MONTANA LOGGING AND BALLET COMPANY PLAYS FAREWELL CONCERTS IN BILLINGS AND HELENA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS -- The Montana Logging and Ballet Company will perform their last Billings public concert Friday, April 27 at the Babcock Theatre, downtown Billings.

A second farewell concert will be performed in May in Helena, capping a long career for the iconic satiric slapstick, singing quartet.

The nationally-known comedy/original music/political satire troupe is performing in benefit for Rocky Mountain College scholarships for the arts in a 7:30 p.m. show, in Billings.

Tickets, which are $30 for general admission, are now available at the six City Brew Coffee outlets, Ernie November, the Rocky Mountain College Bookstore, The ticket kiosk at Rimrock Mall and online at tickettiver.com.

One other farewell concert is planned for Thursday, May 17, in Helena, as a benefit for the Helena Symphony. That concert will be held at the Helena Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained only by calling the symphony office, 406-442-1860 and online at helenasymphony.org. Concert goers are also asked to bring non-perishable food items for the Helena Food Bank. Tickets prices $75,
$35, and $25. All $75 ticket buyers are invited to a pre-party at the Holter Museum 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. prior to the performance.

In 1990, when Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa came to Helena (the home of three of the group members), a reporter asked the Nobel Peace prize winner why he came. He responded, “Of all places, it is the one with the Montana Logging and Ballet Company!”

For several years, the group appeared monthly on all National Public Radio stations as the resident political satirists on Sunday Weekend Edition.

“We never got to hear ourselves on the radio,” deadpans Steve Garnaas-Holmes, a United Methodist minister in Acton, Massachusetts, “because we were always in church.”

The group of Rocky Mountain College alumni, Bob FitzGerald, Rusty Harper, Steve Garnaas-Holmes, and Tim Holmes, are on their “third and final farewell tour.”

“This time we really mean it," stated FitzGerald, the founder of the group. “When professional quarterbacks can’t get out of bed in the morning anymore, they know it’s time to retire. That goes double for musicians.”

Stories vary about where they got their name. According to Tim Holmes, “We took all of our phone numbers and turned each number into a letter. It spelled something dirty, so we took the Montana Logging and Ballet Company instead.”

Rusty Harper insists it came instead from a four-car accident in which all of them were driving. The judge sentenced them to be a group with the unusual name.
A reviewer for the Christian Science Monitor wrote, “Some of the humor is satire; much of the satire is musical; and all of the music is original. This is no ordinary logging and ballet company.”

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