

IN MEMORIAM  
**Michael Quinn**

1958–1994

This issue of *Theatre Research International* is dedicated to the memory of Michael Quinn. Michael was a vital and positive force in international and American scholarship, and in his home department at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he was head of the Ph.D. program and editor of *Theatre Survey*, taught a wide range of graduate and undergraduate courses, advised dissertations and M.F.A. projects, directed plays, and served on many committees. He was a brilliant and prolific scholar of wide interests, of growing reputation, and even greater promise, and had special expertise in semiotics and Eastern European theatre. He was about to see his first book published, *The Semiotic Stage: The Prague School of Theater Theory*, and was just completing his second book, *Vaclav Havel and the Drama of Identity*. He was awarded several local, national and international grants to carry out this research, including five trips to Czechoslovakia. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Southwest Missouri State University, a Master of Arts from the University of Massachusetts, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Stanford in 1987.

Michael Quinn was, in the words of one of his students, 'a meteor'—a rare and fortunate event whose brilliance flashes and burns out much too

soon, but whose passing changes us in a deep and lasting way. His life was courageous and joyful, and his intelligence, wit, humour, genuine concern for others, and curiosity in everything around him never faltered, even through his ordeal with cancer that ended on 27 August 1994. Michael was an inveterate maker of maps for great and small occasions: maps of everything from abstract theory to the country roads of Missouri or the Baltics, for himself and for others. He generously shared it all: his maps, knowledge, encouragement, good council, and infectious love of work and life. His office door was always open, coffee pot brewing, and no matter how busy, he always had time for a smile, a kind word, a joke, or a book to lend out from his overflowing collection. We, at the University of Washington, will not forget this open door, nor the laughter that rang out from it so often. Those who knew Michael Quinn or his work only at a distance join us in our grief at his tragically early death at 36: he should have graced us with his presence for many more years. He is greatly missed, loved and appreciated, and his life continues to make a real and positive difference to us all, near and far, his colleagues, students, friends and family.

Sarah Bryant-Bertail, *University of Washington*