

## Thank You...

The Road Company would like to thank those individuals, businesses, foundations, and agencies whose generous financial support makes our activities possible.

Bolton Block Company, Inc.  
Boone Distributing Company  
Velma Cloyd  
Mrs. Grace Curtis  
First Tennessee Bank  
Fran Greenberg  
Margaret Gregg  
Ken Hasson  
Home Federal Savings &

Loan Association  
Lyndhurst Foundation  
Massengill-deFriece Foundation  
E.E. McBurney  
Mountain Empire Bank  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Oldham Associates, Inc.  
Parson's Table, Inc.  
Jo P'Pool

Royal Oil Company  
Mrs. Henry Sharpe  
Street Construction Company  
Tennessee Arts Commission  
Thomas Industries, Inc.  
Judy Tower  
Volunteer Oil Company  
Dr. & Mrs. Philip Wishon

Coordination of our first resident season could not have been done without the time and effort of the following friends:

Louise Ammons  
Kathy Anderson  
Sam Burke  
Annette Burton  
Gerry Cassell  
Margo Clark  
Louise T. Clarke  
David Close  
Community Involvement Team of  
Levi Strauss and Company  
Dorothy Bennett  
Debbie Carson  
Lena Douglas  
Robin Edmondson  
Alice Elliott  
Bobby Joe Fair  
Randy Fair  
Kay Freeman  
Wanda Higgins

Bernie Hill  
Elta Mae Leach  
Theresa Leonard  
Marie Radford  
Louise Sliger  
Irene Shell  
Frances Shull  
Brenda Thompson  
Judy Webb  
Sherry Wilson  
Elizabeth Yarber  
Margit Cummings  
Elinor deNobriga  
Bob Dills  
Ellen Dimler  
Louise Fields  
Nancy Fishman  
Susan Fleishmann  
Fran Greenberg

Margaret Gregg  
Claude Harrell  
Ken Hasson  
Pat Hunnell  
Beth Jolly  
Audrey Kaiman  
Harry Keuper  
Joan Keuper  
Natalie LaFemine  
Tom Lloyd  
Nellie McNeil  
Belton Moore  
Carolyn Moore  
National Honor Society  
Dobyns-Bennett High School  
Opti-Miss of Science Hill  
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.

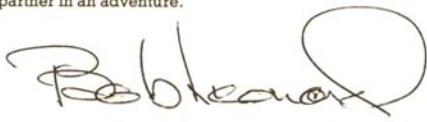
As many of you know, The Road Company creates and produces new plays. Some are written and created by The Road Company ensemble, a troupe of actors, writers, and theater artists working together in Johnson City. Others are written by playwrights from elsewhere. Each play that we produce is an effort 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 Patee. 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 **Technesh!** 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.

(continued on page 6)



# 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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University  
Richard Kesner, Archivist  
Veterans Administration, Mountain Home Center  
Dwight Taylor, Jack France  
Southern Theatre Conspiracy  
Steve Shanks  
Ted Pobst  
Peter Montanti  
Sally Pat Carson  
Olga Kovach  
Johnson City Parks and Recreation

DENNIS FREDERICK (Little John Wilson, Granger) joined The Road Company in 1979 for the final tours of **Mountain Whispers** and the development of **Horsepower--An Electric Fable**, in which he also created and played multiple roles. For his character Little John Wilson, Dennis learned to play trombone and banjo. A featured juggler in **The Flying Lemon Circus**, Mr. Frederick is a native of Elkhart, Indiana, and studied at Indiana University.

KELLY R. HILL, JR., (Rooster Robinson, Al Capone) is the ranking member of The Road Company; since 1975, he has created a multitude of characters in seven original Road Company shows and performed in three other ensemble productions. From **The Momentary Art of Statemaking**, the company's first show, through **Little Chicago**, Mr. Hill's considerable acting skills are enhanced by his uncanny ability to perform multiple roles. A native of Emory, Virginia, Kelly studied acting at East Tennessee State University.

BOB LEONARD (director) has produced and directed a total of fifteen original productions since he founded The Road Company in 1975. In addition to his duties as Road Company artistic director, Mr. Leonard sits on the Tennessee Arts Commission/First District Regional Advisory Panel, and on the boards of the Appalachian Council for the Arts, the Johnson City Area Arts Council, and the Johnson City Soccer Association. A graduate of Wesleyan University, with post graduate studies in theater production at Catholic University of America, Bob lives in Johnson City with his son, Seth.

BETSY MEYNARDIE (production stage manager) joined The Road Company three seasons ago and has since established herself as one of the finest on-the-road stage managers in touring theater today. Born in Japan, Ms. Meynardie came to East Tennessee in 1972 as a student at Tusculum College and has lived here ever since. A major cog in The Road Company's scholastic theater workshop programs, Betsy spends her summers teaching the performing arts at Tusculum's Upward Bound program.

CHRISTINE MURDOCK (Maria Hawks, Baby) has created characters for eight Road Company productions since 1977, including featured roles in **Chautauqua '77**, **Mountain Whispers**, **Corner Rooms**, and **Horsepower**. A graduate of Webster College, Ms. Murdock is a native of St. Louis and a member of a theatrical family--her father, Jack, appeared in last year's hit film, **Altered States**. An accomplished juggler and unicyclist, Christine lives outside Jonesboro.

ED SNODDERLY (musician) is certainly no stranger to Tri-Cities audiences; his original acoustic music has long been popular among area music lovers. As a solo touring act, Mr. Snodderly has traveled the East Coast from New England to the Virginia Tidewater. In addition to his performing, the Johnson

City native assists in the management of the renowned Down Home Pickin' Parlor. **Little Chicago** marks Ed's first theatrical appearance.

ROD STIPE (Orville Toole) joined the ensemble in 1979 for the final tours of **Mountain Whispers** and, with company member Tupper Cullum, created the original music and music collages for **Horsepower--An Electric Fable**. A Knox County native and graduate of East Tennessee State University, Mr. Stipe plays mandolin, guitar, harmonica, and fiddle. Rod and his wife, company member Sally Carlson Stipe, live in Bluff City; in the off-season Rod works as a whitewater guide for Nolichucky Expeditions.

ROHN THOMAS (Bill, George, Undertaker) came to the company midway through the development of **Little Chicago** and quickly created a need for his services during the show's in-progress run at Baltimore's Theatre Project. During The Road Company's past three tours, Mr. Thomas has performed in both **Horsepower** and **Flying Lemons**. A native of suburban Cleveland, Ohio, Rohn holds degrees from Goshen College and Indiana University and was a featured member of Louisville's Shakespeare in Central Park company.

## COMPANY NOTES

The Road Company's Fall 1981 tour concluded on Friday, October 23, at Sante Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida, with the 70th and final scheduled performance of **Horsepower--An Electric Fable**. In the course of six regional tours since **Horsepower's** premiere in Johnson City in September, 1979, the show toured nearly 23,000 miles, playing to over 11,000 in fifteen states. The 70 performances made **Horsepower** the longest-running mainstage production in our history.

**Horsepower** was created by Road Company members Sally Carlson Stipe, Tupper Cullum, Lucinda Flodin, Dennis Frederick, Kelly R. Hill, Jr., Betsy Meynardie, Christine Murdock, and Rod Stipe, under the direction of Bob Leonard. **Horsepower** was based upon a short story by Jo Carson, writer/researcher for **Little Chicago**. During its 25 months of touring, **Horsepower's** success allowed Margaret Baker, Eloise Bruce, Carol Clay, Emily Green, and Rohn Thomas to join The Road Company acting ensemble.