

ARK WINTER SHOW OPENS

By **CARRIE HADERLIE**
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When the curtains rise on Wednesday, the performers with the Ark Regional Services Creative Arts Program will put on a show about life in all its glory.

“Random Acts of ... Life,” a performance put together by Kayc DeMaranville, creative arts coordinator with the Ark Regional Services and Lisa Martin, the show’s musical director, will open on Wednesday and run through Nov. 21. Tickets are first come, first served, and are available by calling the Ark at 742-6641, ext. 333.

Tickets are still available for the Wednesday performance and names can be added to a waiting list for the other show dates.

“The show includes songs about ... pretty much anything you can think of,”

Martin said. “If it happens in someone’s day, it is going to be in there. There is love, there is joy, there is freedom ... we have one piece about recycling and the environment. It is a very personal, but it is also global. It is kind of a montage of life.”

The show includes 15 Ark Creative Arts Program students as cast members, and the group has been formally rehearsing for eight weeks. But the show started to come together months and months ago, Martin said.

Over the past decade, Ark Regional Services in Laramie has developed a program to foster means of expression through classes in visual arts, theater, dance, music, yoga and expressive body movement called Nia for people with developmental disabilities. Each season, the clients at the Ark put on a theater production with the help of

local artists and invite the community to the show.

DeMaranville said the idea for the show developed when actor Elizabeth Malone, who is studying at Columbia in New York, put on a two-week workshop for the Ark students on a type of acting called the “viewpoints method.” The students loved the workshop so much that they asked to incorporate it into the next show. The students chose some appropriate music, and DeMaranville and Martin got to work, she said.

“These pieces are so unique that they stretch the students’ abilities,” Martin said. “Everybody in this is stretching. ... One way or another in the course of this show, we run into something that really challenges us. You can’t walk away from this show without feeling that (you) have changed and grown.”



Clients at the Ark Creative Arts Center walk through a rehearsal for a play titled “Random Acts of Life.” Andy Carpenean/Boomerang photographer

DeMaranville said she is amazed at the talent of her Ark actors and other community volunteers involved with the show.

“This is a fabulous production that really, you can’t even describe,” DeMaranville said. “It is unique, it is upbeat, it is

happy. It will fill your heart.”

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