

Out with the old—in with the older

Suzanne Furberg

Staff Writer

For many thrift shop junkies, shopping for secondhand treasures has become a rote routine of visiting the same favorite stores and rummaging through the same pile of faded blue jeans week after week. Once you've seen the same wooden scone at Goodwill four times, it's time to take a new approach to finding forsaken clothes and knickknacks.

Susan Blosten, a dealer at Colorado Antique Gallery, says there are many benefits to being an antique dealer. Because Colorado Antique Gallery, located at 5501 S. Broadway in Littleton, is a pre-established business where dealers rent booths by the square foot, Blosten doesn't have to worry about phone installation, rent, or utilities. Colorado Antique Gallery will have been in business for eight years in March, when they are going to have a blow-out sale. Blosten has been a dealer there for four years. Yet because Colorado Antique Gallery is fully staffed with sales associates, dealers unfortunately aren't able to make sales personally.

Yet it is quite difficult to find quality antiques. Blosten says she had been researching antiques for a number of years before she became a dealer. She explains that each collector has their own particular taste in regards to their collection, and her collection is in fact quite eclectic.

Shopping at antique stores is a new and fulfilling alternative to the experience of visiting identical thrift shops. Like thrift shops, there are also antique shops which

lack quality merchandise. Yet treasures upon treasures hide within the walls of the quality antique shops.

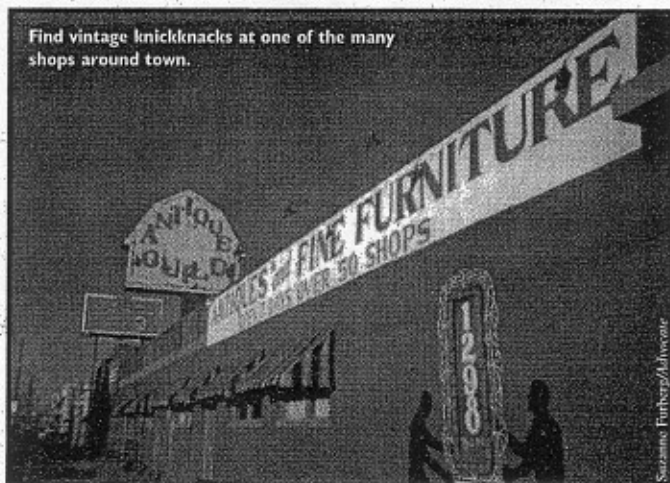
From Victorian living-room sets to '50s kitchen tables, anything can be hiding within the confines of these unique stores. Although these pieces are beyond the price range of most college students, they still hold a great interest for window shopping.

In fact, according to Blosten, anything from the 1950s is quite popular right now. Victorian pieces such as hand-painted china or vintage fabrics are also quite popular antiques currently. Yet a surprising product which has recently gained popularity is Depression glass, especially Jadeite green Depression glass. This type of glass, usually in the form of dinnerware, was initially inexpensive in the 1930s, but the fact that these pieces have survived so long has increased the value.

When asked how to estimate the value of a specific piece, Blosten says she refers to the many books written on this subject in addition to consulting with fellow dealers. She also recommends the same techniques to customers, especially beginning collectors. "I recommend people buy things they personally like," she says. "Each collector has their own taste." She also recommends that customers shop comparatively as well as research their purchases.

The benefit of this type of store, with multiple dealers under one roof, is the hundreds of collectibles in one place. Customers can spend several hours under one

Find vintage knickknacks at one of the many shops around town.



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roof, and they can find nearly anything.

Some of the wonderful things hiding within a number of antique shops are childhood toys. Collections of metal lunch boxes with forgotten cartoon characters and boxes of childhood action-figures are in nearly every antique shop. Care Bears, He-Man figurines, Barbie dolls, and nostalgic GI Joes are tucked away in the vast array of antique shop treasures.

In fact, these shops have something for everyone. As cliché as it sounds, it's true. Not only does The Colorado Antique Gallery, as well as most other antique

stores, carry furniture and toys, they carry extensive varieties of salt and pepper shakers, lamps, intricately designed and crafted jewelry, and many other fascinating products. Antiquing is also very convenient and simple. With the strip of centrally located antique stores lining Broadway, it's easy to visit dozens of shops in one day.

Ultimately, antiquing offers many enticing joys that thrift shops do not. Although antique shops do not usually sell clothing, their bountiful supplies of jewelry and eclectic merchandise more than compensate for this minor flaw. **A**

Denver Center's *Winter's Tale* pure whimsy

Leigh Rich

Staff Writer

Forbidden love. Jealous rage. Fantastical violence. No, this isn't a new series on Fox—it's the Denver Center Theatre Company's current production of William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*.

For those who are not Shakespeare fans, *The Winter's Tale* is one of the more accessible plays, and this production is sure to enthrall all. The play itself is a Shakespearean comedy, although many critics deem it a "tragicomedy" because the first half is dark with jealousy, accusations, abandonment, and death. The remainder, however, is as goofy, bawdy, and dreamlike as Shakespeare ever gets.

The plot is simple and amazingly

true to life these 400 years later. As the play begins, Leontes, king of Sicily, charges his wife, Hermione, of infidelity with his brother-like colleague, Polixenes, king of Bohemia. Like Othello in his unproven obsession, Leontes immediately jumps to the conclusion that Hermione's unborn child has been sired by Bohemia's king. She is imprisoned, indicted as a whore, and stripped of her royal garb, while her newborn daughter, Perdita, is left to die on the "shores" of Bohemia.

Making it through the first few acts of *The Winter's Tale* without crying or growing misty-eyed is a challenge.

Both Shakespeare's script and John Hutton's talent as



John Hutton as Leontes, Kathleen M. Brady as Paulina (in back) and BW Gonzalez as Hermione in DCTC's production of *The Winter's Tale*.

Leontes prove moving: "Your Actions are my Dreams. / You had a Bastard by Polixenes, / And I but dream'd it. ... As you were past all shame ... Thy Brat hath been cast out, like to it self, / No Father owning it (which is indeed / More criminal in thee, than it) so thou / Shalt feel our Justice; in whose easiest passage, / Look for no less than death."

After the intermission, on the other hand, *The Winter's Tale* is lively, funny and festive. Known for his style of "comic relief," Shakespeare immediately introduces a clown and two bumbling shepherds following Leontes' fury and focuses instead on the grown Perdita's secret relation-

ship with Polixenes' son. Interspersed with merrymaking, dancing and singing, the play's resolution begins to unfold. And the rest is happily-ever-after whimsy.

Even the mechanical man-eating bear appears more amusing than menacing.

But many people find *The Winter's Tale* lacking when compared to Shakespeare's other plays. In fact, one theatergoer commented at the conclusion of the DCTC performance, "Well, it was good for bad Shakespeare." But this is unfair to the playwright. A "winter's tale," as Shakespeare knew, is nothing but an "old wives' tale;" it is an escape from the cold of the winter and the doldrums of the day.

Although this production is a worthwhile diversion, the DCTC has yet to really push the envelope with any of their Shakespeare productions. Last year's *Macbeth* and previous performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* were both more "traditional Shakespeare," staying true to the time in which Shakespeare wrote. The costumes, set and lighting design in this production are superb and create a fairy-tale atmosphere, but the Slavic setting doesn't stray far from the playwright's original locale.

Regardless, the DCTC rarely puts on a bad production, and *The Winter's Tale* is no exception. **A**

The Winter's Tale is playing at The Stage Theatre in the Denver Center for Performing Arts complex through Saturday, February 16. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$36. For more information, call (303) 893-4100.