

FINE ARTS CENTER THEATRE COMPANY  
Scott RC Levy, Producing Artistic Director  
Presents

# COG DOGS AND DOG TRAILS

By  
Jessica Kahkoska



**FEATURING**

**Jessica Kahkoska** as herself  
**Scott RC Levy** as himself  
**Michael Miller** as Jay  
**Sol Chavez** as Matt  
**Warren Epstein** as Jess' Dad

Directed by  
**Scott RC Levy**



**Sol Chavez** got the acting bug back in 1958 and over the years has performed in nearly 50 productions. In the early 1980's, he began performing locally with the Colorado Springs Civic Theatre, Star Bar Players, FAC Theatre Company, Theatreworks, and most recently, Springs Ensemble Theatre. Semi-retired from consulting engineering, Sol has begun making independent short films with his film-making buddies, Mike Miller and Keri Polakoff. The rest of the time he's kept in line by his wife, Eve Tilley.



**Warren Epstein** is a longtime member of the Springs arts community, starting as a theater critic and entertainment editor, then working as an actor, director, producer and playwright. A current member of Springs Ensemble Theatre, he recently starred in *Borscht Belted*, a one-person show he'd written as a tribute to his hometown of Monticell, New York. It was produced by the Millibo Art Theatre.



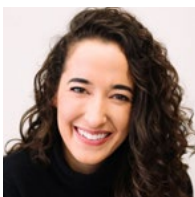
**Scott RC Levy** is celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> season as the Producing Artistic Director of the FAC Theatre Company. He is happy that Jessica wrote a part for him, that of himself, to play with in this episode.



**Michael Miller** is appearing with the FAC for the third time. He played an old fart in *Noises Off*, he played an old fart in *White Christmas* and is playing an old fart in this production. Beyond that, he has a vast resume here in the Colorado Springs Theatre community, specializing in...old farts. Enjoy and love to Keri.

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## **JESSICA KAHKOSKA (WRITER AND PERFORMER OF COG DOGS AND DOG TRAILS)**



**Jessica Kahkoska** is a Colorado and New York-based writer, dramaturg, and researcher. Projects include *In Her Bones* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 2020 Colorado New Play Summit) *The Death of Desert Rose* (with Elliah Heifetz, Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellowship, SBR Productions Commission), *Agent 355* (with Preston Max Allen, Chautauqua Theater Company New Play Workshop, Marion International Fellowship in the Visual and Performing Arts), *Letters To The President* (dir. Michael Bello, The Cooper Union), *Wild Home: An American Odyssey* (Notch Theatre Company, 2020 NEA ArtWorks Grant), and *NIA* (dir. Sarah Wansley, Upcoming at New Light Theatre Project's Darkroom Series). Born and raised in Colorado Springs, she has performed in seven productions at the FAC (most recently *Fun Home*), and recently collaborated on a 3x3 Creative Collaborations from Isolation project with Anita Rodriguez and Miguel Gandert. In Colorado, she has worked with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Lake Dillon Theatre Company, Theatre Aspen, Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre, North Fork Valley Creative Coalition, Creede Repertory Theatre, Athena Project, Colorado Environmental Film Festival, and Denver University. Her work has additionally been developed/presented by Roundabout Theatre Company, Ars Nova ANT FEST, Joe's Pub, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, the Drama League, UCROSS Foundation, Village Theatre, Phoenix Theatre Company and the American Musical Theatre Project (AMTP) at Northwestern University. [www.jessicakahkoska.com](http://www.jessicakahkoska.com).

## ABOUT THE PIKES PEAK COG RAILWAY

It was the late 1880s when a tourist named Zalmon Simmons, inventor and founder of the Simmons Beautyrest Mattress Company, visited the Pikes Peak Region. Wanting to check up on one of his inventions, an insulator for the telegraph wires that ran to the Army Signal Station on the Summit, he reached the top of Pikes Peak the only way back in those days: an arduous, two-day trip on a mule. Mr. Simmons was in awe of the scenery but determined that the views should be experienced in a more civilized and comfortable manner. Word has it he was relaxing in one of Manitou Springs' mineral baths after his return, when the owner of his hotel mentioned the idea of a railway to the top. In 1889, the Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway Company was founded and track construction began right away. This was the Age of Steam, and in 1890, three locomotives from Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania were delivered. Service was limited in the early days to the Halfway House Hotel. A total of six locomotives were in use during the steam era, and while they are not in use at the moment, locomotive #2 can be seen on display in downtown Manitou Springs, #4 at the Grand Canyon Railway, and #5 at The Broadmoor Hotel.

A church choir from Denver boarded the first passenger train the afternoon of June 30, 1891, and made it to the summit of Pikes Peak by train. This was actually the second attempt, a previously scheduled group of dignitaries had to turn back earlier in the day because of a rock slide at around 12,000 feet. Spencer Penrose, owner of the Broadmoor Hotel, acquired the railway in 1925 to add to the Broadmoor family, and in the late 1930s, gasoline and diesel powered locomotives were introduced. Wanting to carry fewer passengers during the slow parts of the season, there was an effort to build a compact, self-contained railcar up for the job, culminating in rail car No. 7: a gas-powered, 23-passenger unit, which made its first run on June 16, 1938, and is believed to be the first rack rail car ever built in the world. Within a year No. 8, possibly the world's first diesel-electric cog locomotive, was delivered from the General Electric Company. Goodbye time-consuming water stops and the back-breaking shoveling of coal. Along with "Streamliner" coaches, locomotive Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 formed the backbone of the railway fleet from 1940 to 1965. After 126 years of operation, the Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway decided not to reopen for the spring 2018 season, following a major infrastructure and equipment evaluation. Over the last three years, rebuilding the journey from the track up for the most modern, up-to-date experience has been happening including three new trains from Stadler in Switzerland, a new Strub single rail cog system, upgraded depot and gift shop and a new Pikes Peak Visitor Center at the top. And, of course, an exciting new adventure, slated to open in May 2021.

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### OF SPACIOUS SKIES STAFF

#### THE WRITERS

Mélisa Annis

Jonathan Andujar, Mickey Burdick, Marisa D. Hebert, Jessica Kahkoska, Xochitl Portillo, Jess Weaver

#### THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Scott RC Levy & Nathan Halvorson — Episode Directors

Jacob Keough-Mishler — Sound Designer, Engineer & Mixer

Bob Morsch — Assistant Sound Designer

Stephanie & Jay McGuffin — Composers, *Of Spacious Skies* Theme Music

Kate L. Ferdinandi, Morgan Gatson & Terri Harrison — Production Management

Christina Shoemaker — Theatre Company Assistant

#### FOR THE VISUAL VERISON

Christopher L. Sheley — Production Design and Art Direction

Holly A. Rawls — Associate Art Director and Video Editing



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE