



Luci & Richard Janssen

Lobero Ghostlight Society

By Jessica Simon

Luci and Richard Janssen are Founding Members of the Lobero's Ghostlight Society. Ghostlight Society members give the Lobero Theatre Foundation the strong and steady support needed to keep this vibrant theatre from ever going dark. Their presence, like the steadfast bulb at center stage, illuminates behind-the-scenes efforts and gives the inspiration to continue. (See page 23 for more information on the Ghostlight Society.)

The Janssens are no strangers to the art and theatre world, having commissioned several works in the past. They are the first to admit how important art is, especially arts education.

"I like that you get the kids involved," Luci comments. "There are probably students who would never have had the opportunity to see a stage production, and that is what communities need more of because it helps them develop. To see a quality program can inspire them in a way. There's something magical about the stage. This is a time when arts programs are always the first to get cut in the schools, but those are the things that you need to make a person well-rounded, and to give kids a sense of community."

Luci and Richard, both originally from California, have been in the Santa Barbara area for about ten years. What makes the Lobero stand out to them? Richard answers, "Clearly it's one of the premier theatres. It's an ideal size for a lot of shows and it helps to attract all sorts of talent, from speakers to individuals to musical acts. The size helps attract audiences and helps keep culture in Santa Barbara. And it's in the heart of downtown." Luci agrees, "I personally don't like to be in a throng of thousands, you lose the quality. There's no intimacy. It's kind of like watching a big sporting event; you might as well be at home watching it on



Top: Luci and Richard with Manhattan Transfer's Janice Siegel
Bottom: Luci and a friend with Manhattan Transfer's Alan Paul

your TV. At the Lobero, you feel part of the ambiance and the performance that's going on."

Luci also enjoys the assortment of performances that the Lobero offers. "The Lobero gives a nice variety. I can take my grandson there to see a magician; I can go there to see a Chinese opera. It's a nice little jewel because it has got a lot of history to it, which is great."

Why do they enjoy being members of the Ghostlight Society? "You are doing this to reward an organization that is vibrant and doing things." Richard comments. "It's about rewarding good work, I think. All different kinds of events come into the Lobero that help Santa Barbara in all sorts of ways."

Luci adds, "The Ghostlight Society looked like a really good way, especially in these economic times, to help keep quality shows coming to Santa Barbara."

Thanks to the Janssens and all of the other donors, the Lobero has been able to do just that!