Hail, Friend! Eagerheart Is 75

Say, gentle listener, at this Christmas-tide, Is your hearth ready? Are your doors flung wide?

Eagerheart, the A.M. Buckton play that has ushered in the Christmas season for generations of Mountevidians, will celebrate its 75th year of performances Dec. 1 and 2, 2007, with a series of special events hosted by Campus Players.

First performed for the SC Christmas Chapel in 1932, Eagerheart has been a tradition not only of the Campus Players, but also of the college and Winfield community. After the show was discontinued in the early 1980s, Roger and Allyson Moore revived the tradition in 1988.

Now the Campus Players are planning the 75th year as a major celebration that will include performances in both Richardson Auditorium and the Helen Graham Little Theatre, live musical accompaniment, new designs, and filming of the play.

Eagerheart will be staged both upstairs in Richardson Auditorium (as it was in the first 3/5 decades of its run at SC), and downstairs in the Little Theatre where it has been performed since 1966. A select group of 75 Campus Players will form the audience when Eagerheart is presented in the soon-to-be-renovated Helen Graham Little Theatre.

The upstate venue will allow space for performers to provide live music. Eagerheart music will be added by the Southwestern College A Cappella Choir and Southwestern Singers, conducted by David Gardner; the SC Band, conducted by Chris Schmitz; and the South Central Kansas Symphony, conducted by Daniel Stevens.

In addition to live sound and recording for use in the Little Theatre, and a new light system, other design elements will also be updated. After the 1990 Richardson Hall fire when all of the Eagerheart sets, props, and costumes went up in flames, costumes and props were provided by loans from the Lenoir, the religious theatre organization on campus. Costumes have been continually added, reconstructed, refurbished and replaced since that time, but many of the pieces used today have been used for half a century.

The SC theatre department costume class will take on design and construction of the new costumes as a class project.

For more information on the Eagerheart anniversary celebration, contact Roger Moore, (620) 299-6244.