

COLORADO STAGE COMPANY

The Bright Lights of ... Lone Tree

By Pamela McCreary



Vivacious and vibrant, Constance Cawfield, one of the founding members of Colorado Stage Company has a secret: "I was painfully shy as a child," she confesses. "I was the kid in the corner crying." Hard to believe in light of a professional acting career that spans decades.

Constance and her husband, Bill—an engineer who invented TASCAM (a sound mixer) and who worked sound on *Star Wars*—lived and worked in Los Angeles for twenty-five years. As an actress, Constance appeared on *Knots Landing*, *Hill Street Blues*, and numerous other television shows, films and over 300 commercials. She was also the voice of Wonder Woman in the cartoon *Super Friends* in the mid-80s. But it was theater that always spoke to her heart.

So, in 1997, when the Cawfields moved to Highlands Ranch to be closer to family, the first thing Constance did was search for a theater home. At that time, professional theater options were limited in the south metro area. In response, Constance and Bill, along with Seth and Sue Rossman, Cindy Ergenbright, and Anne Hadzi, formed Colorado Stage Company in 1999.

Without a space of their own, they searched for a church or school where they could rent space. "Everyone wanted so much money that it wasn't affordable. Then we found the Lone Tree Golf Club and Hotel. They offered us a space in their downstairs conference room. It's great!" Constance exclaims.

What began modestly as staged reading of plays has grown into a company of professional actors that offer full fledged theatrical productions at the club. "For the past five years, Bill and I have run the company ourselves. We are supported for each show by the city of Lone Tree and just recently received a grant from the SCFD which we are so grateful for. We invested in theater seating, curtains, and a professional sound and lighting system. We are definitely here to stay," she says with a grin.

They work as a team: Bill produces and works backstage on light and sound, and Constance produces and directs. Moving from acting to directing has been a natural progression for Constance. "Directing fills every creative need I have and I enjoy it," she states. Experienced in theater, both on stage and back stage—Constance co-founded The Bitter Truth Theater in LA—she brings her passion to life in Lone Tree, producing and directing and living by the words of George Bernard Shaw,

“Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine, and at last, you create what you will.”

And what they are creating is fun. Comedy is their specialty and Constance says their last production, **Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got The Will?** by Del Shores was such a success that they are producing the prequel, **Cheatin'**. It is set in the small, fictional West Texas town of Lowake, and is an award-winning hilarious tribute to a small watering hole in Lowake and the town folk's favorite pastime: gossip. "This is a terrific show. We have a dedicated following and always have a great turn-out. The theater seats sixty, so it is intimate and fun," she says. Not bad for a shy girl from Illinois.

Cheatin' opened in October and runs Friday and Saturday nights through November 18th at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees on November 5th and 12th at 2 p.m. There is a cash bar that opens one half hour before the show. Ticket prices are: \$15.00 Adults and \$12.00 Seniors & Students.

Call 303-471-8171 for more information and reservations. Visit them at www.Coloradostage.com. Seating is limited so make your reservation soon! Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel, 9808 Sunningdale Blvd., Lone Tree.