Carl Albert



Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1998

Carl Albert began his almost three-decade tenure as a Washington teacher and drama director in 1967. Don Nau, principal at the time, asked Carl if he was interested in becoming the head of the WHS theatre program. Carl was finishing "an insignificant year" as Chairman of the Arkansas State University Theatre, and the opportunity to return to Iowa was an answer to several prayers.

Between *The Boy Friend* and *Carousel*, Carl directed a vast array of productions. His personal favorites were *John Brown's Body*, *Camelot*, *A Man for all Seasons*, *Oliver*, *Merchant of Venice*, *In White America*, and *Lute Song*. Mr. Albert was driven always to introduce students and audiences to a variety of styles and forms, shows that did not fit the "It was a nice play" conclusion. His students never accepted the bland because he didn't, and they were always willing to accept variety and challenge.

After moving to the language arts classrooms in the 1970s, Carl continued to serve WHS as a teacher, until 1996 when a broken ankle influenced his retirement. "A symbolic end to an astonishing part of my life."