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Website: [http://www.hamnertheater.com/Magi\\_Then\\_Now](http://www.hamnertheater.com/Magi_Then_Now)

High resolution images (or by request):

[http://www.hamnertheater.com/Magi\\_Then\\_Now\\_Press](http://www.hamnertheater.com/Magi_Then_Now_Press)



## A NEW CHRISTMAS CLASSIC FROM THE HAMNER THEATER

Nellysford, VA (Nov. 15, 2010) - The Hamner Theater is proud to present a new version of a holiday favorite, THE GIFT OF THE MAGI, THEN & NOW, by Peter Coy, on stage from Dec. 2 - 18 for 12 performances. A re-working of O. Henry's Christmas story, with a modern twist, it's a poignant reminder of the spirit of Christmas giving - for all ages.

For THE GIFT OF THE MAGI, THEN & NOW, Peter Coy has written two one-act plays, both inspired by O. Henry's classic story of generosity & selfless love. The first play ('Then') features Lianna McAvoy & Eamon Hyland as the newlyweds, Della & Jim, who show their love for each other by giving up their dearest possessions. Chris Courtenay is Mary, the worldly-wise neighbor advising Della. Directing this first tale is Carol Pedersen, whose previous directorial credits at the Hamner include UNCLE VANYA and I'M HERBERT.

The second play ('Now') is the story of a present-day, not-so-traditional family, April Raphael (Jane Hearne), her son Bobby (Alexey Zielinski) and Julia (Gabriela Friedlander), the daughter of April's second husband Greg. While April yearns for Greg, who has been deployed to Turkey, the two teen-agers do their best to make Christmas special for each other. Hamner Theater stalwart Kevin O'Connell appears as April's helpful best friend, Declan. Boomie Pedersen, Co-Artistic Director of the Hamner directs.

Says playwright Peter Coy, "To me, it is about giving & expecting nothing in return, it's the act of giving from the heart that is important - they're love stories."

Performances held from Dec. 2 - 12, Thu. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m. & Sun. at 2:00 p.m., and from Dec. 15 - 18, Wed. - Fri. at 7:30 p.m., with a final show at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 18. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children 10 & under. A family pass of \$25 is available for 2 adults and children under 10. Reservations are recommended, 434.361.1999. There will be a Free Preview, Wed., Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Opening Night, Thursday, Dec. 2, will be followed by a free champagne reception with cast & crew. Free improv with the Hamner Improv Troupe, HIT, follows the show Friday, December 10th.

About the Hamner Theater: The Hamner Theater, now presenting its sixth season, is a non-profit project of the Rockfish Valley Community Center in Nelson County, and receives funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and anonymous donors to support its mission of bringing professional theater to Nelson County. Please call the Box Office at 434-361-1999 to purchase tickets. Learn more at [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com).

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### Summary:

What: The Gift of the Magi, Then & Now, by Peter Coy

Where: Hamner Theater, Nellysford

When: Runs Dec. 2 - 12, Thu. - Sun. & Dec. 15 - 18, Wed. - Sat.

Show Times: Dec. 2 - 12: Thu., Fri. & Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m;

Final week, Dec. 15 - 18: Wed., Thu., Fri. at 7:30 p.m., Saturday matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Admission: \$10, \$5/10 & under, \$25/family of 2 adults plus children 10 & under.

Information: [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com)

Box Office: 434.361.1999

Free Preview: Wed., Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night Reception, Thursday, Dec. 2

Aftershow: Improv with Hamner Improv Troupe, Fri., Dec. 10 - Free

### Tagline:

Two tales of love, sacrifice, generosity and understanding, a poignant reminder of the spirit of Christmas giving - for all ages.