

**byu department
of theatre and cinematic arts
presents**

in the margetts arena theatre

STILL THE MOUNTAIN WIND

by DAVID L. WRIGHT

directed by CHARLES WHITMAN

CAST

Alvin Simmons	Russell D. Lowder
Rich Simmons	Bret Val Liljenquist
Gloria Glenn	Diane Jefferson
Carl Simmons	Greg Peters
Laura Simmons	Cathy Stanton
Bertha Simmons.	Laura L. Wilson
Jean Richards	Michele Yvette Augustus

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Charles W. Whitman
Set and Lighting Designer	Gregory Kearney
Costume Designer	Donette Davis
Assistant Director	John E. Clark
Resident Stage Manager	Russell D. Lowder
Production Stage Manager	Catherine Benson
Lighting Technician	Kenneth J. Beck
Sound Technician	Charles Cox
Ticket Office Manager	Roy Brinkerhoff
House Manager	Brad Stevenson
Publicity Manager	D. Terry Petrie

May 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 at 8 p.m.

Matinee May 24 at 4:30 p.m.

1982



The time is 1950; however, except for the prologue and Alvin's exit in the last scene, the action takes place as it is seen and interpreted through the eyes of the mature Alvin's imagination, as he reflects upon the people and events of his childhood. Most of his remembrances center upon the months of June and July, 1935; thus all of the characters, including his boyhood self, are represented as they appeared to him during this era.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

To me the most beautiful sound in the world is the rushing song of the leaves as the wind rushes through them down at the old house. I long to be there now, when the wind is at rest and the soul is peaceful, all is quiet and the symphony of the leaves soothes the sorrow of life

David L. Wright 1929-1967

When he was finally able to write STILL THE MOUNTAIN WIND, David thought that many of his hauntings would cease, that his conflicting "outside world" experience would find understanding and identification but he was never able to wipe it from his troubled mind. It returned in rushing remembrances.

I first met David Wright in 1956; I saw STILL THE MOUNTAIN WIND at the Lyric Theatre in Logan, Utah, and seeing his play is seeing David. Some years later I directed the play in Beaver, Utah and toured the show to several Southern Utah towns. That's when David and I started corresponding and telephoning. Before that year was over we had collaborated on a staged version of SPEAK YE TENDERLY OF KINGS which was later done for television.

When I directed STILL THE MOUNTAIN WIND again at the University of Minnesota, David brought his family to the production and we met for the first time in person. It wasn't a "first time" meeting, however; we knew each other very well.

Another time in Bennington, Idaho, where David was born and in Montpelier, Idaho, where I was born we spent hours together walking through the old haunts and talking about the two plays. I don't suppose I've ever met another person whose tie to his birthplace was so strong; in many respects he was hewn from his senses of his mountain retreat. When I directed this play at the University of Minnesota, it was extremely well received and I thought I would never direct it again and yet here I am directing it for the third time, fourth if you count a production in Paris, France, with the Semester Abroad, but that production never reached the audiences because of an accident to a cast member. I've always said I don't want to direct a show a second time because I've said all I want the first time. Perhaps David's voice prompts me . . . come home Alvin Simmons . . . so still . . . the mountain wind.

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PRODUCTION HISTORY OF STILL THE MOUNTAIN WIND

- 1956 Lyric Theatre, Logan Utah, Vosco Call, director
- 1960 Beaver Theatre Group, Beaver, Utah, Charles Whitman, director
- 1960 The Poet's Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts, George E. Serries, director
- 1961 A prose version of the play appeared in the Autumn, 1960 issue of MUTINY Magazine. was reprinted in BEST ARTICLES & STORIES magazine in 1961, and appeared on "The Roll of Honor" BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES 1961 (Foley and Burnett).
- 1962 University of Massachusetts, FM Radio, May 1962, Drama Department
- 1963 University of Minnesota Arena Theatre, Charles Whitman, director
- 1970 Southern Utah State College and competed in the American College Theatre Festival Rocky Mountain Theatre Division, Fred Adams, director
- 1974 Lyric Theatre, Logan, Utah, Vosco Call, director
- 1977 Racine Theatre Guild, Racine, Wisconsin, Norman McPhee, director
- 1982 Margett's Arena Theatre, Brigham Young University, Charles Whitman, director

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