



Mr Dennis Krausnick

July 8, 1942 - November 26, 2018

DENNIS KRAUSNICK

(July 8, 1942 - November 27, 2018)

Stockbridge, MA

Dennis Krausnick, 76, of Stockbridge passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by loved ones Tuesday after a long battle with cancer. Dennis was a Founding Member and the Director of Actor Training at Shakespeare & Company, a leading Performance, Training, and Education Center located in Lenox, Massachusetts.

He was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in July 1942 to the late Leo and Naomi McVeigh Krausnick. He attended local schools and was a 1960 graduate of Scottsbluff High School, Scottsbluff Nebraska. A teacher, writer, director, and performer, he grew up in rural Nebraska, the sixth of seven children. He is the beloved husband of Tina Packer of Stockbridge, and step-father to Martin Jason Asprey of Lenox. He is survived by brothers: Tom (Myrna) Krausnick, Josine Krausnick, and Mike (Ramona) Krausnick all of Nebraska, aunt and dear friend, Sister Joan McVeigh, and many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Dennis is pre-deceased by his brother Jerry. Additionally, Dennis leaves many loving friends, artistic collaborators, students, fellow Shakespeare & Company supporters and his three cats, Isis, Mojo, and Maggie.

When he was 19, Dennis entered the Society of Jesus and was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1973. He received his B.A. in Philosophy and Letters from St. Louis University, and his M.A. in French from McGill University, Montreal. During his time with the Jesuits he met Kevin G. Coleman who later became Shakespeare & Company's Education Director. Their friendship and artistic collaboration lasted over 50 years. In 1976 he was awarded an M.F.A. in Acting from New York University. It was at N.Y.U. he met Tina Packer who had been brought in to direct all the plays in Shakespeare's War of the Roses sequence, in which Dennis played multiple roles. In 1978 Dennis helped found Shakespeare & Company with Tina and Kristin Linklater. Dennis became a Designated Linklater Voice Teacher in 1993. After being together for 25 years, Tina and Dennis married in 1998.

For over 40 years, Shakespeare & Company, with vision and guidance from Dennis, has been a creative force in Western Massachusetts. It has enthralled audiences with productions of Shakespeare as well as modern plays. It has brought its distinctive training into the lives of an international array of professional actors, teachers of theatre, researchers, directors, and writers, many of whom credit the Company's Training Program with life-changing breakthroughs in their work.

As a Master Teacher of text, rhetoric and structure of the verse, Krausnick has provided residencies and workshops for theater companies and university theatre departments across the country and around the world. As a teacher, director or guest-artist, he has worked in theatre training programs across the country including NYU, ACT, Boston University, Emerson College, Wake Forest University, Southern Methodist University, University of Washington, MIT, University of Pittsburgh, University of Tennessee, Chapman University, Bradley University and University of South Carolina, University of Louisville, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Prague Shakespeare Company, and the University of Miami. Dennis was awarded the 2006 Bingham Chair of Humanities by the University of Louisville in recognition of his accomplishments as a Master Teacher of Shakespeare Performance.

In addition to teaching voice, text, and Philosophy of Theatre around the world, Dennis also graced Shakespeare & Company stages as an actor, his favorite roles included King Lear, Polonius, Lord Capulet, and Bertrand Russell. Additionally, writing has always been an important part of his life. Over his lifetime he adapted and/or wrote over 40 plays, many of which included adaptations of Edith Wharton and Henry James stories during the 23 years Shakespeare & Company resided at The Mount, Edith Wharton famed residence in Lenox. As recently as 2017, Shakespeare & Company staged two of his Edith Wharton adaptations, *Roman Fever* and *The Fullness of Life*.

He has written poetry since his teenage years, and recently completed his first book and audio book of poetry titled *White Flash*, set to be released in early 2019. A late-night reading of some of his poetry to 150 participants in the flagship Month-Long Intensive, summer 2000, was the genesis for his book of selected poetry. Dennis was putting the final touches on his second book, *Elizabethan World Pictures*, a non-fiction exploration of the physical and psychological perspective of the characters in Shakespeare's plays before he passed, and it is also expected to be posthumously completed and released in 2019.

In his twenty-five years of leading Shakespeare & Company's renowned Center for Actor

Training, Dennis mentored and taught more than 5,000 actors and students from across the country and around the world. His legacy of innovative actor training methods, quick wit, spirit of generosity, and depth of thought, will be carried on through the artists, teachers and students with whom he collaborated. In the last few months of his life, Dennis passionately worked on establishing the Dennis Krausnick Fellowship Fund, to support and increase diversity within the Shakespeare & Company Actor Training Program.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Dennis Krausnick Fellowship Fund at this direct link: <http://bit.ly/DKFUND>. Contributions can also be sent to Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA 01240, Attention: Dennis Krausnick Fellowship Fund. There will be a Public Memorial Service held on June 24, 2019 at 1:00pm on the Shakespeare & Company Campus in Lenox, MA. A private service will be held next week.

To share memories, photos and stories please visit the Shakespeare & Company Center for Actor Training Page on Facebook or rochefuneralhome.com.

Good night, sweet prince:

And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

- Hamlet

Comments



“ Such a great teacher! Breath! Breath! Breath! I so wish I could have studied again with Mr. K. Adieu, mon cher.

Deanna Dunmyer - January 06 at 01:52 PM



“ dear Tina and Family,
What a special man he was. We send our condolences.
Marilyn and Nabih Nejaime

marilyn nejaime - November 29, 2018 at 10:06 AM



“ The weight of this sad time we must obey,
Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.
The oldest hath borne most: we that are young
Shall never see so much, nor live so long.
Quoted by
John S. Gardner
Dennis's friend and fan
since 1977
from Lear

John S Gardner - November 28, 2018 at 01:33 PM