

Lip Sync packs Shuler Theater

By Tim Keller For the Comet | Posted: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 5:30 pm

Lip Sync 2014 filled the Shuler Theater Friday (Aug. 15) and Saturday (Aug. 16) nights as whole families took turns hamming it up and goofing around for the entertainment of their friends and neighbors. The oldest performers to take the stage were in their 80s; the youngest was six-months old. There was an equal mix of adults and children, often together in a single performance.

Cathy and Chris Padilla of Raton won the 37th-annual event's \$200 first prize for their comic performance acting and lip-syncing "Love Runs Out" by the group One Republic. Portraying an elderly woman and man at "Ol' Fogie Restin' Home," they took a long time slowly walking onto the stage in silence, aided by a walker and a cane, respectively. When they sat down, the music started. The old man grew frisky and the old woman dealt with it: by the time they were done, they'd been dancing and the old man was exhausted. The audience loved it. So did the judges.

The Padillas, Lip Sync veterans, said their previous best result was last year's 3rd place when Chris sang as Michael Bublé. Chris's rendition of "Jailhouse Rock" won him 4th place in 2012.

Because set changes are required between each of the 25 acts, half of each night's show consists of repartee and silliness from hosts Robi Gonzales and Sean Green, who have been honing their act annually for a quarter-century. They include performances dressed in drag that are, well, over the top.

The show's program lists more than 100 sponsoring businesses from Raton, Trinidad, and other communities, supporting an event that raises thousands of dollars each year to provide medication and blood-sugar monitors to diabetic patients throughout the area.

The program also lists each song and the artist that made the recording, but not the names of the local performers who are often disguised in elaborate costumes to lip sync the night's songs.

It's also so rollicking and fun that small children in the audience never cause a disturbance; in fact, chances are good that they're playing dress-up and getting ready to play on stage. It's a comedy show and



Lip Sync 2014

Lip Sync 2014 was so competitive that challenging Elvis wasn't enough for an honorable mention for Chris Padilla, but he won the grand prize with his wife for another performance.

a variety show that's absolutely unique to Raton and, since the 1970s, a highlight of every Raton summer.