



Curtain Call

January 2020

Volume 38, Issue 5

Box Office: 618-549-5466

Email: stagecompanycarbondale@gmail.com

Web: www.stagecompany.org

Remembering Loren Cocking (1937-2019)

By Craig Hinde

Those who have been in the Stage Company for several years will certainly remember Loren Cocking who died December 19, 2019. Loren was instrumental to the Company for three decades until he and his wife, Lisa Colby, moved from Carbondale. He was one of the 15 founders of the S.C. in 1982 and co-authored, along with me, the Stage Company Constitution and By-laws which defined the management structure of our organization.

While serving in many capacities, Loren was best known for designing and building such beautiful sets – for at least 37 productions, even designing a couple after moving to Oregon. He also was chief carpenter for at least that many more plays, especially in the early years. His other skills included lighting design and program publishing. He served on the Council in various roles and had a stint as President in the late 1980s, and later as V.P. for Productions. And of course, he was involved in the renovation of the Varsity Theater in 2008. He was known for meticulously planning and executing any project he took on.

I became acquainted with Loren in 1967 when I joined the film production department at SIU. He, Howard Cotton and myself, along with department head, Frank Paine, made several award-winning films together over the next few years. He later joined the Dept. of Cinema and Photography and taught film production for several more years. His former students have praised him for his teaching aplomb.

Of all of Loren's theatrical work, I am sure he was most pleased with creating a musical play (book, lyrics and music) based on James Thurber's "13 CLOCKS." It was a personal project he started for fun many years earlier and would return to it from time to time. Around 2006 he really wanted to see his opus played on stage. He began negotiating with Thurber's family and eventually got permission to do one local performance. In 2008, as a Stage Company event, he produced it in McLeod Theater. In my opinion it was a very creative and excellent production, one in which Loren was justly proud.

Loren was graduated from the University of Iowa in 1960 and received a Masters from The Ohio State University in 1975. He came to SIU-Carbondale in 1962 and a short time later married Denice Josten. They have two children from that marriage, Marcie and Julie. He married Lisa in 1994. In 2012 they moved from Carbondale to Hillsboro, Oregon and then to Raleigh, North Carolina in 2016. He died unexpectedly and suddenly at home there. When he moved from Carbondale the Stage Company gave him a send-off which included a plaque commemorating especially his scene designs as his "immaculate conceptions." He is truly missed.

Directing Opportunity Season 39

If you are interested in directing a main stage production for our 39th Season, you may submit 1-3 scripts/productions that you would be willing to direct (if chosen).

We are looking for a variety of productions/scripts.

If a script is liked but does not make it into the main stage season, it may be considered for a staged reading in our 2020-2021 Reader's Series.

The last day to submit is March 2nd. The Play Selection Committee will be accepting submissions and reading them as they are submitted. The earlier the committee receives the submissions, the more time they will have to read the scripts and plan the season. So, if you're interested, jump on in!

Applications can be sent to playselection@stagecompany.org.

Next Up

Forever Plaid

Forever Plaid is one of the most popular and successful musicals in recent memory. This deliciously fun revue is chock-full of classic barbershop quartet harmonies and pitch-perfect melodies! The plot revolves around four young singers who are killed in a car crash and posthumously take the stage for one final gig in this goofy, 1950s nostalgia trip.

Performances will be February 7th-9th and 13th-16th. Tickets available online or at the box office. To purchase tickets online, go to: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4295521>

An ASL interpreted performance is also available on February 15th. For ticket reservations for this performance contact us at stagecompanycarbondale@gmail.com.

Second Stage Reader's Theatre *A Piece of My Heart*

The second production of our Reader's Theatre series, *A Piece of My Heart*, will be held on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd, 515 S Orchard Dr., Carbondale, IL 62901. As always, this event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome and appreciated.

This is a powerful, true drama of six women who went to Vietnam: five nurses and a country western singer booked by an unscrupulous agent to entertain the troops.

Shay Miller is directing.

Important Upcoming Events

- The January General Member's meeting is scheduled for January 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gallery of the Varsity Center.
- Second Stage Reader's Theatre performance, *A Piece of My Heart*, will be performed on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd in Carbondale. The performance is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome and appreciated.
- *The Great Gatsby* auditions will be held on February 10th-11th from 6-8 p.m. at The Varsity Center.
- *Forever Plaid* performances will be February 7th-9th and 13th-16th. Tickets are available online or at the box office. To purchase tickets online, go to: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4295521>
- To purchase tickets to any of our Season 38 shows, go to: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/15077>

Donations to the Stage Company can be sent to PO Box 463, Carbondale, Illinois, 62903