## **Hobbit**

From Page 7

ing 'The Hobbit' at 48; Jim Cameron is planning to shoot 'Avatar 2' at 60."

Jackson also addressed the issue in an interview last year.

"The image has hugely enhanced clarity and smoothness," he said. "Looking at 24 frames every second may seem OK — and we've all seen thousands of films like this over the last 90 years — but there is often quite a lot of blur in each frame, during fast movements, and if the camera is moving around quickly, the image can shudder or strobe. Shooting and projecting at 48 fps (frames per second) does a lot to get rid of these issues. It looks much more lifelike and it is much easier to watch, especially in 3-D."

But does being "easier to watch" compensate for the visual grandeur lacking in a movie that cost an estimated \$150 million? The potential problem with "The Hobbit" isn't the action sequences or the acting or the spectacular story or any other aspect of what will certainly be a huge success at the box office. It's the look of the film. The scenes in which people interact — likewise, characters and their surroundings is off-puttingly "live" for those accustomed to traditional film, the way video is too live, or a TV soap opera, or maybe a baseball game. Backgrounds are too obviously the work of computer technicians; the actors seem to be performing against a projected backdrop — not always, but often enough to make everyday moviegoers into connoisseurs, as they try to figure out what's wrong with this picture. And whether they wanted to be part of an experiment in filmmaking theory that hasn't quite achieved what Tolkien would have called an apotheosis.

## **Show**

From Page 1B

year. People started having pre-show parties at their house. The get-togethers were almost treated like reunions with friends from across the state," he said.

"People like us because we have the big choral sounds. That is unique about us, we play off each other so something sounds really lush. At times, we have the bleak mid-winter body of songs, while other times it's happy and snappy instrumental tunes."

This year's concerts feature more acoustic instruments, Putnam said.

"We have more of a parlor jam feel because of the instrumentation and the way we present it," he said.

"We play songs of all types, from jazz to Old English to country to folk to rock and roll."

The performances usually include a dose of humor, led by punster Tom Daines. "We're cursed with him as our pun-ishment, so we just let him pun away," Putnam said.

The "Acoustic Christmas" cast looks forward to its return performance at Dakota Theatre, Connor said. "I always loved Dakota Theatre. It has a lot of character. It's vintage," he said

Putnam literally practiced his art at Dakota Theatre, leaving behind signature work from past concerts.

"We would go down in the basement and see the gallery of old drawings and the graffiti on the walls by the dressing room," he said. "Every year we were in that theater, I would do this celebration of art by drawing for the show. One year, it was Gordy Pratt with Santa holding a rubber chicken. Another year, it was Chris Gage, with Santa with a big piano key smile. Everybody signed it, and you still see it all there years later."

Now, Putnam looks forward to creating new memories with next

week's Dakota Theatre show.

"Yankton is a great town. We have played there 14 or 15 times in the last 20 years. We get back there for a variety of things. I have played with eight different groups," he said.

"When we come to Yankton, it's going to be fun. We never know, until we play (the show), what it's going to be."

Tickets for reserved seating are available at the Dakota Theatre Box Office, by calling 605-665-4711 or by emailing lctc@midconetwork.com.

Ticket sales have been very brisk, with fewer than 100 tickets remaining, according to Shauna Marlette, managing director of Lewis and Clark Theatre Company.

"If people plan on attending, they can't plan on tickets being available at the door. They need to make reservations today," she said. "The night of the concert, doors open at 6:45 p.m. Any tickets that have been ordered but not paid for and picked up by 7:15 the night of the show will be released for sale."

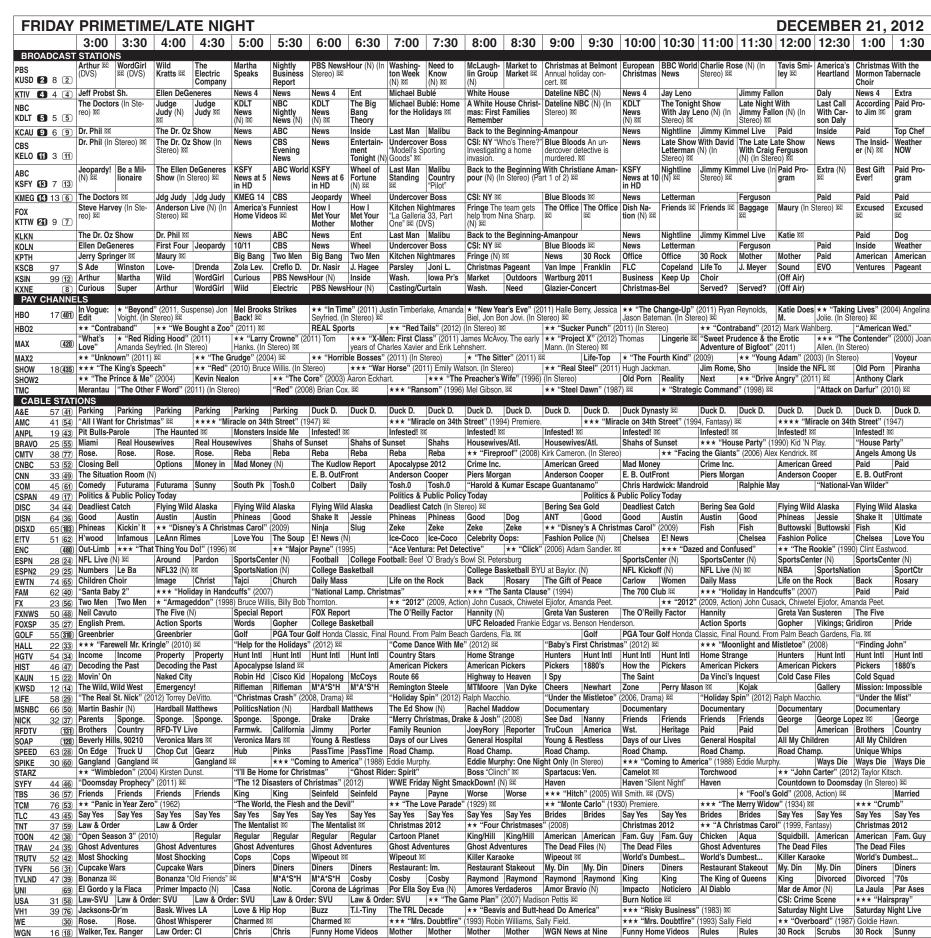
Marlette knew the show would prove popular from the beginning.

"We sold 100 tickets by the end of the first day," she said. "We can seat 545 for this concert, and most of the remaining tickets are in the upper balcony."

"Acoustic Christmas" will record the Yankton concert for its compact disc, Marlette said. "They just love Dakota Theatre because of its acoustics," she said.

Proceeds from CD sales will go toward the Doreen Pospisil Scholarship Fund.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf





| Cable | Internet | Phone

a month for 12 months | no contract

**KNOLOGY®** 

the perfect bundle for you!

(800) 514-4001

ConnectWithKnology.com

Subject to Knology terms and conditions. Available to new qualifier