

'Lucky Lindy' soars into Sarasota

By **KIM COOL**
FEATURES EDITOR

Spirits soared last week at the Glenridge Performing Arts Center where Steve Carroll performed his one-man show, "Charles Lindbergh: The Lone Eagle."

Directed by Billy Stone, the production was written and researched by the performer. In the course of the one-man two-act show, we in the audience experienced far more than the spirit of "Lucky Lindy," as Carroll brought the man to life.

The setting was minimalist — a desk with two model airplanes, a podium and an easy chair and side table with a photo.

When the lights came up, Carroll was on stage, dressed in "work clothes," khaki pants and a blue shirt.

"You're here, I'm here, and I don't know why."

Approximately three lines later the man in those work clothes seemed to have transformed into Lindbergh himself, a man called back from the grave to share with us in the audience his life story: his parents, his grandfather, his failure at college, his first flight and the flight that made him one of the most famous aviators of all time — the transatlantic flight in the Spirit of St. Louis. We learned about his relationship with his grandfather, his marriage, the birth of his children, his wars with the press, the kidnapping of his first child, the investigation of the crime and the trial of Bruno Hauptman, the family's move to England, his wife

and her writing, their additional children and more. Everyone in the audience knew some of the story but no one save Lindbergh himself could have known all that Carroll unearth for his show.

That Carroll resembled the famous flyer was a bonus. The actor's portrayal of the famous flyer put us right in the cockpit with the pilot and the spirits that accompanied him during the final hours of darkness before he first spotted land. When the Lindbergh's first child was kidnapped, we were there again, sharing the tears and the frustrations that

Lindbergh had with the investigation and with the press. During his life, "Lucky" Lindbergh was a paragon, a pariah and a patriot, a man who could never have the normal family life he craved. Carroll carried us up and down the aviator's roller coaster life, right up until his final moments in Maui, where Lindbergh planned his own funeral down to the final detail as he was dying of cancer.

Carroll's Lindbergh is a truly fine piece of theater. See it if you can. Carroll's next performance, in November at the Sarasota Bay Club, is not open to the

public but there will be many other opportunities to catch this fine show in the coming months. Already scheduled is a March 15 performance at the Historic Asolo Theater, 5401 Bayshore Drive, Sarasota, within the Visitor Center of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. There will be matinee and evening performances that day. For tickets, call the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art at 941-359-5700 and press 8 for the Historic Asolo Theater box office.

For more information about the show or about Carroll, visit www.dreamscapeprods.com.