

Lime Creek Christmas

devised by Anthony Zerbe

from the novel LIME CREEK by Joe Henry



Lime Creek Christmas

Anthony Zerbe's stage adaptation *Lime Creek Christmas* is a spoken-word and music performance based on Joe Henry's novel *Lime Creek*. Its rhythm and dramatic structure come from the interplay of text and song as Zerbe and a singer-guitarist bring to life characters and story.

A man returns to the Wyoming ranch where he was raised. What he remembers of a Christmas long past speaks to the staggering beauty of the land, hard work and pure spirit that defined the lives of ranchers and their families in the far west.

His memories of that Christmas are homey, tactile and engaging: a foal struggles to be born, neighbors from miles away arrive at their barn where a huge fir tree blazes with candles, and children start to scramble on high-piled bales of hay. There are platters of cookies, cups of eggnog and juice and his Mother and Father and brothers and a gathering of families whose world though often harsh is lit by flashes of spectacular grace. A guitar swells into *Silent*

Night. Voices soaring in full throated song fade gradually to a hush as his Father stands with a children's book before the great tree and reads of animals speaking in human voices at the manger and of a child born.

Later that night, long after the ranchers and their families have left, the boy and one of his brothers steal out to the barn at midnight convinced they will hear the animals speak. He recalls that in the immense cold and dark of that Christmas night, huge stars blazed blue over the barn. Years later, he believes those stars heralded the miracle of life – human and animal – gathered in the barn that night.



[Christmas for Cowboys](#) – one of the eleven songs in *Lime Creek Christmas*

music:

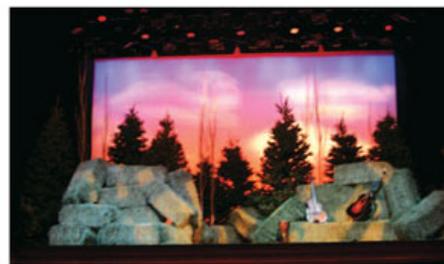
There are eleven songs in the production. Four of the songs have links in this presentation: “Bellau Woods” (Garth Brooks and Joe Henry), “A Baby Just Like You” (John Denver and Joe Henry), “Christmas for Cowboys” and “Colorado Christmas.”



“In its strong sense of place, tactile language, gentle whimsy and child-like level of wonder, Lime Creek Christmas is similar to Dylan Thomas’ A Child’s Christmas in Wales to which it is often compared.” CMT NEWS

cast:

Anthony Zerbe (actor)
Singer-Guitarist to be determined



production date:

December 2013

“Whenever you get to work with quality people like Anthony, doing a quality piece written by Joe, you should jump at the chance. Christmas is everything to me, and this show captures the spirit of Christmas beautifully.” GARTH BROOKS

[Click here](#) to view Garth Brooks performing “Bellau Woods.”

venues:

... performing arts centers in the United States, Canada and abroad

additional promotion and marketing opportunities:

- produced as a special event on Christmas Eve
- performed or filmed on location
- DVD

[Click here](#) to view
"Colorado Christmas."

"It's very American, rough-edged and it ricochets. It's not stylish and it's not svelte but has force and a natural profundity sourced by nature." ANTHONY ZERBE

[Click here](#) to view John Denver performing "A Baby Just Like You."

Lime Creek Christmas

production history



WHEELER OPERA HOUSE: ANTHONY ZERBE (LEFT) AND JOE HENRY

1990

Windstar Foundation
John Denver, Anthony Zerbe

Wheeler Opera House
John Denver, Anthony Zerbe

1991

WYO Theatre, Sheridan, WY
Garth Brooks, Anthony Zerbe

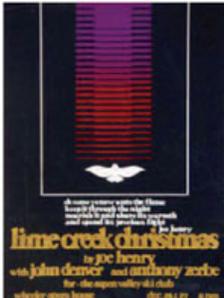
2001

WYO Theatre, Sheridan, WY
Garth Brooks, Anthony Zerbe

Bell South Acuff Theatre, Nashville, TN
Garth Brooks, Anthony Zerbe, Beth Nielsen Chapman

2008

Wheeler Opera House
Anthony Zerbe, Hal Ketchum, Beth Nielsen Chapman



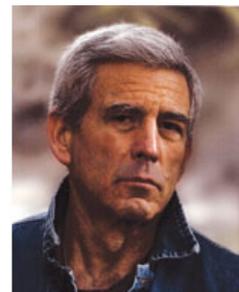
POSTER FROM 1990



HAL KETCHUM, BETH NIELSEN CHAPMAN, ANTHONY ZERBE, 2008

JOE HENRY

Although formally educated, poet, author and lyricist JOE HENRY attributes much of his learning to his many years as a laborer, rancher and professional athlete. His lyrics have been performed on over a hundred recordings by artists ranging from Frank Sinatra and Roberta Flack to John Denver and Olivia Newton-John -- and more recently, Garth Brooks and Rascal Flatts. Joe Henry's lyrics for "The Flame,"



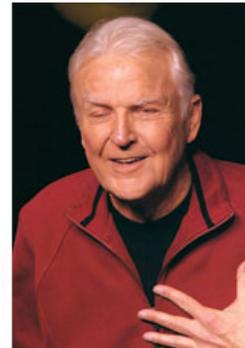
composed by John Jarvis and performed by Trisha Yearwood, closed the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games before a global television audience of more than 4 billion viewers. His work has also been used in feature films, television specials and theme-songs for several long-running television series. His poetry has been performed for many years by Emmy and Tony Award-winning actors, Anthony Zerbe and Roscoe Lee Browne. Excerpts from *Lime Creek*, along with songs that Henry co-wrote, have been adapted for the stage by Mr. Zerbe in two critically acclaimed productions: *Lime Creek Christmas*, which Zerbe performed with Garth Brooks and Beth Nielsen Chapman in Nashville; and *Prelude to Lime Creek*, with Greg Barnhill, in Denver. In addition to Henry's many music awards, he also received a National Conservation Achievement Award from the National Wildlife Federation "for the celebration of the natural world in his work," and the Colorado Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.



[Reviews for Lime Creek](#)

ANTHONY ZERBE

Anthony Zerbe is recognized as one of the country's most versatile character actors with extensive credits in film, television and theatre. His feature films include: *American Hustle*, *6 Dancing Lessons in 6 Days*, *Confession*, *The Matrix Reloaded* and *Matrix Revolutions*, *Star Trek Insurrection*, *True Crimes*, *The Touch*, *License to Kill*, *See No Evil – Hear No Evil*, *Mismatch*, *The Dead Zone*, *Farewell My Lovely*, *The First Deadly Sin* and *Who Will Stop the Rain*. His series of classic releases include: *The Turning Point*, *Rooster Cogburn*, *The Laughing Policeman*, *The Parallax View*, *Papillon*, *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean*, *The Omega Man*, *The Liberation of L.B. Jones*, *They Call Me MISTER Tibbs!*, *The Molly Maguires*, *Will Penny* and *Cool Hand Luke*. He starred as Teaspoon Hunter in the television series "The Young Riders" and received an Emmy Award for his performance as Lt. K.C. Trench in the popular series "Harry-O" (with David Janssen). He has been a guest star in numerous television series from vintage classics such as "Gunsmoke," "Mission Impossible," "Bonanza," "Colombo," and "Murder She Wrote" to "Frasier," and "Judging Amy." His mini-series and movies of the week appearances include: *Asteroid*, *On Seventh Avenue*, *Treasure Island: The Adventure Begins*, *Once An Eagle*, *North and South / Book II*, *One Police*



Plaza, Dream West, Ari: The Richest Man in the World, How the West Was Won, and Centennial. His Broadway appearances include: *The Little Foxes, Terra Nova, Solomon's Child*, and *Moon Besieged*. For five seasons he was in residence at The Old Globe Theater where his roles included Coriolanus, Iago, Richard III and Macbeth. He also played Iago in the Mark Taper Forum production of *Othello* with James Earl Jones. His appearances at the Taper also included the American premieres of *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine*, and Brian Friel's *Crystal and Fox*. Other residencies include the Arena Stage in Washington, DC, the Stratford Theatre Festival in Canada, and The Theatre of the Living Arts in Philadelphia. Other appearances in resident theaters include productions at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Long Wharf Theatre and the Huntington Theatre in Boston. In the latter two theaters, he played the title role

in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. He was the Artistic Director of REFLECTIONS: A New Plays Festival in Rochester, New York for five years. He toured extensively with the late actor Roscoe Lee Browne in their critically acclaimed production of *Behind the Broken Words*. The production premiered at the Mark Taper Forum, played Off Broadway and subsequently was seen in over two hundred theaters across the country including The Denver Center Theatre Company and A.C. T. He is currently working on productions of *Lime Creek Christmas* which he adapted from the novel *Lime Creek* by Joe Henry and which he performed with John Denver and more recently with Garth Brooks.