

# Millman play a masterpiece



Photo special to the Record

Terri Stultz as Mrs. Millman, Justin Davis as Mr. Millman and Kylie Kahnke as young Bird Millman play their roles during a Fremont Civic Theatre production of "Bird Millman," which will be held at 7 p.m. tonight, Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Washington Elementary School.

**Charlotte Burrous**  
Record Staff Writer

CANON CITY — Fremont Civic Theater cast members painted the vivid world of "Bird Millman" with words, high wire acts and gestures during a special preview Wednesday at Washington Elementary School.

It's evident that August Mergelman had researched and worked on the play for a long time before bringing it to the stage. He also delivered a wonderful performance in his role as Joseph O'Day. His strong voice blended well with the adult Bird Millman, played by Cheri Hinz.

Hinz also did a superb job, making the audience laugh with one-liners. She even pretended to be afraid while on the high wire.

Mergelman climbed up to help only to realize that Bird had played a joke on him. The audience roared when he changed into a ridiculous jacket and pranced out on stage after mud had been splattered on his coat.

Kylie Kahnke's performance as the young Bird Millman was marvelous. She played her part cleverly and never missed a line. Kahnke's beautiful voice added to her performance.

Justin Davis delivered a stunning performance as Mr. Millman. He stumbled onto the stage pretending to be injured after falling off the high wire. The audience laughed as he performed a war dance in his red satin robe taking advantage of

Mrs. Millman's fear of "Wooden Injun," who stood outside Grandma Emma's store.

Grandma Emma, played by Kate Colby, also kept the audience in stitches drawing figures for her granddaughter and telling stories.

Terri Stultz was magnificent as Mrs. Millman. She jumped every time Wooden Injun came near, but in the end she learned that Native Americans were not so different from the rest of us.

Julianna Aragon Fatula stole the show with her portrayal of Wooden Injun. She fascinated the audience with her gestures, dances, stories and war paint. The audience erupted with laughter every time she played her drum and danced on stage.

Jenna Pyle Davis also did a fantastic job as Dixie Willson. She plays the role of an author trying to please her editor as she searches for the "Great American Novel."

Although she attempts to write the story her way, the characters take over the scenes. Along the way, Jennifer Bumgardner pops in as Miss Brandy to help Dixie with her story. Bumgardner kept the audience glued to their seats while they laughed at her puns.

The entire cast did a great job. Tom Ledbetter as director, Rita Wilhelm's costumes, Mergelman and Sam Stokes' lyrics and music, lighting and staging were also amazing.

If there is only one play to watch this year, don't miss "Bird Millman." It's a wonderful production.

No. 86

THE GREATER ROYAL GORGE REGION

DAILY  
CANON CITY, COLORADO

RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2002

50¢