



Howard Jensen

November 12, 1941 - December 12, 2014

Howard Jensen, 73, died Saturday evening, December 13th at his home in Bloomington. He is survived by his brother Dale Jensen and wife Carol, two sisters Beverly Markos and Donna Vee Sorensen and husband Leland, close friend Julie Jensen, and the many theatre students who were inspired by his talent, dedication, and love of theatre.

Howard was born in Salina, Utah and grew up in the tiny rural town of Redmond where he saw a children's theatre production during his early childhood. Ultimately, that experience led him to pursue a career in theater. After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Utah, he spent two years on active duty in the army. Subsequently, he received his M.A. from the University of California, Davis and his Ph.D. in Theatre from Wayne State University where he was an actor in the renowned Hilberry Theatre. Howard joined the faculty of the Department of Theatre and Drama at Indiana University, Bloomington in 1972. In 1976 he was appointed head of the department's Acting and Directing Program. The ultimate strength and national recognition of that program was due in no small measure to Howard Jensen's leadership.

During his career at Indiana, Howard Jensen directed scores of plays including *A Streetcar Named Desire* that opened the new Brown County Playhouse in 1977 and *Death of a Salesman* that opened the

Ruth Halls Theatre in 2001 in the Lee Norvelle Theatre and Drama Center. Prior to joining the faculty at Indiana University, he was an actor and founding member of the Utah Shakespearean Festival and later directed more than a dozen productions for the company. He was also a visiting director at such distinguished theatre festivals as the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. And, on occasion, he continued to work as an actor with the Indiana Repertory Theatre.

Howard Jensen's numerous awards and honors are indicative of his impact on the theatre locally, regionally, and nationally. In 1989 he was honored by Arts Indiana as a "State Arts Treasure," in 2001 the Utah Shakespearean Festival named him one of the 40 most "illustrious persons who have illuminated our lives," and in 2002 he received the Indiana University Trustee's Teaching Award.

Howard Jensen will be always be remembered as a talented artist and teacher by his students, colleagues, and long-time friends both inside and outside Indiana University. He died peacefully, thanks to Hospice and especially his care-giver/nurse Allison Tomusk. Contributions in Howard's memory and in support of classical theatre may be made to the Howard Jensen Endowment Fund at the Indiana University Foundation.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old Highway 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

LI

“ I just became aware of Howard Jensen's passing. I have a degree in Theatre from the 1970s, and I took Acting 320 and 420 with him. I learned a great deal about the craft and about myself as a performer under his tutelage. And he could always catch me off-guard with his sly humor and surprise twists to his personality. Like ewveryone else, I enjoyed his mainstage productions as well as his classes and still recall some.

In the last few years I encountered him out walking dogs in our neighborhood, and I was surprised to find that he still remembered me. I wish I could have seen him more.

Lisa Williams - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM

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“ I send you sympathy on the death of Howard. I only knew him personally for a short time in the 1970's when he was working with a friend of mine, the late Fran Snygg, a dancer, who was doing movement with his theatre students. He was always charming and friendly and in fact, about two months ago he came up to me in Kroger, and greeted me; after all those years remembering my name and we had a short chat. I mostly "knew" him through his amazing theatre productions. In particular the Greek Tragedies, "The Glass Menagerie" and his last IU production, "The Cherry Orchard." Stunning. He found things in plays that other directors didn't and drew out of his actors, performances that no other director did. I am so glad to have been able to see his work.

Antonia Matthew - October 26, 2015 at 04:02 PM