

DO YOU REMEMBER.....?

Whenever a group of theatre people gets together, the talk inevitably leads to “Do you remember?...How about the time?... Will you ever forget...? Some of the things that we remember as Orange Players follow.

During the performance of “Born Yesterday”—starring our own Bob Mc Kay --- Mark Kolligian, playing the reporter, went out the outside door to the parking lot at Amity High School after his exit and found himself locked out—forcing him to circle the school, come in the opposite outside door, which was unlocked and to make his next entrance out of the bedroom—instead of the door to the foyer, entered from outside. What was he doing in that bedroom?

Jere Kolligian, Mark’s wife, was playing the maid in “Flower Drum Song”. In the first scene, someone (Maury Rosenberg) jumped on a side chair that was to be occupied by Madame Wang (Dotti Averna) in the next scene-. The chair broke. The Director, standing in the back of the auditorium, died many deaths, knowing the havoc that could be created when someone crashed to the floor while sitting on the broken chair—when—lo and behold—Jeri entered SR, bearing the Stage Manager’s chair (which matched the others) and, without ado, exchanged chairs! --- Chaos averted! Also in “Flower Drum”.... Dear Maury Rosenberg, playing Young Wang (a 16 year old) was playing catch at the opening—and on one night—his baseball went into the orchestra pit! He continued the scene with aplomb! And will we ever forget the “Flower Drum” cast party!—There was a beautiful (big) sedan chair for the wedding procession, (Caroline Johnson played the bride) that was carried through the audience to the stage, shouldered by muscular bearers Don Murphy and Tom Burnham. Bob Stankye was involved also, and they decided to load the chair in Stankye’s pickup truck and bring it to the cast party to carry the Director in to the festivities., (I was the director, but it wasn’t my idea!) On the way to the party at Jade Wu’s restaurant, the chair bounced off the back of the truck and smashed into Bob McKay’s Cadillac, which was following behind. They reloaded, continued the journey and the next day Don Murphy had Bob’s car repaired at his car dealership. A Happy Ending – or one of “A Hundred Million Miracles”.

“Fiddler on the Roof” – the 1979 production at Amity ---Howard Sherman, Former Orange Player, Former Publicity Director at Hartford Stage, former Executive Director of The O’Neill Festival in New London, and current Executive Director of the American Theatre Wing (presenter of the annual Antoinette Perry Awards), was playing Motel, the Tailor. Teyve left the stage—got locked outside like Mark and left Howard on stage for many minutes longer than anticipated.. Howard improv’d more prayers than have ever been heard before in this scene!. Mercifully, someone heard Teyve banging on the door and let him back in, whereupon he rushed on the stage to deliver his long awaited lines. Motel arose from his knees and greeted him with much enthusiasm!

Many other stories circulate-lost costumes, falling set pieces, etc. etc. Do you have some special memories? Share them with us and we’ll share them with everyone. These are the things that bind us together. Send your contributions to me (patmiller605@sbcglobal.net) or to Sandy (crashkline@aol.com). We all have stories to tell!