

Find the Ecstasy in Living Play brings Emily Dickinson to life

(PROVO, Utah) In the one-woman play, *The Belle of Amherst*, Emily Dickinson's immortal words come to life at the Covey Center for the Performing Arts' Brinton Black Box Theater. The show opens February 4.

The Belle of Amherst has been one of my favorite plays since high school," says director Lynne D. Bronson. She goes on to say, "Emily's voice sums up my feelings: 'I find ecstasy in living. The mere sense of living is joy enough. Take all away from me, but leave me ecstasy.'"

The Belle of Amherst stars local actress Jennifer Ereksen Knudsen, who has been acting for over 20 years. She is actively involved in theater and film in Utah and is thrilled to be performing for the first time at the Covey Center. Knudsen's acting experience includes roles in *The Importance of Being Ernest*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Bronson has been doing theater since elementary school when she played Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the fifth grade. Some of her favorite roles include Anne in the *Diary of Anne Frank*, Ida in *See How They Run*, and Katie in *The Way We're Wired*.

Recently, Bronson has been involved in directing for the 4H after school program at the school where she works. She has directed two plays for the program; *Cornfield of*

Dreams and Cowboys and Mummies. She is now excited to direct one of her favorite plays and to work with one of her favorite actresses and friends.

“I feel that in our highly chaotic and stressful world, we in modern times forget that the process of living alone can be wonderful,” says Bronson. “So if we can dwell in Emily’s world for just one night, maybe we can reconnect with those things our lives have lost. Maybe we can find some ecstasy in living.”

Performances of *The Belle of Amherst* will run February 4-6, 8, 11-13, at 7:30 p.m. with a 2:00 p.m. matinee on February 13. Tickets are \$10 per person. Seating is limited, so purchase your tickets soon. Join us for a beautiful story of the joys of life.

The Covey Center is located at 425 W. Center St. in Provo. Visit us online at www.coveycenter.org or call 801-852-2002 for more information.

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Contact: Danae Friel
Telephone: 801.852.7012
Cell phone: 801.361.6349
Email: dfriel@provo.utah.gov

Lynne D. Bronson (director)
801-472-5371

Jennifer Erekson Knudsen (Emily Dickinson)
801-599-5039