

Patricia Lund Davis

September 4, 1930 ~ September 9, 2023

On September 9, 2023, the final curtain fell on the life of Patricia Lund Davis, a legend in Utah's musical theater community whose extraordinarily creative work spanned more than 75 years. Mom was born on September 4, 1930 to Verda Delora Robins and Halvor Frederick Lund in Salt Lake City as the third of four children. She and her siblings, Phyllis, Allan, and Bobbie were lovingly raised almost entirely by their single Mother (our Nana) in the depths of the "Great Depression," learning principles of hard work, perpetual gratitude, and essential optimism. Mom was taught by her mother that "anything worth doing is worth doing well."

Blessed with remarkable artistic and musical abilities but without financial resources, Mom honed her inspirational musical talents in churches and community theaters – rather than colleges and universities. Without music lessons or the ability to read music, she learned to play the piano. Notwithstanding virtual immobility of her left arm, she taught others to dance and move comfortably about the stage.

On April 3, 1953, she married her eternal sweetheart, Clifton Akert Davis, in the Salt Lake Temple. Together, they created a nurturing family environment for us, her children: Thomas Richard (Alta), Clifton Todd (Tricia), Shelley (Steve Edwards), John Chad, and Christopher Robins (Suzanne). Mom regularly boasted of her 20 grandchildren and 45 great grandchildren - all amazingly talented. We never get tired of being introduced as the children of "that" Pat Davis.

A gifted singer and performer, Mom starred in numerous enduring theatrical performances including "Fiddler on the Roof," "Mame," "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," and most notably "Hello Dolly" – all to rave reviews. For decades she provided intimate musical theater performances with other local "HI-Lighters" Ralph Rogers, Harold Glazier, Glen Slight, and Jenny Bennett.

Self-taught, Mom learned and expertly performed every aspect of the business of musical theater. As Artistic Director for Promised Valley Playhouse, Co-Founder (with Dad) and Managing Director of the Triad Theater, The Grand Theater, and the Heritage School Theater, she made certain that each theater enterprise was as financially sound as it was artistically entertaining.

In the midst of her demanding career, Mom served as a member of the General Activities Committee and the Cultural Arts Specialist for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in which capacity she taught, coached, sang, and inspired Church leaders world-wide. After Dad's passing in 1995, Mom took her creative genius to Nauvoo where she wrote and directed musical productions for 9 years.

Mom produced and directed hundreds of musicals on countless stages, the players of which were usually amateurs and mostly young people. Literally, thousands of people have been lovingly induced by Mom to nurture and courageously share their talents to the great blessing of the Wasatch Front. As a consequence, she received the

prestigious Governor’s Mansion Artist Award, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the Community College and honored with the Heritage School’s theater being named for her. Her portrait hangs prominently in Abravanel Symphony Hall.

From our infancy, she encouraged each of her children to reach as far as possible, to never be content with just “ok,” and to get back up and try again each time we would stumble. She will continue to inspire us, our families and the legion that expressed their thanks to her everywhere she went.

We thank Travina, Ronnie, Jen, Natalie, Debi, Brittany, Valerie, and Alan for their loving care of Mom over the past months, and to all of Mom’s friends and relatives for their love and support.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, September 16, 2023, at 11:30 am in the Cottonwood LDS Stake Center, 1830 East 6400 South, Murray, Utah. Friends may call at the Stake Center on Friday from 6:00 to 8:30 pm and Saturday from 10:00 – 11:15 am prior to the services. Interment will be at the Kaysville City Cemetery, 500 East Crestwood Road, Kaysville, Utah.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Pat’s name to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: https://www.cff.org/donate