It is rare that a student of the arts at UNM doesn’t also have to hold down a substantial job to get through college and Louise was no exception. While a student at UNM, Louise started work as a travel agent for Rio Grande Travel, a profession she kept even after she left UNM. She also worked for Blue Sky Tours in Albuquerque, and held innovative and supervisory positions at Hawaii Wharehouse and Classic Hawaii, both in the San Francisco Bay Area. Louise was sent on many professional trips to Hawaii during this time. Louise eventually returned to New Mexico to work in a supervisory position at Rio Grande Travel, all along with hopes and intentions of returning to UNM to continue her passions in theatre arts.

Louise will always be remembered by those who knew her by her smile, her beauty and genuine sense of humor, always comforting those around her by making them laugh and find joy in life. She was multi-faceted, full of energy, and had many aspirations. Although she never finished her degree at UNM, Louise expressed to her family that her dream was to continue and share her passions, talents and energies with others. It is in this spirit, that her family would like to create a memorial scholarship that will encourage those young artists, who are passionate about completing their degree, may do so in her honor by participating with them in reaching the goal for the Louise Armijo Memorial Endowed Scholarship of $10,000.

In Honor Of Louise’s Passions And Dreams

Louise Armijo
June 01, 1962 - July 19, 1999
LOUISE ARMijo, a native New Mexican and resident of Los Lunas, passed away in July 1999. An ebullient, multi-talented woman, she majored in Theatre Arts at the University of New Mexico, in preparation for a career in acting. As happens so often, especially in the arts, Louise did not finish her degree, but did go on to become a model, teacher and professional travel agent. In Louise Armijo’s memory, a scholarship has been established, with special preference given to a theatre major who, after having left the University, has decided to come back and finish his or her degree, or for a student who may have had to drop out before the degree is completed.

During the class, the students created and rehearsed a children’s production that they went on to perform at eight different elementary schools. For four weeks, twice a week, Louise and her classmates packed up a truck, set up the stage in an elementary school gym or auditorium, acted their hearts out, answered questions by the kids, packed up and headed back to UNM.

LOUISE’S LIFE IN THEATRE ARTS

From an early age, Louise could always be found performing informally for her family and friends, or formally, in Jr. High and High School productions. A natural talent at acting, dancing and singing, Louise was uninhibited in front of others. She was a contestant in the 1980 Los Lunas Junior Miss Pageant, where she was able to demonstrate her poise and her talent. She received the Spirit of Jr. Miss Award. She also received special recognition awards for her performances in Jr. High and High School, including “Best Dramatic Actress” in 1976 in “Superstar Review.” Also during high school, Louise participated with the Belén Firehouse Players, a local theatre company that showcased the talents of the community members living south of Albuquerque.

It was at UNM that Louise really hit her stride in acting and performing, and was able to realize many of her passions and goals, in university productions, as well as with the Plaza 3 Players, a local theatre company. Louise, who also loved children, was a participant in the Theatre Department’s Children’s Theatre Class. The class teaches students to use childhood pressures and fears, along with creative drama exercises and books, as the basis for writing children’s productions.

Other productions Louise was in at UNM included, “Cabaret,” “Grease,” “I’m a Fool,” “The Nature and Purpose of the Universe,” “Just a Couple of White Chicks Sitting Around Talking” and “Rusty and Rico.” Louise often modeled and acted as the featured subject in other university student’s class projects/productions. She was the protagonist for a promotional commercial for UNM’s Agora Crisis Center that aired on television.

In addition to her college work, Louise also volunteered her time at the Foothills Child Development Center (now Bright Beginnings) teaching drama to children of all ages. She was a beloved member of the staff, and her play, “Pirate and the Princess” was written, directed and produced by Louise, and involved the children as cast members.