

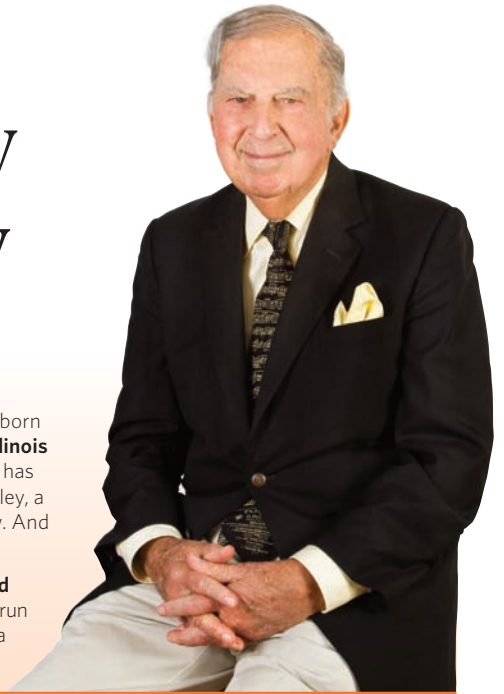
for the one dazzled by the lights of Broadway

By Dorothy Andries

MAKE IT BETTER READER: **KIP KELLEY** OF GLENVIEW

Going to the theater is a vital part of life for Kip Kelley, a passion that began when the Chicago-born and bred lad was transferred to New York City a year after graduating from the **University of Illinois in Chicago**. He was dazzled by the bright lights of Broadway. Don't just take his word for it—he has documentation. "Entry one in my Playbill collection is 'The King and I,' Oct. 26, 1952," says Kelley, a dapper, active gentleman who lived for decades in Northfield and is now a resident of Glenview. And that collection? To date, more than 4,400 programs!

One of Kelley's passions is Shakespeare – in fact, he proposed to his late wife Sherry at the **Stratford Festival** in Canada after a 1961 performance of "Love's Labour's Lost." Today, in Chicago, his tastes run from shows at neighborhood and suburban theaters to grand opera at the Lyric Opera, where he is a member of the Lyric Guild and gives lectures to community groups on upcoming performances.



1. LIGHT OPERA WORKS SUMMER CAMP Are your little ones Broadway material? Light Opera Works in Evanston operates four one-week sessions of its Musical Theater Summer Workshop for children ages 8 to 15, with a different musical each week. **Tuition is \$350 per session. For the 2011 musicals, visit lightoperaworks.com**

2. LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO GIFTS Kelley approves of glamorous holiday gifts that support the Lyric, like a pair of opera glasses in black with gold trim and 3-power magnification for \$45. Lyric's 34-inch square silk scarf, priced at \$125, features architectural detail from the Civic Opera House. **lyricopera.org/operashop**

3. RAVINIA FESTIVAL A bargain is always in season, and the Ravinia Festival is selling lawn passes for 10 classical music concerts in 2011 for just \$70 or \$7 each, less than the price of a movie. **shop.ravinia.org**

4. CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE Hey kids, show your folks they raised you right. Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier has set aside tickets for every performance for just \$20 each for purchase by students and young professionals 35 and younger. Anyone in that age category can buy two \$20 seats per production. **Go to chicagoshakes.com and click on CST for \$20**

5. STRATFORD FESTIVAL IN CANADA Given Kelley's attachment to Stratford, he's in favor of a present that combines an international vacation with theater in Ontario, Canada. From April to November the Stratford Shakespeare Festival presents ten productions including "Twelfth Night," "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "Titus Andronicus" and "Richard III." **Visit stratfordfestival.ca or call 800-567-1600**

6. STAY-AT-HOME SHAKESPEARE For the Shakespeare fan who can't get to the theater, search for some of the beautiful DVDs of films based on the Bard's plays. Kenneth Branagh's "Henry V" rivals Olivier's. For the ultimate in tragic love, buy Franco Zeffirelli's "Romeo and Juliet." **Prices vary, amazon.com**