

John Hardman

August 12, 2015

John Hardman aka “Hardman”, age 62, made his exit stage right on August 12, 2015, after giving pancreatic cancer a run for its money. John is survived and mourned by his cherished wife and co-conspirator, Robyn Phillips; his beloved daughter, Colette Hardman-Peavy (Felix Jaramillo); sisters, Cathy Ward (Don), Mary Ann Broell (Fred), Ellen Hardman (Dan Kerksmar) and Martha J. Hardman; extended family, Mimi and Natalie Peavy and Jeff Benham; and countless friends and colleagues. After moving to Albuquerque in 1960 with his parents, John began dazzling New Mexico audiences with his directorial brilliance by producing shows such as “Sleeping Ugly” in his backyard. He never looked back from there and performed in or directed performances at Highland High School, NMSU and at nearly every community theatre in Albuquerque; he was a fixture of Albuquerque’s theatre community. John was a founding member of The Vortex Theatre and served on the board for numerous years, in addition to plain old loitering there and spooking the Betties. He was employed by Albuquerque Public Schools for over 30 years, where he encouraged and assisted theatre students. John’s generosity, creativity, sense of dramatic timing and just plain weirdness will be sorely missed. His family extends their deepest gratitude to friends who provided him and Robyn with loving care and assistance in the last weeks and days of his life. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Vortex Theatre, 2900 Carlisle Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 or go to www.vortexabq.org for information on how to donate. Memorial services will be held on

Sunday, August 30, 2015, 3:00 p.m. at the Bank of America Theatre in the National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St. NW. In memory of John, his family asks that you go see a show at your local theatre. Please visit our online guestbook for John at www.FrenchFunerals.com.

FRENCH - University

1111 University Blvd. NE

505-843-6333

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **30**. 3:00 PM (MT)

The Bank of America Theatre in the National Hispanic Cultural Center
1704 4th St. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Tribute Wall

SA

“ My sincerest condolences to Robyn and the family. I know there is a big emptiness in your hearts for John. I have known John since we started at the Vortex Theatre all those years ago. We worked together on productions all over the area, from Corrales Adobe Theatre to Popejoy Hall, Albuquerque Little Theatre, the Kimo Theatre and many other places in between. He was always such a joy to be around. I will miss his wry sense of humor and that wonderful laugh. I know he is having a great time at that big theatre in the sky, and he is smiling down at all of us. Thinking of you always, John.

Sabra Dreyer Armijo - August 30, 2015 at 03:28 PM

JF

“ I was in theater with John at NMSU as well as in Albuquerque at ALT. John was a funny funny guy and a very warm and kind human being. I greatly enjoyed working with him! He was so proud of Colette - I remember them dancing in a rehearsal for "Sheila's Class Reunion." Rest in peace, John.

Jaye Franchell

Jaye Franchell - August 30, 2015 at 12:17 PM

JM

“ John came to the opening of "Romeo and Juliet," which I was stage managing -- at last a chance to just sit and enjoy the show. Then-- actually less than five minutes before curtain -- our light board operator had an emergency. I grabbed John and asked him to keep things under control back stage while I climbed into the booth to run lights. He did it superbly, of course. John never failed. We were all fortunate to know him!

Jeff Moses - August 25, 2015 at 06:01 PM

JC

“ I am very sorry for your loss. Those of us who worked with him at Eldorado High School missed him when he left, but are deeply saddened by his passing. He brought joy and humor to our campus and helped many students advance their studies in acting. He will be missed. Regards, Jennifer Coughlin

Jennifer Coughlin - August 25, 2015 at 05:00 PM

NH

“ John was a good friend to me when I worked at Eldorado High School. He always had a good story, a sharp quip, and the "real deal" take on what was happening on campus. He was there for me when no one else was. My heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends.

Natalie Hotchkiss - August 25, 2015 at 03:23 PM

HW

“ John was a true original. He was like no one else, and I can't imagine there being anyone one else quite like him. I had the good fortune to act with John at the Vortex twice, and saw with amazement how his quick wit and boundless gift for improvisation kept rehearsals lively and audiences in stitches. Like Yorick, he was a fellow of infinite jest; the theatre was his play-ground, and he taught those around him to find the fun in whatever they were doing. We may be certain that up there in the gods the angels are rolling in the aisles.

Hugh Witemeyer

Hugh Witemeyer - August 24, 2015 at 09:50 PM

Bonnie
Lafer

“ I will always remember you and all the fun and crazy times we had together in the theatre. I wish i could be there to celebrate your life with all the people who love you, but i am celebrating you in my own way here in California. I honor you by supporting my local theatres out here. I will always have my fun memories of you and will miss you forever.



Bonnie Lafer - August 24, 2015 at 10:30 AM

MB

I had the pleasure to know John and work with him at the Vortex in the late 70's. I guess I burned out on theater in the mid 80's and moved around a lot these past 35 years but I never forgot John...always kept me laughing, so talented, and had a kind heart. I moved back here to Albq. last year and he was one person I wanted to make contact with. I'm so sorry I didn't move quicker. He will be missed....he was one of a kind....the real deal. Mike Boyle

Mike Boyle - August 30, 2015 at 01:20 PM

JM

“ John was a member of my Youth Group at Albuquerque's Trinity United Methodist Church in the late 1960s. John was a student at Highland HS and already talented, funny and keenly interested in theater. Rest in peace, John and God bless. Dr. Jim Miller Jr.

James Miller - August 24, 2015 at 08:53 AM

JC

“ Remembering John in a few words is difficult for me. I remember him as a good father, a kind and considerate man, as always there for Robyn and for his extended family, and as a damn fine "well-graced" actor. I will miss you.



*Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done (Cymbeline 4.2.1-3).*

Juliette Cunico - August 23, 2015 at 10:21 AM

DS

“ David c. Serna purchased the White Sympathy Baskets for the family of John Hardman.



David c. Serna - August 20, 2015 at 10:44 PM

NG

“ *It's taken me several days to even consider what to say. John was my director for *The Seven*, what I understand to be his final show. He was open and honest about his situation, but clearly ready to power ahead to make a fantastic show. His sense of timing was incredible and it was amazing to be able to learn from one of the greatest actors in Albuquerque.*



John, I know this wasn't your preferred outcome, but I am so glad that you are no longer in pain and can finally rest. We'll all get there in good time, so until then, keep entertaining the folks upstairs. When we're all reunited, we should be able to put on one hell of a shindig.

Nicole Gramlich - August 18, 2015 at 03:07 PM

CH

“ *Catherine Hughes lit a candle in memory of John Hardman*



Catherine Hughes - August 17, 2015 at 07:16 PM

BW

“ *Although I never 'worked' with John, being an actor's spouse/audience member, I always got a sweet smile and hug from John when we met at one theater or another and he always remembered my name, bless him, even when I wasn't with my husband, Hugh. I'll miss him. My sympathy to the family.*

Barbara Witemeyer - August 17, 2015 at 06:25 PM

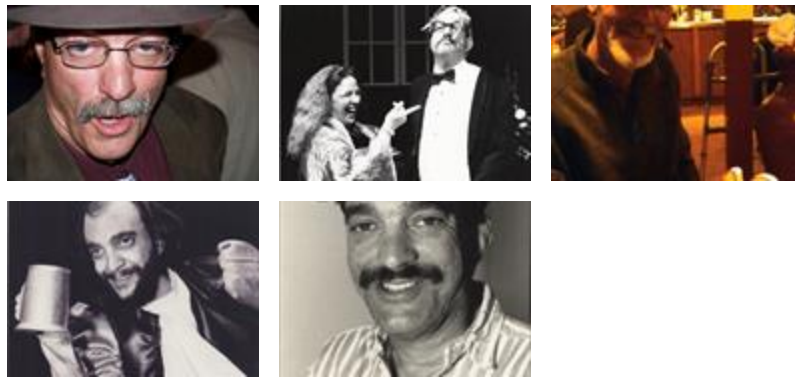


“ John was the first theatre person I met when I moved to Albuquerque in 1982. He will always hold a special place in my heart for this reason. The theatre world has lost a talented actor and director. The whole world has lost a wonderful human being. You will be missed.

Connie Mitchell - August 17, 2015 at 12:26 PM

JB

“ 9 files added to the album New Album Name



Jeff Benham - August 16, 2015 at 07:16 PM

CH

Thank you Jeff. Catherine Hughes

Catherine Hughes - August 17, 2015 at 07:06 PM

SS

My condolences to Robyn and the family...he will be surely missed. Wonderful tribute...great memories!

Sally Smithe - August 22, 2015 at 11:55 AM

ME

“ John was more than a friend. He was my brother I will miss the golf, the shows I directed him or he directed me, the breakfasts with the boys, the phone calls at the oddest times, the board meetings where he always pushed the envelope, the sly grin, him popping into the theater middle of the night even though he wasn't doing a show, the poker games, on and on and on.....

RIP brother , see you on the first tee in the great beyond.

Love and peace to Robyn and Collette. He is in a better place. We are thankful for that

Marty

marty epstein - August 16, 2015 at 02:25 PM

CW

“ John was my little brother who I babysat and probably tormented occasionally. He was a truly generous and talented man who was taken too soon. I remember how funny he was when the family played games after Christmas dinner. His silly answers kept us all laughing!. His sense of humor was always present. I also remember what a proud father he was . I was privileged to see him perform in several plays and felt he was a true talent. Thank you Robyn for the loving care you gave him. Also thanks to John's good friends who sat beside him when needed. I am thankful for the loving care that Robyn gave him and his many friends who sat by him when needed. Goodbye John. You will be missed.

Your loving sister Cathy

Cathy ward - August 16, 2015 at 12:30 PM

MT

“ Whenever I saw John, he always made me feel like the best part of my inner child was present. We met in the theatre, and later worked together at Highland High School. His golden heart was always visible to me, his sardonic wit always made me giggle, and his talent was astounding. Though he is gone, my love for him is here and will be carried forward with care. Peace, John.



Marcia Tippit - August 15, 2015 at 11:38 PM

GD


“ I saw John perform once and I could not believe what an incredible actor he was. I worked as an actor under his direction at least twice. His subtlety as a director was interesting. He was a goodsn who liked helping people with aspirations of being actors. John will be sorely missed in the education system and in the acting community in Albuquerque.

Gary S Dannenbaum - August 15, 2015 at 09:35 PM

 Mary Ward

“ I blame my Uncle John for my obsession with Monty Python, and I thank him for showing me that live theater is better than movies. Every time I smell pipe smoke I think of him. I'm glad you are no longer in pain Uncle John, but we will miss you, I wish the best for Robyn and Colette, and hope to be there for your memorial service. Also a big thanks for the autographed pic for my buddy, who remembered your performance in Employee of the Month...he has assured me he will keep it forever.
Mary (and Kris)

Mary Ward - August 15, 2015 at 09:11 PM

 Joann Danella

“ Way back in the mid '80's, John welcomed me as the "newcomer" to the softball battle of the field between *The Adobe* and *The Vortex*. He and my husband acted together in 1986 and I met him in 1988. We have had lots of theater memories and other friendship memories, and we will miss him greatly. RIP John. Our hearts are with Robyn and his family at this difficult time.
- Jo and Pete "Aldenella"

Joann Danella - August 15, 2015 at 09:03 PM

PR

“ While making our rounds at Eldorado High School in the Turtle mobile, John helped me learn and practice my lines as King Duncan in the main stage production of *McBeth*. I loved his quirky sense of humor and his passion for theater. What a guy! Lots of good times at EHS.
I will miss you.

Paul Roney - August 15, 2015 at 07:52 PM



“ *Fields of Europe for Spring* was purchased for the family of John Hardman.



August 14, 2015 at 11:20 PM

MI

“ Thanks for the good times, John. You always challenged me to raise the bar. You were an inspiration and a true gift to our community that can't be replaced. At your final bow, I'm standing - with all the rest- sending you off with a loud long O. Peace, friend. -Mike Lash-

Mike - August 14, 2015 at 10:03 PM



Antonia Cardella

“ John made art. Everything he did was art. He was an odd, passionate genius, and I'm both sad for a world bereft of his vision and happy to have seen it in action, show after show. RIP, John. You'll be remembered in this community for a long time to come.

Antonia Cardella - August 14, 2015 at 07:12 PM

KS


“ I remember renovating the Vortex! It was an old pizza parlor restaurant and the basement was full of moldy pizza boxes. We were shoveling the debris out of there for days, and then it was on to building a scene shop and dressing rooms, etc. I have a clear memory of John as he stood in his standard posture: one hip cocked, elbow in one palm, chin in the other, slightly hunched as if holding in laughter, a gleam in his eye. He could see what the space would become even if we couldn't. I was a part of that project and that place from the beginning and was pleased to see that the Vortex remained last time I was in Albuquerque. I'm heartbroken that I didn't have the time to see a show and I'm kicking myself for not at least swinging by to see who was around. I should have known Hardman would still be there. I'll miss his humor, his talent, his generosity, and his spark. RIP, John. And my heart goes out to everyone he whose life he touched. We've all lost a good one.

kellie salome - August 14, 2015 at 07:04 PM

LP

“ *What an amazing man. May you rest in peace my friend and cousin. You will (and are) missed. Love to you Robin as you go through this loss. Know that you are not alone, as you have so many that love and care for you.*

Lomand Phillips - August 14, 2015 at 02:22 AM

 Kelle
Senyé

“ *My deepest condolences. I always enjoyed the work that Hardman did and the time that I spent with him.*

Kelle Senyé - August 13, 2015 at 06:56 PM

CJ

“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*

Chris Jogi - August 13, 2015 at 04:12 PM