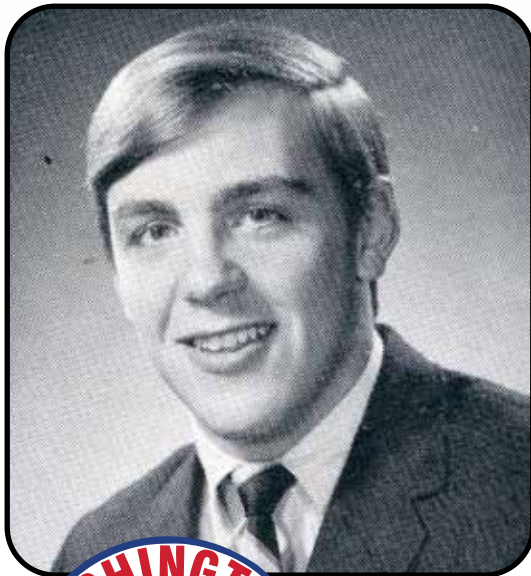


Tom Chehak

Inducted into the *Hall of Fame* in 1998



Tom Chehak, Class of 1969, was born in Cedar Rapids. At WHS he played football, earning him recognition as a letterman, and also participated in track, weights, and yearbook. Tom earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Iowa.

After college graduation, Tom headed directly for Hollywood, where he found work as a gofer on the *Mary Tyler Moore Show* and other television series. With keys to the MGM script vaults, he taught himself to write scripts by reading scripts while, he has said, resting against one or another of the several stuffed collies used for static shots on the *Lassie* program.

In addition to his work as a writer, since the late 1970s Chehak has directed and produced teleplays and television series, ranging from *WKRP in Cincinnati* and *Diagnosis Murder* to *ReGenesis* and *The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr.*

In 2002, Chehak gave his papers to the University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections. His collection includes extensive files for three television projects for which he served as a writer and/or producer, *Galidor: Defenders of the Outer Dimension*, sponsored by the Lego Media Company and the Disney Channel; the action-adventure series, *Scout's Safari*, shot in South Africa; and *The Listener*, an NBC television series that ran from 2009-14.