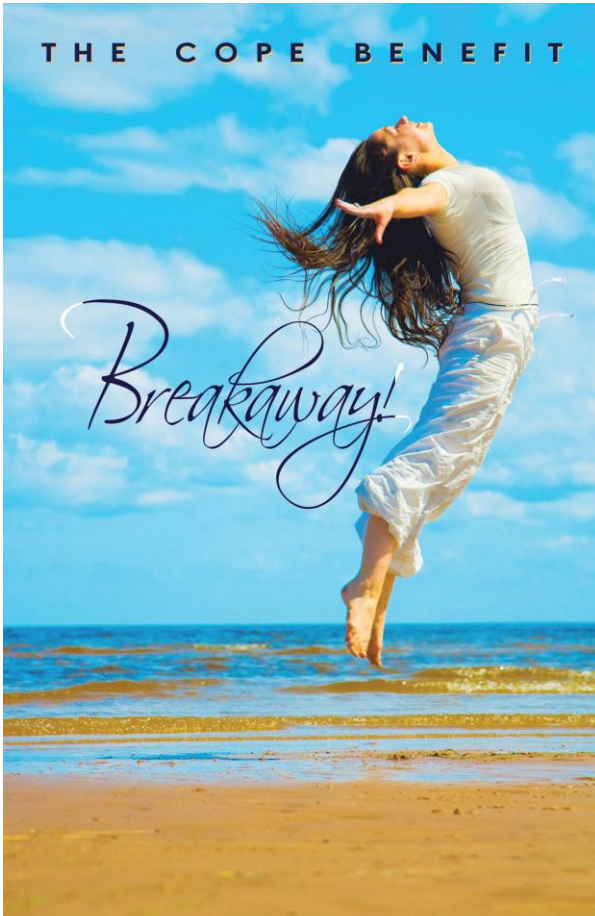


## Unique Breakaway concert to benefit COPE

An original and utterly unique production is taking center stage at the Flickinger Center on March 24 at 7:30. Produced by COPE, the domestic violence agency in Alamogordo, this evening of entertainment promises to wow its audiences through the power of popular song and dance and its extremely talented local performers. Even as you read this, volunteers from our community are fast at work: rehearsing their songs, building sets, and selling tickets for this fund-raising show, which will be a memorable highlight of the Winter Season at the Flick.



*COPE's Breakaway concert is a musical celebration of overcoming challenges and leaving harmful situations.*

### **Breakaway celebrates leaving harmful situations**

Approximately 19 songs will be performed by area singers and dancers from a variety of musical genres: pop, country, jazz, R&B and rock. Many of the songs were hits for their original Top 40 recording artists: Madonna, Rascal Flatts, Mariah Carey and more. But songs for this show aren't chosen simply for their popularity, but for the story each one shares. The general theme of **Breakaway** is "knowing when to leave" a harmful situation, or overcoming a serious challenge in your life. You can hear this theme in these lyrics from the hit tune "The Power of Goodbye" by Madonna: "You were my lesson I had to learn / I was your fortress you had to burn / Pain is a warning that something's wrong."

"This is what **Breakaway** is all about," says show creator Steve Duffy, from Lincoln County. "That epiphany that comes when you realize you're strong enough to stand up or move on from a bad situation or unhealthy relationship." And through the careful selection of the other songs in this special show, similar themes within each are woven and interconnected, altogether telling a compelling story and taking the audience on a spellbinding journey.

Not all songs in this show are dark and gloomy; many more are uplifting, and even inspiring, including the Jo Dee Messina hit "Heads Carolina, Tails California": "Baby, whatta you

say we just get lost? ... Somewhere greener, somewhere warmer / Up in the mountains, down by the ocean / Where? It don't matter, long as we're goin' somewhere together."

### **Breakaway casts accomplished local amateurs**

So who gets to tell these amazing stories on the Flickinger stage? The cast of **Breakaway** comes in many shapes, sizes, ages, nationalities and backgrounds. Their interests, occupations and personalities are also highly diverse, including students, teachers, construction contractors, and restaurant owners. Anthony Kumpf, winner of *Alamogordo Idol* in 2011, and cast as Joseph in Alamogordo Music Theatre's Spring production *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, is one of the outstanding performers who will appear in **Breakaway**. There are even a few singers in the show who take karaoke pretty seriously, including the reigning state champion who recently competed in a national karaoke competition on ABC's hit summer show "Karaoke Battle." That singer now performs in a band with three other musicians from Alamogordo. These local musicians, along with dancers from both the Academy of Ballet and the award-winning hip-hop Showtime Studios, round out the cast of **Breakaway**.



*Anthony Kumpf, Season 2 Alamogordo Idol winner, is one of the inspiring performers in the Breakaway concert.*

Although most of the show has been cast, there are still a few openings for stellar singers in the Alamogordo area. Please contact the Flickinger Center at 575-437-2202 and arrange for an audition to be in this special community show. This is your chance to shine while supporting an important non-profit organization in your community.

Chances are, you will know at least one of the many performers in Breakaway. These accomplished amateur artists are your neighbors or friends, so please come out and support them on the 24th of March. Get ready to be impressed by their talents, and inspired by the critically-important message they'll share. A compelling thing about **Breakaway** is that you get to see a totally different side of your local bank teller, sandwich-maker or contractor. On this special night, these members of our community come together and reveal themselves as powerful performers on an illustrious stage. The carefully selected cast of performers comes together for an experience like no other. In rehearsals, some have already described it as "life-changing" or "a turning point" for them as performers. Every one of them seeks to make it a turning point for you, too.



So, if you are interested in participating in a production that will both entertain you and support a great local organization—Center of Protective Environment (COPE)—please call the Flickinger Center Box Office today and get your tickets: 575-437-2202. Tickets cost \$15 and \$25. Tickets are also available from any COPE board member. All proceeds from this show go to COPE. There are also sponsorship opportunities for this production, and simply call the COPE office at 434-3622 to find out more about our sponsorship levels and pre-show sponsor reception on March 24th.

*Breakaway producer Steve Duffy and Flickinger Center Executive Director Jim Mack take a break from planning the show.*

### **About COPE**

Center of Protective Environment, Inc. (COPE) is the non-profit domestic violence agency for Otero and Lincoln Counties. COPE operates counseling and crisis-intervention offices in Alamogordo and in Ruidoso and a shelter for domestic-violence victims in Alamogordo, and collaborates with HEAL (Help End Abuse for Life), who operate The Nest, a domestic-violence shelter in Ruidoso. COPE offers a 24/7 domestic violence hot-line (437-2673 or 1-866-350-2673), a domestic-violence shelter, counseling, legal services, victim advocacy, community education, and household items for victims. For more information visit the COPE web site, [copedv.org](http://copedv.org), find us on Facebook, or call the Alamogordo office at 434-3622.