4-30-1992

Quilters
Taylor Theatre presents

QUILTERS

A musical by
Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek

Music and Lyrics by
Barbara Damashek

Based upon the book
"The Quilters: Women and Domestic Art" by
Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Allen

Taylor University
April 30-May 2, May 6-9, 1992
One day last summer my sister and I took a short vacation to Northeastern Iowa. Our mission was to search out some additional strands of our family history. We had located several great aunts and had listened to stories about our great-grandmother, grandmother and mother. After one such session we returned to the car, looked at each other and simultaneously exclaimed, "we come from a family of very strong women!"

As I have grown older I have increasingly come to appreciate the legacy of the Rousselow, Flickinger, Williamson and Warring women. They all lived their lives in the corners of the world. Their days were consumed by the ordinary activities common to women--cooking, baking, cleaning, gardening, preserving food, sewing, knitting, crocheting and quilting. They had their share of babies. They knew the bittersweetness of marriages that worked and marriages that didn't work. They endured heartaches, personal and family crises, physical and emotional pain and they sweetened the days of their lives with laughter and song. Their lives were dominated by work, but occasionally there was time for relaxation; time for building relationships and participating in the life of the community. Most of all they transferred the strength, courage and commitment of their lives to their daughters. Even though none of them ever made it into a history book, their stories live on and will continue to survive so long as they are told and retold by their daughters.

It is in the telling of our mother's stories that we daughters validate our own lives. Stories transform the ordinary into the extraordinary--the mundane into the sacramental.

Sarah McKendree Bonham and her eight daughters share the stories of many women's lives--stories that are not unlike my great-grandmother's, grandmother's and mother's stories. Perhaps you will find the stitches and threads of your own mother's stories in the unfolding blocks of Sarah's legacy quilt.

We dedicate this production to all our Mothers in celebration of the love and laughter, joy and pain of their lives. This creation is for you Ruth, Marjorie, Cora, Annie Belle, Lulu Blanche, Emma Louise, Peta, Julia, Mary and Susan. You endure in our lives because we remember and retell your stories. Thank you.

Jessica Rousselow
The play takes place during the westward expansion of America's frontier.

BLOCKS AND SONGS

ACT I

Opening..........................Pieces of Lives
Rocky Road........................Rocky Road
Babies Blocks......................Thread the Needle
Childbirth........................Windmill
Rebel Patch........................Cornelia Song
Windmill...........................Windmill
Robbing Peter to Pay Paul
Butterfly...........................Washed in the Blood
Butterfly Song........................Butterfly Song
Schoolhouse.......................Pieces of Children's Lives
Green, Green, Green
Four Doves........................The Needles Eye

ACT II

Opening
Lone Star.................................Quiltin' & Dreamin'
Double Wedding Rings................Pieces of Lives
(Reprise)
Secret Drawer
Log Cabin........................Every Log in My House
Country Cross Roads................Never Grow Old
Who Will Count the Stitches?
CROSSES & LOSSES....................The Lord Don't Rain
Down Manna
Tree of Life.........................Everything Has a Time
(Reprise) Pieces of Lives
Hands All Around

--There will be a ten minute intermission between Act I and Act II--
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like gratefully to acknowledge the inspiration derived from the original quilt design "The Sun Sets on Sunbonnet Sue" as designed and executed by the Seamstresses Union Local No. 500 of Lawrence, Kansas, and the inspiration provided by Grace Snyder and Nellie Snyder Yost in their book No Time on My Hands.

The authors would also like gratefully to acknowledge the following texts and individuals as invaluable resources in the development of the play: New Discoveries in American Quilts by Robert Bishop; American Quilts and Coverlets by Robert Bishop and Carleton L. Stafford; Marguerite Ickis; Letters of a Woman Homesteader by Elinore Pruitt Stewart; Our Homes and Their Adornments by Almon C. Varney; American Folk Poetry—An Anthology by Duncan Emrich; Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey by Lillian Schlissel; Aunt Jane of Kentucky by Eliza Calvert Hall; Pioneer Women—Voices from the Kansas Frontier by Joanna L. Stratton; "The Prairie Home Companion," Garrison Keilor, Minnesota Public Radio; A Little Better Than Plumb by Henry and Janice Holt Giles; A Harvest Yet to Reap—A History of Prairie Women by Linda Rasmussen, Lorna Rasmussen, Candace Savage, and Anne Wheeler; and Wisconsin Death Trip by Michael Lesy.

The Communication Arts Department, the Directors and Cast wish to thank the following people for the time, effort and expertise put into the creation of the sixteen different quilt blocks required to piece Quilters together:

(in the order of their appearance)

ROCKY ROAD. ................. Virginia Corll
DUGOUT. ......................... Pat Atkinson
BABIES BLOCKS. .............. Joy Curless
REBEL PATCH. .................. Mira Allen
WINDMILL. ..................... Yetive Williams
ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL .... Yetive Williams
BUTTERFLY. .................... Martha Yutzy
SCHOOLHOUSE. ............... Shirley Harms
FOUR DOVES. ................. Jan Pletcher
LONE STAR. ..................... Betty Hoover
DOUBLE WEDDING RINGS. ...... Bernita Bechtol
SECRET DRAWER. ............. Jan Pletcher
LOG CABIN. ..................... Joy Curless
COUNTRY CROSSROADS. ...... Carol Owen
CROSSES & LOSSES. ........... Jeanne Bullock
TREE OF LIFE. ................ Marsha Pitts
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assistants to the Director</td>
<td>*Amy Phillips, Jason Welch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Director</td>
<td>Dr. Oliver Hubbard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Crew</td>
<td>*JASON WELCH (Tim Drake, Mark Rozeboom, Dawn Russo, Sandy Walker)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Art</td>
<td>Laura Bernd, Lisa Kimmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Painting</td>
<td>Marjorie Hobbs, Todd Lewinski, Terry Moritz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lights</td>
<td>*DAN KETT (Bill Cuttino, Tim Dixon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make-up</td>
<td>*WENDY LONEY (Brent Croxton, Marjorie Hobbs, Paula Moore, Meribeth Salveson)</td>
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<td>Properties</td>
<td>DANIELLE BEAUCHAINE (Brent Croxton, Tim Drake, Stephanie Hamilton, Diane Ray)</td>
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<td>Costumes</td>
<td>DAWN BARTOW (Becky Bartow, Jeff Greene, April Hunter, Scott Mason, Paula Moore, Valerie Neilsen, Julie Scroggins, Eric Uliczney)</td>
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<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>*TRICIA CABLE (Lisa Angerer, Heidi Beath, Tracey Doude, Bruce Fouse, Christian Hibschman, Sarah Karlen, Becca Madsen, Paula Moore, Mark Rozeboom, K.T. Strong)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Cover Design</td>
<td>Laura Bernd</td>
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Instrumentalists

Cheli Armstrong .................. Flute
*Holly Gaff ...................... Percussion
Bonnie Houser .................. Piano
Mark Hubbard .................. Guitar

A Communication Arts Department Production

Thanks for your support--
See you next season!

*Alpha Psi Omega Members