

# PHANTOM

"PHANTOM still delivers the goods! Judging by sheer invention, emotional punch and onstage talent, the venerable blockbuster still beats out almost all of the whippersnappers currently on Broadway."  
 — Jason Zinoman, *The New York Times*

With a moving score and dazzling special effects, Andrew Lloyd Weber's *The Phantom of the Opera* relays the tragic love story of a beautiful opera singer and a composer living a shadowy existence beneath the Paris Opera House.

*Phantom* is now the longest-running show on Broadway with more than 8,500 performances. Worldwide box office gross sales topped more than \$5 billion making *Phantom* the most successful entertainment venture of all time, surpassing the \$1.2 billion sales of the highest-grossing film *Titanic*. *Phantom's* worldwide attendance has exceeded 80 million people where the show has played more than 65,000 performances in 124 cities and 25 countries.

## APPLAUSE

February-March Issue Features

*The Phantom of the Opera*  
 February 25 - March 22

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# Curtain Call

Behind the scenes with Colorado's Performing Arts Publications January-February 2009

**6** Ring in the New Year with the CU Concerts Series



**8** Q & A

A peek behind the set with designer Vicki Smith

**10** In the Spotlight

A glance at an exciting season

**12** Behind the Curtain

Art takes many forms at Copenhagen Furniture of Denver



**14** Behind the Curtain

Bella Energy offers up the sunnier side of energy costs

**16** The Cast

Advertisers supporting the arts

**On the Cover**  
 Manza, a master of traditional Portuguese song, will light up Macky Auditorium as part of the CU Concerts Artist Series. See Page 6.



Photo: Dorcy Vanney

## Art takes many forms at Copenhagen Furniture of Denver

By Emily Jack

When one pictures Scandinavia, thoughts of beauty, simplicity and sophistication come to mind. Couple this with the elements of functionality and quality, and one has found the basis of Scandinavian furniture design.

Bjorn Knudsen, owner of Copenhagen Furniture of Denver, has brought his love of Danish design to the United States. Born in Denmark, he and his wife, Jody, also of Danish descent, have cultivated a gallery of their favorite pieces, importing furniture, glassware and trinkets directly from Denmark. The 16,000-square-foot showroom and Danish gift shop primarily feature works of Danish designers, keeping the focus on the owners' heritage.

After more than 24 years in the business, Knudsen has developed a deep appreciation

for the art that is Scandinavian furniture. "There is such a unique thought process behind each piece," Knudsen says. "It is obvious that the designer really took the time to think about how to make a chair or sofa the most comfortable, beautiful and functional it could possibly be."

Knudsen added that Scandinavian design mirrors Frank Lloyd Wright's concept that form and function should be one entity. "These designers are true artists," Knudsen says. "They know how to make a functional, utilitarian piece look beautiful."

Knudsen's passion for beauty and quality extends well beyond his store. He and his staff at Copenhagen Furniture participate in many community outreach programs and charity events, such as the Denver Children's Home, Rebuilding Together, the Denver Food and Wine Festival and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

"It has always been a goal of mine to be in a position to give back to the community," Knudsen says. "This is one of my favorite parts of my business."

Knudsen has been a long-time supporter of the performing arts. Growing up in Denmark, he was exposed to the ballet, opera and symphony at an early age, instilling in him

an appreciation for the hard work that goes into each endeavor.

"For me, supporting the performing arts is like supporting my business," Knudsen says. "Each designer or performer has to identify what elements make up a good performance – or a



Bjorn Knudsen and wife, Jody (left), take time out for a photo with other staff members.

good chair. It is all about the connection between the artist and the customer."

While Knudsen and his staff give back to the community, they certainly don't forget about their customers. Offering three levels of price points, the store ensures that all customers can enjoy Danish design without breaking the bank. "Danish furniture can be fairly expensive," Knudsen explains, "but since we import directly from Denmark, that saves a lot of money. We have some fantastic customers, so we like to pass those savings on to them."

Knudsen adds that, while some of the furniture may be pricey, its quality is unbeatable. "You can invest in the stock market and have no idea how much money you actually have, or you can invest in a quality piece of furniture and know that it will last a lifetime," Knudsen says.

Quality is a common theme among the Copenhagen Furniture team – quality product, quality people and quality customer service. The team strives to meet the needs of the customer, offering many services, such as custom ordering and delivery to any United States location.

Selling to customers across the country, Knudsen is able to spread his passion and appreciation for his Danish roots. "The fairy tale world of Hans Christian Anderson and *The Little Mermaid* are not far from the wonderful little country," Knudsen beams. "Everyone should visit Denmark at least once in their lives, but I try to bring a little bit of the country back to Denver."

*Emily Jack is a Longmont-based freelance writer.*



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