

BARTER

Playhouse

REX PARTINGTON - PRODUCING DIRECTOR

CALLING *on* LOU



BARTER *Playhouse*

Abingdon, Virginia

REX PARTINGTON - PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Presents

CALLING on LOU

The Stories and Poems of
LOU CRABTREE

Featuring
CLEO HOLLADAY

Adapted for the Stage by
LARRY RICHMAN

Directed by
WILLIAM VAN KEYSER

Costumes Designed by
KAREN BREWSTER

Lighting Designed by
AL OSTER

THERE WILL BE ONE TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION
DURING THIS EVENING'S PERFORMANCE.

NOTES ON "CALLING ON LOU"

By William Van Keyser, Director

The creation of a new play is a fascinating process, and "Calling on Lou" has been a labor of love for all involved.

The idea for the production was Cleo Holladay's. Once Cleo had proposed the concept of a one-woman show about Abingdon writer Lou Crabtree to Lou and Rex Partington, meetings and brainstorming sessions started. Cleo, Lou, Rex, Larry Richman, Champe Leary and I had many a meeting on the Partington's front porch last spring and summer. We sat with coffee cups and piles of loose papers before us, poems and short stories Lou had written over the years. The more we read and studied, the more we saw that the material seemed to divide itself into two acts, the first dealing with our area, the Appalachian region, and the second dealing with women in the world, writing that seemed to transcend region and to work on more universal levels.

So, we met, studied, laughed, and had a good time while working hard to create a script that would pull many poems and stories together into a unified theatrical event. What you see and hear at this performance is, we feel, unique. We know we had something special—we had Lou's wonderful words and Cleo's dedication, presence, abilities, and talents to bring those words to theatrical life.

We'll be "Calling on Lou" for two weeks in Abingdon and for three weeks across the state of Virginia. A new play in a newly renovated Playhouse—we're excited and glad that you're in on the excitement. It's a show that's both funny and sad, that covers the entire cycle of life.

It's your turn for "Calling on Lou"; get ready to enter her world.

in Richmond, Virginia, educated in
er Producing Director, Rex Partington)
er, Dixie were born in Portsmouth,
been home. Ms. Holladay recently
"Promenade, All I" and "Artichoke,"
er to win both Barter's Virginia and
m Mary Martin. Ms. Holladay was on
t in "Lunatics and Lovers," in the
and in the critically acclaimed TV pro-
d," filmed in Mid-Atlantic on the Q&A.

graduated "cum laude" from Rad-
years ago; attended the American
or poetry and short story. Among the
ed for her awareness of the humors
Her book of short stories ("Sweet
second printing, has been nominated
and the Pen/Faulkner Award. Her

jects at Duke University, the Univer-
Agnes Scott College, Virginia Inter-
ge, where he is now Associate Pro-
ntry, chocolate, and National Public
g meetings. Dr. Richman and his wife
asionally writes poems. "Calling on

ductions of "The Dining Room" and
at Mistress," "Man With A Load of
Matchmaker." His theatre training
twenty-one years of directing plays.
nd dance at Virginia Highlands Com-
ts include "The Seagull," "Jacques
d "The Boy Friend."

stic Director of Barter Theatre since
from Syracuse University, and began
uring the interim, he has compiled a
ement on Broadway and in regional
d Lovers" and was with the original
My Fair Lady." He was Production
or of the Cleveland Play House. For
ny, Heartland Productions.

CREDITS AND SPECIAL THANKS

Lee Smith - for permission to quote from her interview with Lou Crabtree.
 Nancy Garretson - for permission to use three of her "Six Figures of Women,"
 and for creating a fourth figure especially for this production.

David Richardson, Dave Grace and Bill McKee - for the photographs.

Senior Center & Services - for the rag dolls.

Robert Harman - for the dulcimer music.

"Calling on Lou" will tour the State of Virginia from November 26 through December 15, 1984 as a sponsored event of the Women's Cultural History Project, highlighting the role of women in the history of the Commonwealth, a project initiated by Mrs. Lynda Robb. This event has been partially funded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts. For tour information, call Mrs. Pearl Hayter at the Barter business office at (703) 628-2281.

BARTER STAFF

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