



NEWS RELEASE

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"Tribute" to say farewell to New Harmony theatre director

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Historic New Harmony benefactor Jane Blaffer Owen will honor the departing artistic director of The New Harmony Theatre by hosting a "Tribute to Steven Williford" on Wednesday, August 16, at Thrall's Opera House in New Harmony, Indiana. The event will include a reception at 6:30 p.m. and buffet dinner at 7 p.m.

Williford has been with The New Harmony Theatre since 1989, helping to turn it into one of few professional theatre programs in Indiana, and director of theatre at the University of Southern Indiana since 1990, leading the effort to expand the student theatre program. He plans to leave for New York City at the end of August to continue his work in theatre.

"Steven has led the academic program, the USI Theatre, and The New Harmony Theatre to impressive heights," noted James R. Blevins, dean of the School of Liberal Arts. "He will be difficult to replace. I hope his many friends will come to say goodbye and to wish him well."

Tickets for the Williford tribute are \$50; proceeds will go to The New Harmony Theatre. Call the USI Special Events Office, 812/464-1930, for information or reservations.

While overseeing the blossoming program at The New Harmony Theatre, Williford directed *Foxfire*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Painting Churches*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Eleemosynary*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Agnes of God*, *Lettice and Lovage*, *Marvin's Room*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Born Yesterday*. He also appeared as Tom in the company's 1992 production of *The Glass Menagerie*.

While director of USI Theatre the past five years, his credits have include student productions of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Anouilh's *Antigone*, and *Buried Child*, *Two Rooms*, *Reckless*, and the musical *The Robber Bridegroom*.

Before coming to southern Indiana, Williford's directing credits included productions for New York's Ensemble Studio Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, The Plaza Theatre in Dallas, Seattle's New City Theatre, The Bucks County Playhouse, and The Colonial Theatre in Rhode Island. He also was the producing director for the East Carolina Summer theatre and has appeared as an actor in Off-Broadway and regional theaters, touring productions, daytime television, and several commercials.

Williford has a Master of Fine Arts in directing from the University of Washington at Seattle and a B.F.A. in acting and directing from East Carolina University. He is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

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