

## Paul Baker: A Profile

1911-2009

Born in Hereford, TX

Graduated from Trinity University  
(Waxahachie campus) in 1932

Went to Baylor University to teach drama  
in 1934

Served in the US Army during World War  
II in Paris and Iceland as Special Services  
Entertainment Officer; received Legion of  
Merit

Observed theatre around the world in  
Russia, Germany, England, and Japan and brought these ideas back to his teaching and  
production work



In 1963, Baker staged a production of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night* at Baylor, and ran into controversy. "One mother said that she had counted 113 instances of blasphemy during the show," according to Baylor's Lariat Archives. Baker was told to either shut the production down or censor it; a few weeks later, he resigned, along with the rest of the Baylor theatre department, and moved to Trinity.

Taught courses in drama at Trinity and at the Dallas Theatre Center (where he was the Founding Artistic Director and ran the theatre for 23 years), which was the graduate program for Trinity's drama department. He taught the "integration of abilities," and emphasized using all the senses in one's creative process. He was best known for his experimental theatre productions at both Baylor and Trinity, such as an experimental *Hamlet*.

Designed Theatre One, with its three stages (later became the Stieren) – similar to Studio One at Baylor, the audience were on swivel chairs and surrounded by three stages. Baker helped develop other theatres in Texas that were a far cry from the traditional proscenium stage.

Remained at Trinity until 1976, when he retired (and then founded a performing arts high school in Dallas)