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MAT's 'God Help Us' opens this weekend

By [Tim Leeds](#)

Week starts flurry of activities through Christmas



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Actors audition Monday for the Montana Actors' Theatre upcoming interpretation of Peter Pan. The next few weeks are busy for MAT, including the run of "God Help Us" with Ed Asner this weekend and "Sweeney Todd" in the Atrium Mall starting Oct. 26.

A week that started with auditions for a lighthearted holiday production wraps up with local actors taking the stage with a Hollywood legend.

Montana Actors' Theatre held auditions for the panto of "Peter Pan" Sunday and Monday, and opens its run of "God Help Us" with Ed Asner Friday through Saturday.

MAT Artistic Director Jay Pyette, who is acting with Asner along with MAT's Kate Hagen, said the iconic actor will be in Havre Wednesday.

Hollywood director Mitch Levine arrives here tonight and will start rehearsals with the Havre actors Wednesday, Pyette said.

He added that the show is almost sold out, with a few tickets left for Saturday.

And tickets already are selling for the next production, Pyette added, the penny dreadful musical "Sweeney Todd," which opens in the Atrium Mall Oct. 26.

In addition to the fantastic acoustics and the set, which will be in the bottom level of the Atrium with audience members on that level and looking down from the main level, the singing will be fantastic, he said.

"Talk about voices," Pyette said.



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The MAT production of "Rocky Horror Picture Show" opens the same day in Missoula, Pyette said, with MAT's Missoula actors in the production but the set built in Havre and hauled down.

In November, the troupe is, for the second year, holding a 24-hour festival. Writers, directors and actors will be randomly matched Nov. 16, with the writers having 12 hours to write a show - based on headlines pulled from newspapers - then the director and cast have 12 hours to rehearse before the shows are produced Nov. 17.

Then the panto of "Peter Pan" follows in December.

"The panto is going to be awesome," Pyette said. "This is our third year doing a panto. We've decided its one of our favorite shows of the year. It's always goofy and fun and everybody has a good time."