Hotel, they begin to hear the swell of music in their ears. They then enter a dimly-lit lounge filled with ornate furniture, chandeliers, vinyl records, and neon signs. As they enter the main dining area, they come to realize that the music isn't coming from a speaker, but rather live musicians.

Ace Gillett's Lounge has been a part of The Armstrong Hotel since 2010, and was named after Ace Gillett; a previous owner of the hotel. Each week, from Wednesday through Sunday, Ace Gillett's hosts live musicians who play all sorts of music such as jazz, folk, blues, and even 80's. These performances transform the community and atmosphere of the lounge entirely. "It just sets the tone; it sets the base if you will," Samantha Garoutte, a manager at Ace Gillett's, says. "Whether it's just even kind of background music, or if people are sitting in, they are here solely for entertainment. They're a huge heartbeat and backbone to the magic of Ace Gillett's."

Marion Powers and Paul Falk are frequent performers at Ace Gillett's. The pair enjoy working together because, "The dual aspect allows for a lot of communication and makes it a lot of fun actually" Powers says. Falk is a high school choir director and teaches vocal jazz at University of Colorado Boulder. Powers is a vocal jazz teacher at the University of Northern Colorado, as well as an ensemble director. The two enjoy playing at Ace Gillett's because, "They (Ace Gillett's) really enjoy what music brings to the club," Falk says. "It's very cool to see the different energy that happens in the room when the music is different. But yeah, the people here are really awesome." Ace Gillett's is a wonderful hub for not only hotel guests, but the musicians who perform there and a lot of people around Fort Collins as well.





(First page) Marion Powers sings alongside Paul Falk who plays the piano at Ace Gillett's Lounge in Old Town Fort Collins Feb 4.

(Previous top) The Ace Gillett's bar shelves are filled with different brands, flavors, and types of spirits Feb. 4. Ace Gillett's offers a variety of spirits, wines, and handcrafted cocktails.

(Previous left) Marion Powers sings alongside Paul Falk at Ace Gillett's Lounge in Old Town Fort Collins Feb 4.

(Previous right middle) Paul Falk plays the piano at Ace Gillett's Lounge in Old Town Fort Collins Feb 4.

(Previous right bottom) Marion Powers sings at the Ace Gillett's Lounge, Feb 4.



(Above) The bar at Ace Gillett's Lounge Feb. 4. Ace Gillett's located below The Armstrong Hotel (259 S College Ave, Fort Collins) serves handcrafted cocktails and food menus hosting live music and spinning vinyl.

(Left middle) A bartender at the Ace Gillett's Lounge tops a drink off with a slice of grapefruit Feb. 4.

(Left bottom) A wall of records decorates the Ace Gillett's bar along with a neon sign and chandeliers over the booths Feb. 4.

TRIBAL RITES



20% OFF
JEWELRY
\$50 AND UNDER



PIERCINGS • JEWELRY • TATTOOS

970.221.9712 • 628 S.COLLEGE AVE. • TRIBALRITESTATTOO.COM

VOTED BEST TATTOO/PIERCING 20+ YEARS

BEHIND THE CURTAIN:

THE DEDICATION AND PASSION THAT TRANSFORMS THE THEATER

By Kailey Pickering

Photos by Milo Gladstein

The auditorium fills with excitement as audience members trickle in. Conversations brew as anticipation for the show builds. Soon the lights go down and chatter in the auditorium ceases as all attention is directed toward the spotlight and the velvet curtain it illuminates.

As the curtain lifts, a new world materializes with a detailed set and intricate costumes that transport the audience to another dimension. Lights illuminate the intricate set as performers appear in detailed costumes and the sound immerses the audience into the scene before them. The pieces of a puzzle are put in place to transport the audience to another world.

What the audience doesn't see are the months of planning, collaboration, and dedication that has amounted to this moment of transformation.

The Colorado State University Center for the Arts, located at 1400 Remington St., bustles with production as students prepare for upcoming performances. Students can major in a Bachelor of Arts in Theater while pursuing a concentration in a specific area of production. Specific production concentrations include scenic design and technology; lighting design and technology; projection design and technology; sound design and technology; and costume design and technology. Students from all of these departments come together to transform a stage into a new, immersive world for performances.

The process of creating this world begins the semester before a show opens. Students from each department have six design meetings to collaborate on the show. As each department puts in research and imagination into set ideas, they come together in meetings, where ideas begin to shift and change.

"You never know where your design will take a turn," Erin Carignan, assistant professor of costume design and technology, says. Carignan explains how seeing another designer's idea can spark new ideas for creators, and plans can alter based on the people working together.

While ideas can flourish through teamwork, there are also aspects that designers may have to sacrifice in order to create a cohesive world. "You have to be able to properly communicate what you want, but you also have to be flexible in letting something slide and you know, some things have to go," explains Maddie Engeman, student costume designer pursuing a concentration in costume design and technology.

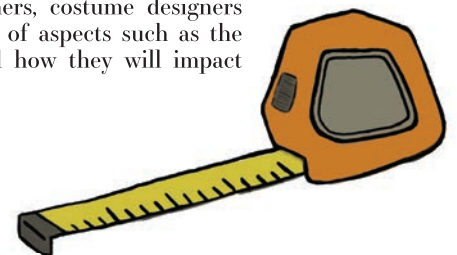
The collaboration process in the department generates ideas that create a show's world while fostering flexibility, communication, and teamwork in students. "It's kind of fun to see where you're all collaborating on one thing, but you all have your own thing at the same time," says Thomas Ray, student scenic carpenter and designer pursuing a concentration in scenic design and technology.

After forming a solid design, the work is taken to each department's workshop where the ideas begin to become real. "Our job is to make them [ideas] happen...to make them look great," Ray says, who works in the scenic shop.

In addition to working together in the design process, working with performers is essential, especially in costume design. Designers strive to make costumes that not only bring the set to life, but are comfortable for performers.

"I had to be able to make sure that every single person was comfortable, and also dressed as an individual, and supported the (story of the) show," Kayleigh Owen says. Owen is a student costume designer and Hair and Make-Up work-study student majoring in theater with a concentration in costume design and technology.

While everyone is striving to support the narrative of the developing story, they are also ready to adjust their work to support every department in coming together. In addition to working with performers, costume designers also have to be aware of aspects such as the effects of lighting and how they will impact





the appearance of actors' costumes. Through aspects like this, students learn not only to be aware of their specific focus, but to also consider other areas of production.

Illustrations by
Charly Frank

As students in the program strive to create elements such as costumes, sets, lighting, and sound that support the world they are creating, they encounter challenges and learning curves as they go. Engeman remembers the excitement and the intensity while creating her first designs for the production of *She Kills Monsters*. Engeman describes how she put in hours of work to make the designs come to life, then more hours on top of that to prepare for issues like costumes breaking on set. Nevertheless, she enjoyed the process, even though it came with high stress. "It's kind of like climbing a 14er, you're like, oh my God, I never want to do that again," Engeman says. "And then the next one rolls around, and you're like, OK, let's do it."

While professors in theater production are available to help, they encourage students to design and produce the show, creating an environment where it's safe to make mistakes and learn from them. The theater production programs at CSU allow students to take the lead on the design of shows.

"I like to spot the errors and not say anything about it until I really have to," Roger Hanna, associate professor in set design, says. Hanna explains that when students make mistakes and realize it on their own, they learn more from the experience. He describes how one student with a concentration in lighting once chose the wrong size of lights for a show. The student had the lights hung and then realized his mistake after all of the barrels had been



hung. While he made a mistake, he had done it in an environment where it was safe to do so and could easily be fixed. Hanna explains that it is better to make these mistakes now, as students, instead of on the job.

"We're really honing in on trying to get the students' skill sets to improve," Elise Kulovany, costume shop manager, says. Kulovany explains that while the skill set is important, the staff at CSU wants to make sure that students are enjoying what they do.

In a space where mistakes are often made, students are immersed in a learning environment where a variety of skills are gained, whether it's in design, lighting, sewing, creating a set, or setting up sound. As they become better equipped with these skills, students are able to make their visions come alive and transform the stage. "What I love about costumes is that immersive element that I feel ... flips the switch for a lot of people to really bring them into that world and bring them into that character," Engeman says.

Shows open with costumes immersing the performers into their characters, a set that transports the audience to a new place, lights that illuminate the story, and audio design pulling the audience into its own world, reflecting the dedication students have invested into its production. Each component created by students comes together to elevate performances to their highest potential. The cohesive world created is a reflection of the months of students' hard work, dedication, and passion. After dedicating themselves to the show while balancing their studies, students are able to see the whole thing come together as the show opens. "It's pretty exciting because when everything comes together... the lights and the costume and you're creating a world... you don't think of it as my design, as you think about it as our show," Owen says.

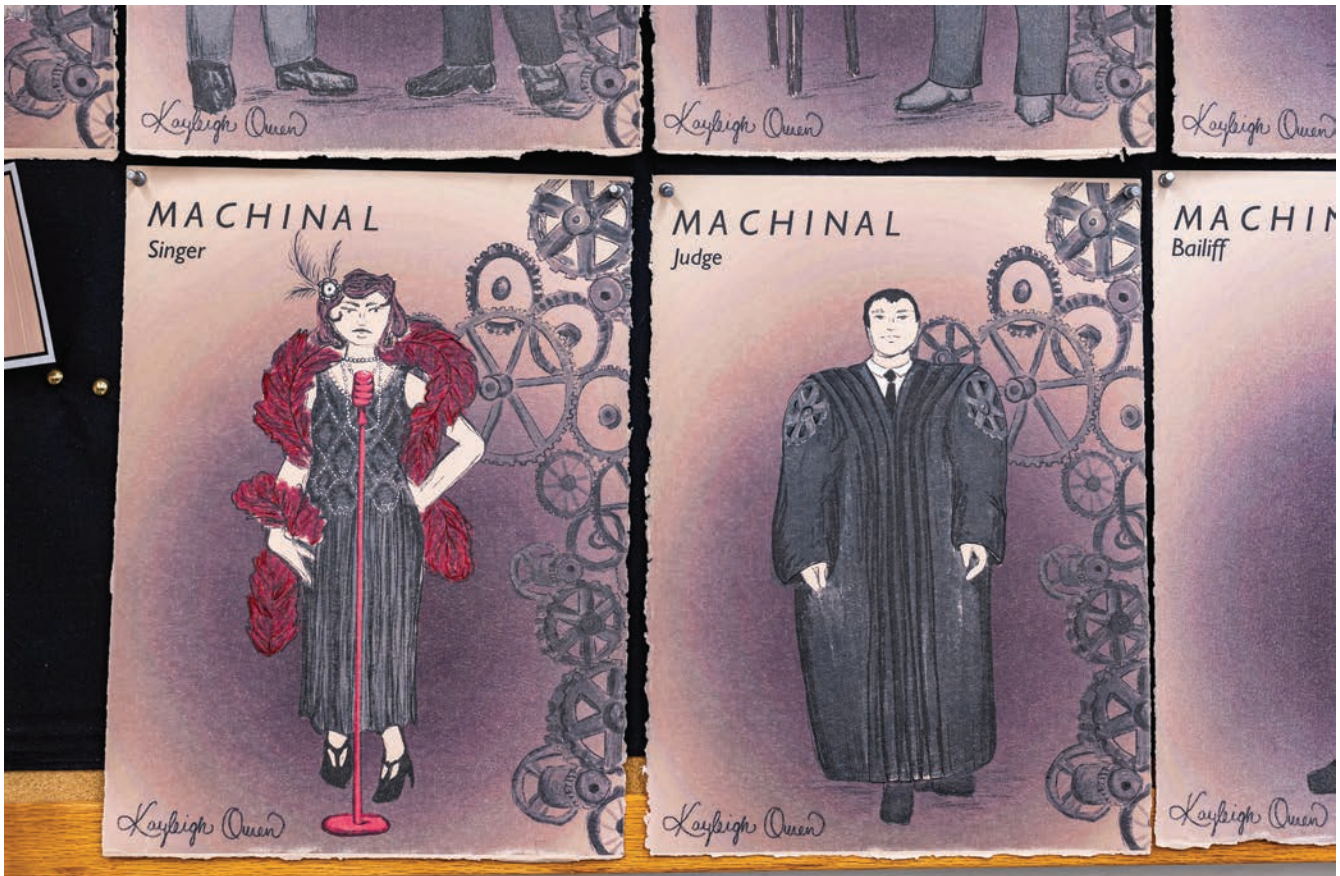
(Left) Maddie Engeman inside the costume design shop at Colorado State University Feb. 1.

(Next top left) Sewing machine inside the costume design shop at Colorado State University Feb. 1.

(Next top right) Rebecca Evans working inside the costume design shop at Colorado State University Feb. 1.

(Next bottom) Student designs inside the costume design shop at Colorado State University Feb. 1.

"You have to be able to properly communicate what you want, but you also have to be flexible in letting something slide and you know, some things have to go," explains Maddie Engeman



Hello there!

For those of you who want to add a little jazz to your inbox, our staff at College Avenue would like to humbly request that you step - or dance if that's more your style - on over to our website and sign up for our newsletter. From there, we will deliver our best stories to you that will have you feeling hungry, adventurous, inspired, and just in an all around good mood. Come kick it with us at College Ave. You won't be disappointed!

COLLEGEAVEMAG.COM



WILBUR'S TOTAL BEVERAGE WINE & SPIRITS

Best Liquor Store 7 Years in a row.



- Featuring more than 10,000 wines, spirits and beers
- Excellent customer service with trained Cicerone and Sommelier on hand in any department
- Weekly featured specials Thursday through Sunday
- Curbside pickup and delivery



2201 South College | 970-226-8662

ORDER ONLINE AT WILBURSTOTALBEVERAGE.COM. WE DELIVER



*THE PERFORMERS THAT TAKE
PART IN CSU'S MUSIC AND
DANCE PROGRAMS*

MEET
THE
STUDENTS

LEAH DUNPHEY

Photo by Sasha Beran-Hughes

Leah Dunphey is a junior concentrating in music education at Colorado State University. She grew up with music being part of her vocabulary, since her mom was a successful musician as well. Dunphey began piano lessons and singing when she was two years old and started playing French horn in sixth grade. Since then she's played around the country and internationally during her high school and college years. She has also been a part of the Colorado All State Orchestra. She currently performs with the CSU Orchestra, and the CSU Wind Symphony. She is performing in her own recital this semester as well. "I love the sound of the music," Dunphey says. "I love the feel of it. I love the process of learning it and refining it and building community with the people around you and that it's such a group effort. You can't play a symphony by yourself."



THOMAS RAFTIS

Photo by Cassidy DuFore Payne

Thomas Raftis is a 22-year-old singer, songwriter, and musician graduating from Colorado State University in May of 2023. He fell in love with playing the guitar, piano, and singing at an early age. However, his high school experience pushed him further away from music, "Most of my friends back home were only into sports so I didn't spend much time singing or playing instruments," Raftis says.

Moving from California to Colorado to pursue his degree in communications made him realize that he should push himself toward his dream. In Raftis' words, "I just kind of realized, I have control over what my life can be like in the future." Raftis has original songs on Spotify and SoundCloud and has performed at open mics at Lirano Wine Bar, located off of Horsetooth on Mitchell Drive in Fort Collins. He hopes to continue pursuing music as a hobby in the future. In Raftis' words, "I just kind of realized, I have control over what my life can be like in the future."



KRISTOPHER USREY

Photo courtesy of Kristopher Usrey

Kristopher Usrey is a double major in trumpet performance and psychology. He began playing the trumpet in sixth grade and pursued the instrument to Colorado State University, where he performs in University concerts. Usrey also performs with the Flatirons Jazz Orchestra in Boulder as well as with the Longmont Symphony Orchestra. "I think what makes me really enjoy playing is the people that I meet, and also, surprisingly, the lessons that I learn that apply to basically everything outside of trumpet," Ursey says. Ursey plans to pursue a therapy license after graduating in 2025 and continue playing the trumpet on the side.

AYO DERBYSHIRE

Photo courtesy of Ayo Derbyshire

Growing up in a musical family, Ayo Derbyshire found his passion for the French horn, "There's not a lot of opportunities for people to express themselves in such unique ways," Derbyshire says. "There's just so many different feelings and moods that I get to play." Derbyshire started playing brass instruments when he was a toddler. From youth orchestras to playing at Denver concert halls, Derbyshire showcases his talent among other performers. As a first-year graduate student at Colorado State University majoring in music with a concentration in horn performance, Derbyshire dreams of a full-time professional orchestra and the opportunity to teach others. Listeners can find Derbyshire locally in Fort Collins at The Lincoln Center after browsing tickets online.





JALEN THOMPSON

Photo courtesy of Jalen Thompson

Jalen Thompson, a junior at Colorado State University, is a music major with a concentration in music composition. He plays percussions and is in the percussion ensemble at CSU. He is in the wind symphony and sometimes performs in the orchestra. He performs during the concert season from mid-February to the end of April. Thompson also writes music for other people. His favorite part of the performing arts is the interaction with the public and the musicians on stage. He would like to get his masters and doctorate degrees to teach at a university, or study Ethnomusicology, the study of other cultures' music and views of it.

ALY REETZ

Photo courtesy of Aly Reetz

Aly Reetz, a freshman, has danced since she was three years old. She competed in all sorts of styles like ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary dance. When she came to Colorado State University she wanted to make sure that she was able to keep on pursuing her passion, even without being a dance major.

She found the perfect spot to do this through CSU's department of dance. "It gave me a really good sense of community and I felt connected to the dance world...it's a really fun way to get involved especially if you are a first year on campus," Reetz says. She is currently a data science major with a concentration in computer science. In the future she hopes to reduce the environmental impact of companies by analyzing data and interpreting it to make more environmentally ethical decisions.

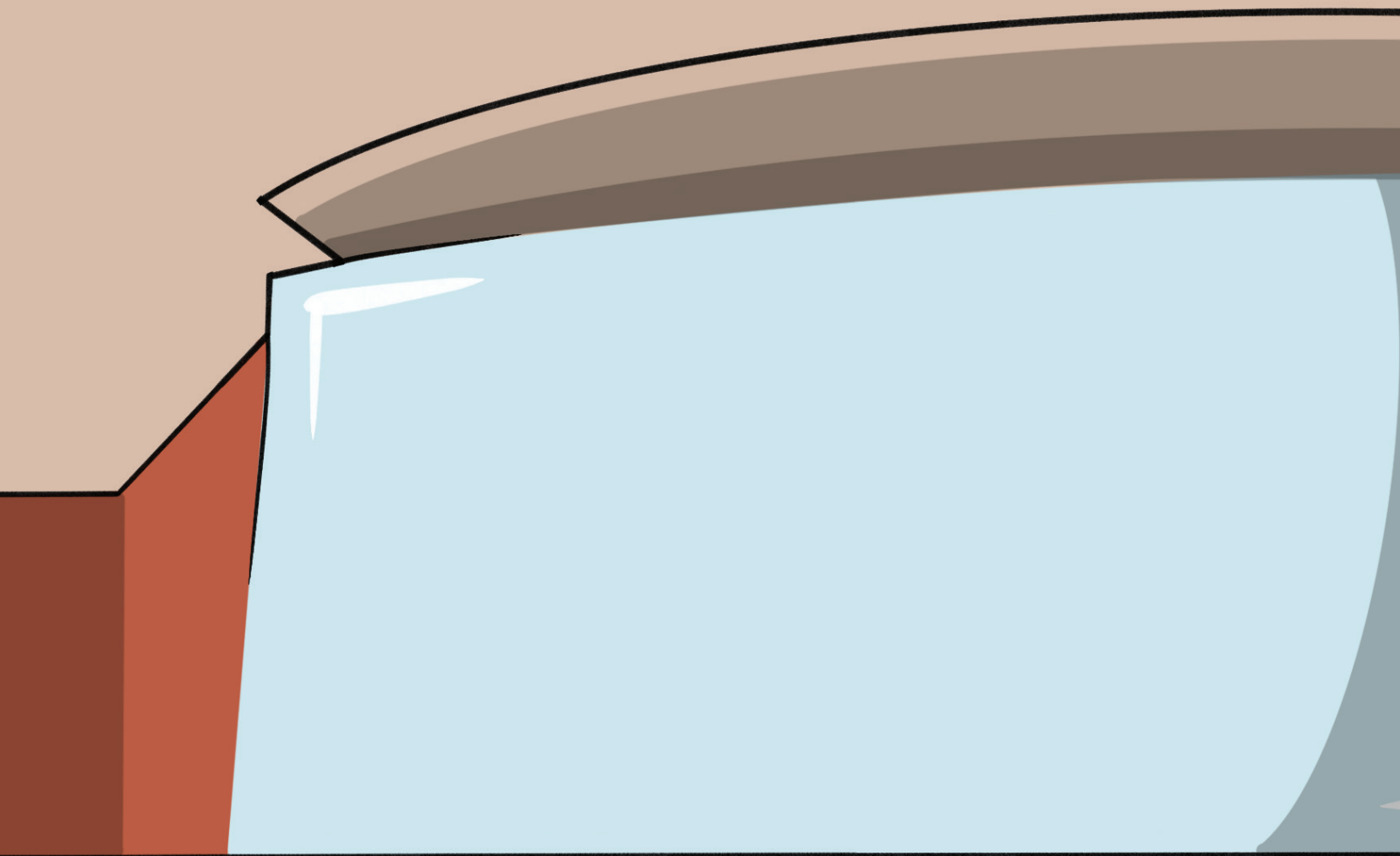


Home of
the Arts:

THE LINCOLN CENTER'S HISTORY

By Hania Nini

Illustrations by Tessa Glowacki



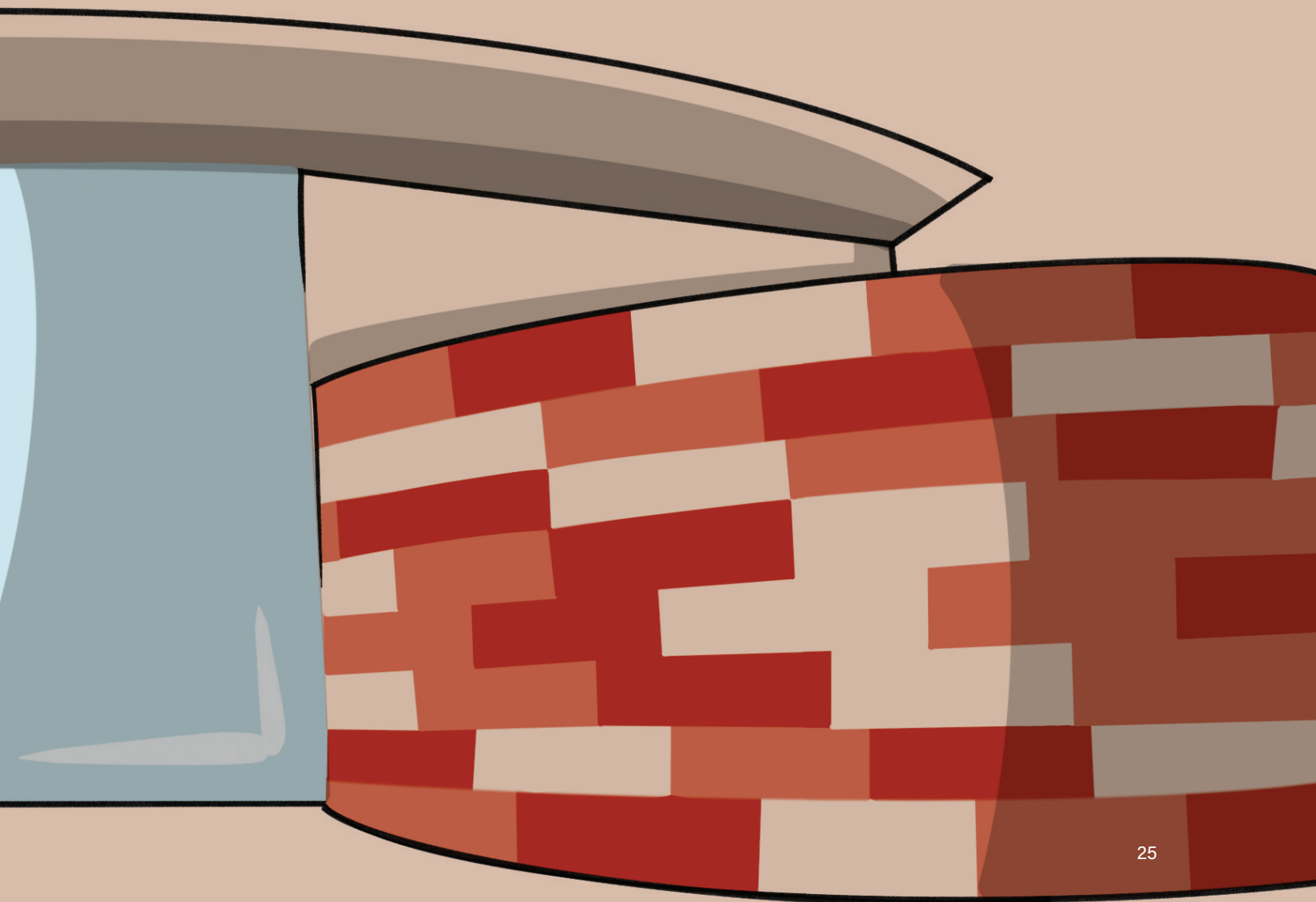
The Lincoln Center in Fort Collins boasts a distinct historical background. Between its grand stage and adorned halls, it symbolizes the merging of artists, patrons, and community in the celebration of the arts. The cultural center is home to over 300 musicals, dance shows, concerts, and comedy shows every year, making it one of the busiest art centers in Northern Colorado. It provides a space for the arts and brings the community together.


Before The Lincoln Center's opening in 1978, Fort Collins groups didn't perform often, and when they did, it was often in front of small audiences with poor acoustics. Access to more professional touring productions was almost nonexistent. Some viewed Fort Collins as a boring town during this time, according to The Lincoln Center archives.

Before becoming the well-known cultural center that it is today, The Lincoln Center was originally a high school, built in 1903. According to the Fort Collins archives website, this school later became Lincoln Junior High School.

According to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, in the fall of 1975, Fort Collins Mayor Karl Carson made plans to turn the Lincoln Junior High School building into what we know today as The Lincoln Center. They sought the help of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado to collect charitable contributions for the renovation project. The foundation, according to its website, "fosters collaboration, serves as a catalyst for community projects, and is a trusted steward and service provider to philanthropists and nonprofit organizations". According to The Lincoln Center archives website, the citizens of Fort Collins voted to provide \$2.2 million in funding for the project through the Designing Tomorrow Today (DT2) initiative, and the Community Foundation was successful in raising an additional \$300,000.

The renovation included the addition of a performance hall and lobby, as well as the conversion of existing spaces within the old school building. The Magnolia Theater, Columbine Room, Canyon West





Room, and dressing rooms were created from the auditorium, gymnasium, and locker rooms, providing a versatile range of spaces for events and performances. The transformation of the former Lincoln Junior High School into The Lincoln Center revitalized the artistic and cultural scene in Fort Collins, providing a space for local groups to perform and touring companies to visit. It officially opened its doors on Oct 14, 1978.

According to Robin Stitzel, scheduling coordinator at The Lincoln Center, the initial goals of The Lincoln Center were to provide a place for performances in the community. At first, The Lincoln Center was only for the Fort Collins Symphony. Later, other groups joined, like the Fort Collins Children's Theater and OpenStage Theatre & Company. The Lincoln Center now hosts musicals, dance, music, drama, and comedy shows.

Despite widespread support from the community, there were still those who argued that The Lincoln Center was a drain on resources and a burden to the community. Shortly after its opening, opponents to The Lincoln Center's funding called it a 'white elephant' as they thought it would be useless.

"At the beginning, people didn't believe in The Lincoln Center and said that it would be empty," Stitzel says.

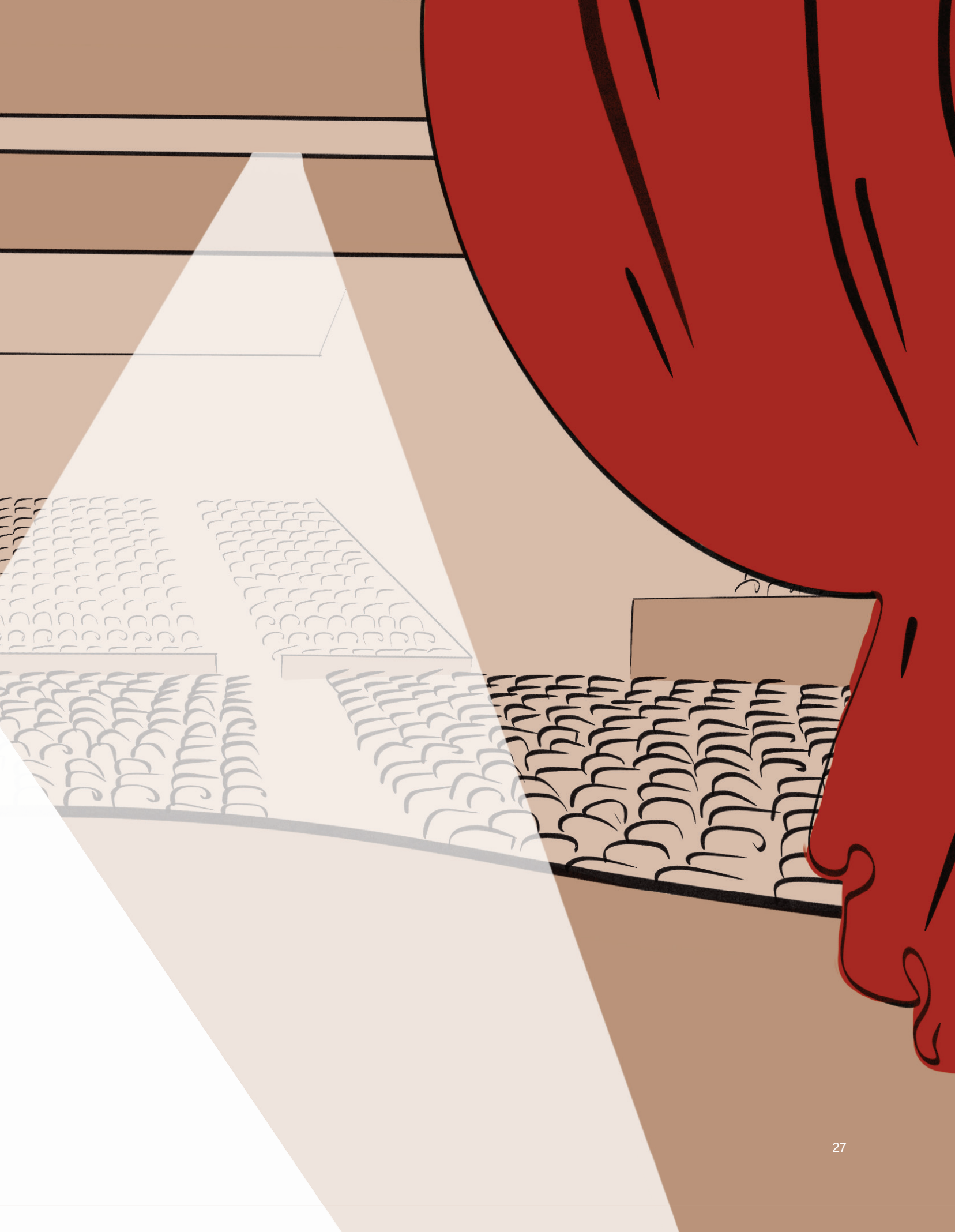
Nonetheless, it didn't take long for The Lincoln Center to dispel those doubts and show its worth. According to The Lincoln Center website, in 1979 matinee performances were introduced for sold-out shows, and the rental spaces at The Lincoln Center became highly sought after. The demand for

reservations was so high that there was even a waitlist a year in advance.

The success of The Lincoln Center was marked by a playful prank when someone gifted the center two white elephants, sporting The Lincoln Center logo on their backs, in good humor to tease the doubters. Now, every Christmas season, a Lincoln Center employee offers a white elephant as a playful gift to someone, keeping the joke alive.

According to an article from *The Denver Post*, The Lincoln Center was renovated for the first time in its history in 2010. Jill Stilwell, who became the Fort Collins cultural services director in 2004, proposed these renovations. She knew that those renovations would be important, and she wasn't wrong; Fort Collins' population had doubled in the 30 years after The Lincoln Center opened. Two-hundred twenty-five thousand visitors would come to the center each year, a number too big for the center's capacity. According to the City of Fort Collins website, the renovations included expansions of the lobbies, corridors, and other public gathering areas, as well as an additional elevator.

Today, the renovated Lincoln Center is a symbol of the arts in Fort Collins. With its modern design and commitment to sustainability, The Lincoln Center continues to bring people together through the arts. It offers a wide range of shows with new performances every week. Showtimes and tickets can be found on their website, LCTix.com. Whether you are looking for a night of laughter or a symphony, there is something for you at The Lincoln Center.



the LINCOLN center

Music • Theatre • Comedy • Dance

Seats from \$15+

UPCOMING SHOWS

ON YOUR FEET!

THE STORY OF EMILIO
& GLORIA ESTEFAN

THU-SAT FEB 16-18

**"RESIST IF
YOU DARE!"**

— The New York Times

"EXHILARATING!"

— The Washington Post



Photo: Chad Griffin

CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE'S NEW JAWN

FRI FEB 24

8x GRAMMY Award-
winning bassist,
composer and
bandleader



LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL

THU-SAT MAR 9-11

The ultimate Broadway
tribute to Girl Power



HYPROV

IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS

STARRING **COLIN MOCHRIE**
& **ASAD MECCI**

SUN MAR 12



ballet

TUE MAR 28

"Among
America's best."
— The New York Times



ANASTASIA

THE NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL

THU-SAT APR 20-22

Journey to the past.



LCtix.com



HEADIEST BREWERY WITH THE BEST BITES

SWEET WATER
BREWING COMPANY



COLLEGE NIGHT

EVERY WEDNESDAY 4:00-8:00 PM

SWEETWATER BREWING COMPANY

HALF OFF DRAFT BEERS, HARD SELTZERS, AND
HARD TEAS WITH VALID STUDENT/FACULTY ID

FOLLOW US @SWEETWATERFOCO



1020 E LINCOLN AVE FORT COLLINS



THE KARAOKE CLUB:

BELTING LYRICS
...AT THE LYRIC

By Macy Taylor

Photos by Michael Marquardt

There are three rules at Karaoke Club. One, you don't talk about Karaoke Club. Two, always tip your bartenders double. And three, if it's your first time at Karaoke Club, you must sing.

Every Tuesday, from 7 to 11 p.m., The Lyric hosts a Karaoke Club run by Daphne Starr and her co-host Alex Forbes. It is an all-age event and free of charge in the main lobby of The Lyric.

Surrounded by unique structures and three large stages outside, The Lyric is a vibrant place for outdoor concerts. Its vibrancy is reflected on the inside as well, with local artists' work decorating the walls.

Walking into The Lyric is like entering a different world. Covered from the floor to the ceiling in unique, local artwork and objects, it is easy to get lost. Some people come to just enjoy the pinball machines or simply wander around.

"We do concerts, we do live events, we do rentals....we've got burlesque groups that perform here monthly, we have drag groups," Aaron Varnell, the chaos wrangler at The Lyric, says. "We do things where we'll have a band playing a live soundtrack along to a movie on the screen."

Tuesdays at The Lyric are also called "student Tuesdays," where movie tickets are only \$5 and popcorn is \$1 off for Colorado State University students. This way students can enjoy a night of karaoke along with a series of film retrospectives, adult cartoons, and a game of battle league.

The karaoke stage is set up in the corner of the main lobby, across from the bar. In the middle of the lobby stands a cluster of unique chairs and tables that make the room feel homey. Slowly, people start to gather into the lobby and take their seats as they begin to listen to the performers.



Gaby Bowman and Peyton Clark, CSU students, had their very first experience with karaoke night and said it was fun, with huge smiles spread across their faces.

Both Bowman and Clark have friends that perform at The Lyric. They have gone to a couple of their concerts, and have come to really love the space. They specifically enjoy how open and accepting the community is. "So far it has been a really cool community, good vibes all around," Bowman says.

This atmosphere keeps both of them coming back, and each time is a good time. They had no fear as they walked up to go sing a duet – the two laughed and had a great time onstage.

"Don't be nervous, because everyone here is super positive," Clark says.

The visitors began to laugh and participate more and more as the voices of the karaoke singers began to fill the dimly lit lobby of The

(Above) The Lyric employees Geneva Hein and Maddy Erskine perform "No Scrubs" at the weekly Karaoke Club Jan. 17.



"Don't be nervous, because everyone here is super positive," Peyton Clark says.



Lyric. Everyone felt welcome and safe to express who they were. It didn't matter what age you were, or how good your singing was, everyone was welcomed onto the stage with open arms.

Geneva Hein, who works Tuesday nights at The Lyric, has been there for Karaoke Club since day one. "It's super fun, Daphne does a great job at cultivating a close-knit environment, so it always feels like you are a part of it," Hein says of the atmosphere. "They do a group number once...in case you're too shy to sing on your own."

Hein even has a hard time trying not to get up on stage. If the night is slow, Hein and her co-workers will run up to the stage to do duets together. Then they'll return back to bartending.

"I have a lot of pride in working here, because I think it's a really cool place, and before I started working here I loved coming here and

showing new people this place," Hein says. "I love the creative community and sharing that with people."

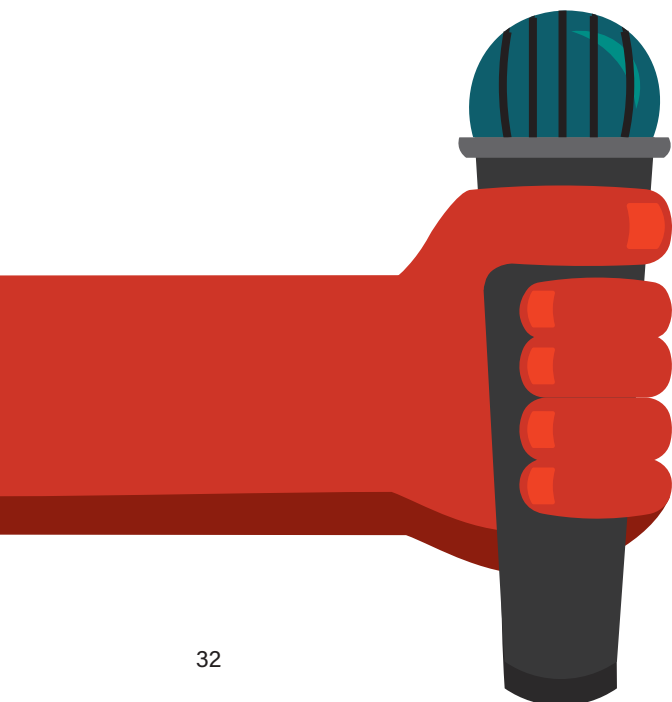
The core Lyric attendees are people who enjoy a local aspect and love to add something extra to a regular event. The lobby on Karaoke Night was filled with a variety of people that all share one thing in common: a love to have a good time. The Lyric has found a way to build a community that is filled with people who love to have fun.

When coming in for the first time there is a lot to do and see. Varnell has some advice for any first-timers; "I mean, the more you look in this space, the more you find. So I would say, bring a friend, get ready to have a good time, and feel free to wander."

Illustrations by
Kaylee Congdon

(Above) The entrance to The Lyric Jan. 17. Located on North College Avenue in Fort Collins, The Lyric is an independent movie theater, concert venue, and cafe which hosts frequent community events.

(Below) Geneva Hein performs "Party in the U.S.A." at The Lyric's weekly Karaoke Club while Alex Forbes hosts Jan. 17.





Thanks for the BEST of CSU

LOVE



Established in NYC - 1942
BARBERSHOP

Home of Rammie Tuesdays
\$2 off Every Tuesday

lucky27barbershop.com



Download our app.

4 CONVENIENT LUCKY 27 LOCATIONS

Sammie's

1205 W. Elizabeth Ste. F
Fort Collins, CO
970.581.5559

Tom's Old Town

122 N. College
Fort Collins, CO
970.300.4019

Kennedy's

1945 Jessup Dr.
Fort Collins, CO
970.690.5133

Windsor's

203 4th St.
Windsor, CO
970.294.8858

FUNNY YOU MENTION THAT

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FOCO COMEDY SCENE

By Cassidy DuFore Payne

Photos by Grayson Reed

After walking through the door of The Comedy Fort, the warm air almost immediately takes the edge off the cold, crisp Fort Collins night. The moody lighting of the lobby shines on laughing faces sipping Coronas and martinis by the bar. Two employees at the stand take turns checking IDs while the line of people glance around the first comedy club in Fort Collins since 1991.


After a couple of minutes, a smiling greeter walks a group of friends to their seats in the front row. Shortly after, the group orders drinks from the bar and nachos from the next-door restaurant and partner of The Comedy Fort, Moe's Original BBQ, the lights dim and the show begins.

Alongside the owner, David Rodriguez, local celebrity Dan Jones co-hosts these night shows every Thursday. The duo bursts out from behind the curtain with smiles on their faces and crack a few jokes. Then, Sam Sisson, an employee and sporadic performer at The Comedy Fort, jumps on stage for her opening set. The room was immersed in hearty laughter the entire time she was on stage.

"It's such a true form of connection and live entertainment," Rodriguez says, sinking into his chair. "The energy in the room is not like anything else I've experienced in other mediums."

It's been less than a decade since Rodriguez stepped into the comedy world

The crowd at The Comedy Fort waits for the show to start Jan. 26.



and almost exactly two years since he established The Comedy Fort in February 2021. Now, he hosts nationally recognized comedians, such as "America's Got Talent" contestant Usama Siddiquee and Sean Patton, who has his own special, "Number One," on the streaming platform Peacock. Bringing national attention to the local comedy scene is a big accomplishment for Rodriguez, whose goal is to put The Comedy Fort on the map.

"It truly is a special place operated by people who truly love the craft," Patton says. "The Comedy Fort does everything right. The way the room is set up, the staff that work there, and the comedians they book are all top tier."

Despite participating in drama club and plays in high school, Rodriguez didn't realize his love for stand-up until 2015 when he won the Comedy Works New Faces Competition.

"It didn't click for me that comedy was my favorite part of it," Rodriguez says. "I had good jobs that paid fine and was content with that. But this was a legitimate 'aha' light bulb-came-on moment."

Rodriguez moved to Fort Collins 12 years ago and, before finding his passion for comedy, paid the bills as a full-time poker dealer. While pursuing a career in stand-up, Rodriguez was frustrated with the lack of a comedic outlet in Fort Collins. Until 2016, he ran comedy pop-ups at local businesses throughout Fort Collins, such as the Thursday night shows with Jones at The Colorado Room. Suddenly, Hodi's Half Note, a music venue in Old Town Fort Collins, had to permanently close its doors. Rodriguez had hosted shows there before, and taking over the lease gave him the momentum to create The Comedy Fort. Several of those involved with the local shows, such as Jones, jumped on board.

"We committed to this, we're in it for the long haul," Jones says. "If David's a part of it, I want to be a part of it."

According to Sisson, investors like Jones wanted to be involved because they saw real value in what Rodriguez was doing. Rodriguez first saw Sisson perform at her second open mic at Colorado State University's Ramskeller Pub & Grub and

“(Rodriguez) is just phenomenal,” Sisson says. “It’s amazing what he accomplished in such little time.”

The comedians in Fort Collins share a tight-knit community, which has been crucial to The Comedy Fort’s success.

“The Comedy Fort is legitimately one of the best comedy clubs in the country,” Siddiquee says. “The people are just down for good jokes, and the actual venue is streamlined for great comedy acoustics.”

Rodriguez strives to make The Comedy Fort as comfortable for everyone as it is for him. He and his crew are determined to make the club more than just a place to celebrate comedy, but to give everyone an opportunity to thrive.

“He is cognizant about wanting diversity on a comedy stage,” Sisson says. “Whenever he sees somebody, whether it’s a woman, a person of color, or a person of different gender identities, he definitely likes to give them the opportunity to showcase that there’s more to comedy than just the standard straight, white guy.”

This passion is giving Rodriguez, Jones, Sisson, and others the chance to make The Comedy Fort into a premier destination in the comedy world. Giving comedians a chance to make it in the industry and providing an outlet for both the performers and the audience is one of The Comedy Fort’s goals.

“You have all these outlets that enable comedians to grow, not just as a comedian, but as a producer, a showrunner,” Jones says.

The comedians strive to be authentic and build that connection with the audience. They find that drawing from their most vulnerable life experiences produces the most successful material.

“It’s a weird paradox in comedy that the more specific you get about something the more relatable it becomes,” Rodriguez explains.

This authenticity allows the audience to resonate with the comedian’s experiences.



The relatability of the material is pushing The Comedy Fort toward success.

"Laughter is the best medicine," Jones says. "We're basically doctors in there." He lets out a hearty laugh, taking a sip from his comically large coffee cup. "There's really nothing like it," he continues. "Like the feeling when you hit a good punch line, and the crowd just laughs."

Comedians' experience on The Comedy Fort's stage is rewarding enough to face the anxieties of performing. They are invested in keeping it running for, not just themselves, but the community. Located in Old Town at 167 N College Ave., it's open every night except Tuesday, and tickets are posted on their website in advance.

"It's got built-in character and it's a space that people have been enjoying live entertainment in for a long time," Rodriguez says. "I'm honored to keep that alive here."



(Previous top) Sean Patton performs his comedy set Jan. 26. Patton was the night's headliner at The Comedy Fort.

(Above) Dan Jones looks at images of other performers at The Comedy Fort Jan. 26. Jones is the second-in-command of the club.

(Previous upper middle) Unknown comedian performs the opening act for Sean Patton's show Jan. 26.

(Left) Sean Patton, the night's headliner, poses for a photo Jan. 26.

(Previous lower middle) Dan Jones, The Comedy Fort's second-in-command, introduces the night's acts Jan. 26.

(Previous bottom) Dave Ross performs his comedy set at The Comedy Fort Jan. 26. Ross was the special guest of the night.



**"LAUGHTER
IS THE
BEST
MEDICINE."**

DAN JONES

**You came.
You shopped.
You voted.**

We're humbled by the outcome.

Thank you CSU students for voting LivWell Enlightened Health one of the top dispensaries in Fort Collins. It's our mission to provide you the best dispensary experience possible, and we thank you for this honor!

LivWell Fort Collins

900 N. College Ave - Fort Collins, CO 80524

Order ahead at LivWell.com



1/8oz
(Pre-Weigh REC)

1/2oz
(Pre-Weigh REC)

1oz
(Pre-Weigh REC)

\$12⁹⁹*

\$39⁹⁹*

\$69⁹⁹*

LivWell
ENLIGHTENED HEALTH

MEDICAL 18+



RECREATIONAL 21+

IT'S SIMPLE

BEST MEDS, BEST PRICES, BEST SERVICE
BEST WAY TO PAY WITH CRYPTO

\$54.99 ounces! \$5 one gram pre-rolls

MUNCHIE MONDAY
20% OFF ALL EDIBLES

CART TUESDAY
\$5 OFF 1 GRAM CARTS/
\$2.50 OFF 1/2 GRAM CARTS.
***select carts and strains

TOP SHELF THURSDAY
10% OFF ALL TOP SHELF
AND PLATINUM SHELF FLOWER

SHAKE OUNCE SUNDAY
\$25 SHAKE OUNCES
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

WAX WEDNESDAY
10% OFF ALL CONCENTRATES

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY



WWW.FLOWERPOWERBOTANICALS.COM
970-672-8165
1308 DUFF DR., FORT COLLINS, CO 80524

CRYPTO
ACCEPTED HERE

