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High School
Lucy Spetnagel

And a very special thanks to those theater organizations in the Tri-Cities whose cooperation and assistance has been a vital part of our home season planning.

Johnson City Community Theatre
Jonesboro Repertory Theatre
Kingsport Theatre Guild
Theatre Bristol
and
Virginia Intermont College



The Road Company
P.O. Box 5278 E.K.S.
Johnson City, TN 37601
615/926-7726



THE
ROAD
COMPANY
Presents



LITTLE CHICAGO



A new musical by Jo Carson and
The Road Company
Original songs by
Richard Blaustein.

FROM THE DIRECTOR--

Welcome to the first of many Road Company home seasons. We are proud for you to be our audience. We are embarking on the new challenges of a resident theater in the Upper Tennessee Valley. We're pleased that you are part of it. We are also very, very excited because we can expect to do great things together and enjoy one another immensely.

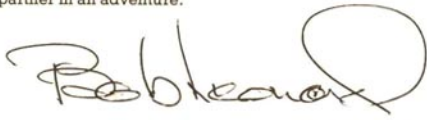
As many of you know, The Road Company creates and produces new plays. Some are written and created by The Road Company ensemble, a troupe of actors, writers, and theater artists working together in Johnson City. Others are written by playwrights from elsewhere. Each play that we produce is an effort to reflect or respond to the interests and concerns of you, our audience. In doing this we strongly believe that our work is not complete until we have shared it with you. That seems to us to be the point and fun of live performance.

Since 1975, when we got started, we have produced fourteen new plays ranging in style from circus acts to puppets, from storytelling to multi-media. We have produced scripts about southern mountain community history, frontier experiments in democracy, land use issues, love stories, wild lemons, and the impact of the world energy situation on our home here in Tennessee. Always, we have tried to entertain. To stimulate. To challenge. To intrigue. And always to entertain.

Little Chicago, a murder mystery set to music, draws on the memories and legends left to us today of Johnson City in the Roaring Twenties. Here, as elsewhere in the nation, people were reeling from World War I. The boys were back, alright, but you couldn't keep them down on the farm after they'd seen Poree. It was true for the whole city, not just for the veterans. The train. The radio. The telephone. Johnson City was on its way to encountering other habits and other styles. Cincinnati. Chicago. New York. For some, these cities might as well have been Paris. For others they meant hope and a new life. "Couldn't we be like those people in the movies?" With this, Johnson City entered the raceway towards progress. And ran smack into all that goes with it.

Enjoy the show and share with us the thrill of beginning this home season series. We promise you the excitement of new shows, live performance and a theater you may truly call your own. We ask you to join us, not just for this performance, but as a partner in an adventure.

Enjoy.



-Bob Leonard

THE COMPANY

MARGARET BAKER (Nancy) joined The Road Company last August and performed in **Horsepower** and **The Flying Lemon Circus** during our recently completed tour of the Southeast. A native of Smithfield, North Carolina, Ms. Baker holds degrees from North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; she has also studied acting at U.N.C. Chapel Hill. In addition to two seasons with the popular outdoor drama **Technseh!** at Sugarloaf Mountain, Margaret's credits include roles in **Harvey**, **Arsenic and Old Lace**, and **Carousel**.

RICHARD BLAUSTEIN (composer) is a member of the Sociology and Anthropology faculty at East Tennessee State University, a nationally regarded folklorist, and a noted old time musician in his own right. Native of Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Blaustein was influenced by the folk music scene of New York in the late Fifties and played traditional acoustic music with mandolin virtuoso David Grisman and other noted musicians while electrified folk-rock dominated the music business. Compiler of the only national directory of old time fiddler's associations, Richard is currently putting the final touches on his first solo album, **Tune in on My Memories**. Richard, his wife, Rosemary Brookman, and their two daughters, Rachel and Jessica, live in Johnson City.

JO CARSON (writer/researcher) first joined The Road Company as a performer in 1976, but changed roles to help write **Chautauqua 77** the following year. Ms. Carson's playwrighting won high praise in 1979 with the production of **Horsepower**, which was based upon a short story of hers. It was Jo's extensive research that uncovered the events upon which **Little Chicago's** whodunit plot is based. Jo is planning to return to performing, preparing a one-woman show featuring her poetry which captures the essence of Appalachian life and speech. She is a native Johnson Citian.

CAROL CLAY (Effie Jayne Wright) is most familiar to Tri-Cities audiences through her work at the Olde West Dinner Theatre in Blountville. Another Johnson City native who studied at East Tennessee State University, Carol joined the company in August for our seventeen-city **Horsepower/Flying Lemon Circus** tour. Ms. Clay's performing credits include roles in **Godspell**, **Tobacco Road**, and **Second Time Around**.

DOUG DORSCHUG (musician) comes to The Road Company with a resume which reads like a **Who's Who** of modern bluegrass and old time music. As a musician, producer, and engineer, Mr. Dorschug has worked with the Highwoods String Band, the Hot Mud Family, Robin and Linda Williams, Larry Sparks, John McCutcheon, and the Sugar Hill String Band. A graduate of Cornell, Doug plays piano, banjo, and guitar, and makes his home in Mountain City.

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LITTLE CHICAGO

**A new musical by Jo Carson and the actors of
The Road Company
Original songs by Richard Blaustein**

ACTING COMPANY

Margaret Baker..... Nancy
Carol Clay..... Effie Jayne Wright
Dennis Frederick..... Little John Wilson...Granger
Kelly R. Hill, Jr..... Rooster Robinson...Al Capone
Christine Murdock..... Maria Hawks...Baby
Rod Stipe..... Orville Toole
Rohn Thomas..... Bill...George...Undertaker

THE MUSIC

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Doug Dorschug..... Guitar, banjo, piano
Dennis Frederick..... Trombone, banjo, guitar
Kelly R. Hill, Jr..... Coronet
Ed Snodderly..... Guitar, dobro, mandolin
Rod Stipe..... Mandolin, guitar, fiddle
Vocals by The Company

THE SONGS

Little Chicago (Richard Blaustein)
The Fortune Teller's Waltz (Richard Blaustein)
Down Home in Sunny Tennessee (Richard Blaustein)
Stardust & Moonbeams (Richard Blaustein)
A Good Ole Friend of Mine (Richard Blaustein)
Any Old Time (Jimmie Rodgers)
Why Did You Give Me Your Love (Jimmie Rodgers)
My Buddy (Gus Kahn/Walter Donaldson)
Pool Playin' Papa (Crockett/Prairie Ramblers)
Ain't We Got Fun (Gus Kahn/Raymond Egan/Richard Whiting)

The characters in Little Chicago are fictional. Any resemblance of these characters to persons living or dead is entirely coincidental.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director..... Bob Leonard
Writer/Researcher..... Jo Carson
Composer..... Richard Blaustein
Production Stage Manager..... Elizabeth Meynardie
Choreographer..... Susan Pace
Costume Design..... Lucinda Flodin
Set Design..... Rick Cannon
Set Construction..... Tom Grill, Joe Muncey
Lighting Design..... Bob Leonard
Graphic Design..... Joe Muncey
Box Office Manager..... Bill Dunham
House Manager..... R. Raymond Moore, Barbara McNeese
Managing Director..... R. Raymond Moore
Subscription Manager..... Barbara McNeese
Tour & Promotions Manager..... Bill Dunham
Administrative Assistant..... Marlene M. Williams

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