



## **BICENTENNIAL HYBRID THEATRE/TV SHOW FEATURES DRAMATIZATION OF RICHARD LUGAR, JOHN MUTZ AND OTHER PROMINENT INDIANAPOLIS CITIZENS FROM THE LATE 1960'S.**

- Over 30 local actors, designers and technicians combined to work on a hybrid, filmed stage/documentary, COVID-safe production.
- To be presented on WFYI for the Indianapolis Bicentennial Celebration
- The creation of IUPUI and Unigov dramatized.
- Set against the national backdrop of the most turbulent year in America - 1968.

Stay tuned for the broadcast date!

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## **"Dreaming A City"**



For a project two years in the making, with rehearsals beginning in mid-August and filming completed in late September, local non-profit theatre organization, Claude McNeal Productions (CMP), worked with over thirty local actors, designers and technicians to put together a unique theatrical, televised experience for the Indianapolis Bicentennial Celebration. A hybrid filmed stage production/documentary, “Dreaming A City”, set against the national backdrop of the turbulent late 1960’s, dramatizes the work of a group of local politicians and business leaders who successfully pave the steps from idea to state law

government in Indianapolis between 1968 to 1970. These events sparked the beginning of many other projects that subsequently turn Indianapolis into a modern city in America.

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Now in the post-editing process, “Dreaming A City” has been a two-year project between nationally-recognized playwright, author and poet, Claude McNeal, and local civic leader and former Indiana Lt. Governor, John Mutz. Starting out as a book, and then a full-length play, McNeal and Mutz decided to transform the project (due to the COVID-19 outbreak) into a filmed stage production/documentary to be filmed for television and broadcast on Indy’s local PBS station, WFYI. “As you can imagine, these are challenging times for *all* theatre organizations, whether they are for-profit or non-profit. We felt that until the pandemic was under control and a vaccine readily available, theatre patrons would just not feel comfortable attending a live theatre event,” says McNeal. “I’ve always been curious about how the formation of IUPUI and Unigov came about, and what that meant for the city of Indianapolis. This production helps to shed light on those individuals who were responsible, and what the city and nation was going through during those turbulent years between 1968 and 1970.”

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“One of our biggest challenges is over,” says CMP’s Chief Operating Officer, Jeff Owen. “Finding local artists who were comfortable taking risks during the pandemic, and securing safe, well-ventilated spaces to rehearse and film proved daunting at first, but by following strict health and safety protocols

thanks to the generosity of the District Theatre and the Phoenix Theatre, we were able to complete this project without any individuals being exposed.”

Funding from the *Indy Arts and Culture Restart & Resilience Fund: An Arts Council of Indianapolis program made possible by Lilly Endowment, Inc.*, along with private donations from individuals, helped to cover the costs of PPE, space relocation and filming.

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