11-3-2011

CPA Celebrates Burt Dikelsky's Opening Night of Retirement Life!

Center for Performing Arts

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Governors State University
CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Celebrates
Burt Dikelsky's
OPENING NIGHT
of
RETIREMENT LIFE!

Thursday, November 3, 2011
Welcome
Jackie Small

CPA Advisory Board Remarks
Jean Bernstein, Inge Marra

CPA Staff Gift Presentation
Allen Babiarz, Kathleen Brennan, Dana Burnett, Jon Cobb, Jane Cox, Patricia Guy, Loretta Jones, Michael Krull, Kevin Rosenhagen, Mary Rothenberg, Jackie Small, Karen Stuenkel

Dikelsky Family
Mayo Dikelsky

Governors State University
Elaine P. Maimon

Honored Guest
Burt Dikelsky

PLUS SPECIAL SURPRISE GUEST FINALE!

Preshow photo presentation prepared by Loretta Jones
Playbill design and layout by Jon Cobb
**A Very Brief Biography of A Very Big Career**

Burt Dikelsky was born on February 18, 1945, and after a happy and exciting childhood in Illinois he graduated from Evanston Township High School in 1963. He went on to pursue a degree in theater from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (where he also pursued and won a wife and sired his first child!) and graduated from that university in 1968.

Burt taught theater in Elgin for a year, then worked in Naperville as a teacher for a further 13 years. He developed an excellent rapport with the Naperville Park District, and (with their support) developed an excellent series known as SHOWWAGON, in which he personally escorted thousands of area children on a globe hopping adventure to New York, London, and other places to experience quality theater programs first hand.

In 1981 Burt moved to Albuquerque, NM and became the Director of Group Sales and Marketing for the Barn Dinner Theater. In the same neighborhood, in 1983, he met his future, current (and forever!) wife Mayo. By 1985 Burt had become so well respected in the Albuquerque arts community that he moved on from dinner theater to be the Executive Director of the ABQ Civic Light Opera, the resident company at Pope Joy Hall at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

After two years with ABQ Civic Light Opera, Burt's old friend Jack Weisman from College of DuPage reached out to him about an opportunity in Illinois - Paramount Theater in Aurora needed a new Executive Director and Jack thought Burt would be a perfect fit. The Paramount agreed with Jack, and hired Burt. He remained there until 1991, when he decided it was time for a change of pace.

And what a change! Between 1992 and 1997, Burt worked for American Airlines in a variety of non-theatrical positions around the country...

...until in 1997 COD's Jack Weisman again reached out and drew Burt back into the dramatic fold - it was Jack who told Burt about a "brand new theater" opening in a "local state university" that "definitely needs your help, Dikelsky!" Of course Jack was referring to GSU, and soon after that conversation Burt Dikelsky became the Executive Director at the Center for Performing Arts, where he has championed the venue for the past 14 years and 15 seasons.

GSU Center for Performing Arts salutes Burton E. Dikelsky and his years of dedicated service to the "Jewel of The Southland".

*Thanks for the Memories!*

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**SPECIAL DELIVERY TELEGRAMS**

Burt, for more than a decade and a half you have tirelessly lead The Center For Performing Arts. You have coddled scores of artists, handled restless agents, patiently sat hundreds of thousands of school children and showed more than one patron, I am sure, to their seat. Your legacy is not only that of a pillar for the University and its theater but as a lasting iconic presence on the cultural landscape of Chicago's Southland. You will be sorely missed and I wish you the absolute best on your Act Two, because we certainly have enjoyed the Opening.

- Tom Dobrez, The Center For Performing Arts Board of Directors

Hi! I am sorry I will not be able to attend Burt's retirement party, but would like to just wish him all the good things that retirement brings.

- Peggy Brazley, The Center For Performing Arts Board of Directors

Burt, your creative and knowledgable leadership in propelling the Center for Performing Arts forward as a center for community enjoyment fulfilled the dream of the communities which mightily assisted in its creation and funding. Your friendship and willing assistance to the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra from my days on the GSU faculty to my stint as IPO President were filled with successes from musicians and artists from throughout the country and the world. We could not have succeeded without you and will be eternally grateful. The IPO was proud to call GSU its home for all those years. Thank you Burt and do continue to come out for those Tuesday afterwork GSU golf soirees.

- Mel Muchnik, GSU Professor Emeritus & Past President, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
SPECIAL DELIVERY TELEGRAMS

Burt, no one is more devoted to educating kids than you. I will always remember your passion for connecting with students in all grades. You are an inspirational and unforgettable education professional. Happy retirement!

- Paul Adams, THE MATH MANIAC and Great Shows For Kids

In the 20 some odd years I've known Burt, I have always known him to be a straight shooter. My goal has been to avoid being shot between the eyes. You don't mess around with Burt. Good luck in retirement to a hard working man of conviction whose integrity, good will and humor has been an inspiration to the many students he has mentored.

- Paul Bartz, President Windwood Theatricals / Windwood Productions

Good luck to you, Burt! With admiration for many years of bringing fabulous performances to University Park. Thank you for including Salt Creek Ballet in your fine line-up of productions, you will be missed!

- Christina Salerno, Executive Director SALT CREEK BALLET

Dear Burt, it was great planning the summer kids workshops with you. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support of arts programs for children. Your excellent work has provided many hours of enjoyment to audiences in the south suburbs. Congratulations on your retirement! Enjoy it!

- Bridget McDonough, Light Opera Works

SPECIAL DELIVERY TELEGRAMS

Dear Burt, we wish you the very best on your retirement and all your efforts for artists in the performing arts world! Best Regards!

- Ed Keane & Everyone at Ed Keane Associates

Burt's passion for theater is "as boundless as the sea." Chicago Shakespeare Theater joins the GSU community in thanking him for his years of service and partnership.

- Marilyn Halperin, Chicago Shakespeare Theater

ArtReach loves Governors State University! We send our best wishes and congratulations to Burt! Thanks so much!

- Krista Katona Pille, The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati and ArtReach: a Division of TCT of Cincinnati

Dear Burt, on behalf of everyone here at Monterey International we wish you a very happy retirement. You brought sincere enthusiasm to your job and all of the artists that you booked at GSU. Before I had returned to a new position at Monterey, I recall running in to you at a local mall. I went up to you just to say a quick hello to see if you'd remember my name. Well, a half hour later I had heard about just about all of the shows that you had booked for that season! It's been a pleasure.

- John Gabrysiak, Monterey International Agency
SPECIAL DELIVERY TELEGRAMS

* * *

Goodbye Burt, I will miss you so much since we did so many events together! However, since we’re close in age, I can’t remember ANY of them!! We had lots of laughs about how low you wanted the fees to be. Sometimes you won..well most times!! You were always a great client to me having done 26 events with me... and only 3 acts! Capitol Steps, Glenn Miller and Mark Russell. They each have a bust of your head in their lobbies. Wish you well, have fun and work on that Golf Game. It’s about as difficult to learn as it is working with agents like me!! Be well, long life and happiness to you and your family!!

- Steve Rudolf, Producers Inc.

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SPECIAL DELIVERY POETRYGRAM

“There once was a man named Burton,
who often stood before the red curtain.
Dance, comedy or musicals,
he knew how to choose a few
shows to delight young and old.
The stars he had seen,
Cosby, Tomlin, DeYoung and BB King,
But it was Broadway’s best that made his heart sing.
Whether CATS, Joseph or Annie,
The applause came from many
as curtain calls lit up the stage.
So now let us toast
The director with the most
A theater lover through and through!”

Thank you Burt for your commitment and partnership over our years of work together at The Center! Best wishes!

- Eileen Chambers, Carol Fox & Associates

As these final minutes wind down, I wanted to spend them thanking all of you for the devotion and support that you have afforded The Center to help make it as it is today. We have built a living breathing organization that infuses an artistic life into our communities. I will always be proud of what we have done together and thank you all for (wait for it)..................

“The Memories”

Thx

bd
CPA STAFFERS
SING ALONG SEGMENTS!

OVERTURE
to tune of “THIS IS IT” (OVERTURE)
(parody lyrics by Jon Cobb)

Overture - Curtains, Lights - This is Burt’s - Retirement Night -
No more directing and showcasing arts - He’s totally played his parts!

Burt’s Act One - Was Nicely Done. Inter-Mission’s Just Begun -
And oh what heights he’ll hit - On with Act Two, this is it!

(EVERYBODY: hum and play one imaginary instrumental verse!)

Overture - Curtains, Lights - This is Burt’s - Retirement Night -
And oh what heights he’ll hit - On with the show, this is it!

RETIRING TONIGHT
To tune of “COMEDY TONIGHT”
(parody lyrics by Jon Cobb)

(verse 1)
Someone is leaving - Someone inspiring -
Burton Dikelsky is Re-Ti-Ring Tonight -
Not just vacation - The situation’s -
Burton Dikelsky is Re-Ti-Ring Tonight -

(chorus 1)
In Center Ring - for All of The Towns -
Burt brought us lovers, liars, and clowns -
Making New Contacts - Redrafting Contracts -
Planning so Everything was Right -
Burton Dikelsky’s Retiring Tonight!

(verse 2)
He brought us Broadway - Opera and Ballet -
Symphonic Concerts and a Cab-a -Ret Night
Comics and Dramas - Mysteries and Mama’s -
Magic and Musicals on Satur- -Day Nights

(chorus 2 - ending based on FINAL CHORUS of original song)
Burt’s been the King - of Center Ring -
for many great years, NOW, EVERYONE SI- -ING !!
OLD SITUATIONS - NEW COMPLICATIONS -
NOTHING PRETENTIOUS OR POLITE -
Burton Dikelsky’s Retiring (tiring - tiring - tiring - RETIRING... Tonight!)