



## Donald Edward St. Pierre

August 24, 1947 - August 23, 2020

Donald Edward St. Pierre was born on Aug. 24, 1947 in International Falls. He died on Aug. 23, 2020, the day before his 73rd birthday, in Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland, OR.

His parents were Eva and Phillip St. Pierre, who preceded him in death. He graduated from Falls High School in 1965 and went on to University of North Dakota in Grand Forks for an English/Drama degree. He taught in various states and was active in community theaters everywhere he taught. He played leading roles and directed many plays throughout his career. Sometimes he wore all the hats when putting on a play. I remember trips though thrift shops with him in North Carolina looking for props.

Donnie liked to travel and when he needed more adventures, he signed on to teach English and drama in South Korea. It was a real challenge to direct non-English speaking students in English plays. "They're learning English through the plays," he said. He often wrote scripts for the plays he produced. He loved using colorful masks in his plays and acquired an exquisite collection of them.

With his love of adventure, while he lived in South Korea every break meant a trip to many European and Asian countries. While drinking coffee at an outside table in Thailand, Robin Williams sat down with him at his table.

New York City was a favorite place to visit and was often included in his itinerary, fully booked with Broadway and off-Broadway shows. When I visited New York with him, we quickly dined between shows. My favorite was Lion King, but I didn't like Glen Gary Glen Ross. Donnie lectured, "The acting was superb. Alan Alda has a great stage presence."

When he decided to come back to the United States, he chose to reside in Portland, OR, joining some friends he'd met in South Korea, taking advantage of many cultural opportunities. Of course, he soon was involved with theater.

After months of treating cancer, he remained hopeful, saying, "I'm not down or depressed. I just got to go through it." He looked forward to emerging into life again. But MRSA knocked him down with pneumonia.

Surviving him are his sister, Phyllis Karsnia, brother-in-law Leo Karsnia, nephews Allen (Kip) Karsnia, nieces Sherry Karsnia (Jim) Larson and Jayne Karsnia (Nathan) Ellegard. Grand nieces and nephews are Erin Karsnia (Kevin) Moore, Jackie Karsnia, Kelly Karsnia, Adam Larson and Brian Robinson, Jenna and Luke Wright, Tyler and Stephanie Ellegard. In addition are eight great-grand nieces and nephews.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there will be a small family service.

# Comments

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“ Jan Anderson Budris lit a candle in memory of Donald Edward St. Pierre



Jan Anderson Budris - September 19, 2020 at 03:56 PM

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“ Don and I took classes and acted together at UND. Later, we connected when we were both teaching in Minnesota. And more recently we were together at the UND Theatre reunion in 2010, and kept in contact since. Just before his passing, he and I were texting about plays that our mutual friend, Sam Anderson, was curating at The Road Theatre in L.A. for Zoom readings. We were enjoying the good camaraderie that we had always shared, and Sam and I were very concerned when we learned he was hospitalized for pneumonia. Absolutely shocked to hear of his passing so quickly afterward! Don was a wonderful guy--so bright, talented, witty, and fun. The world will be a bit colder and sadder without him. Blessings of strength, comfort, courage and love to his family.

Linda Park-Fuller

Linda Park-Fuller - September 12, 2020 at 04:35 PM



“ Linda, I really enjoyed our phone chat today. Thanks for your kindness and compassion.

Phyllis Karsnia - September 16, 2020 at 05:33 PM

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“ Hello, Donald volunteered for SAGE in PDX guiding a small group of prospective actors to engage in 5 performances. He was treasured by us and we will miss him so. He was a lovely person, so giving and independent. I am so sorry to hear this. My deepest condolences and Donald made a huge impact on me.



**Max Micozzi** - August 28, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ Thank you, Max. I really appreciate hearing from you. I'm so sad that Donald didn't have the opportunity to go on with life after conquering cancer.

**Phyllis Karsnia** - August 31, 2020 at 05:38 PM

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“ Rick & Pat DeBenedet lit a candle in memory of Donald Edward St. Pierre



**Rick & Pat DeBenedet** - August 28, 2020 at 07:03 AM



“ Thank you.

**Phyllis Karsnia** - August 31, 2020 at 04:41 PM

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“ Phylis we are thinking of you during this sad time. Thoughts and prayers to you and you're families. Gail and Bob Owen

**Gail and Bob Owen** - August 27, 2020 at 11:34 AM



“ Thank you. Too many losses lately...

**Phyllis Karsnia** - August 31, 2020 at 05:47 PM

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“ Donald....we started our friendship in high school through drama...what else?! My dear Donald...No matter how many years passed without seeing each other, we always enjoyed a huge, warm hug and shared our exciting life adventures. A true thespian! Thank you for your friendship and joy. Heaven is a little more exciting now that you are there! LOVE  
Jeanne Musetta Pike

**Jeanne Musetta Pike** - August 27, 2020 at 10:17 AM



“ Thank you, Jeanne. Donnie did have lots of adventures! Good memories help a lot.  
**Phyllis Karsnia** - August 31, 2020 at 05:39 PM



“ Phyllis, my sincere condolences. Bonnie Erickson



**bonnie erickson** - August 27, 2020 at 08:13 AM



“ Thank you, Bonnie.  
**Phyllis Karsnia** - August 31, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ Oh Phyllis, I am so sorry to hear of your brother's passing. I know you have a lot of wonderful memories of him on your trips.

**Susan E Congrave** - August 26, 2020 at 02:26 PM



“ Thanks, Susan. Yes, it helps to remember our adventures.  
**Phyllis Karsnia** - August 31, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Phyllis. So happy Allen could go out to Portland and take care of the details. God's blessings to you in these hard days, weeks and months .

Love,  
Jerry & Martha

**Martha Karsnia** - August 26, 2020 at 01:12 PM



“ Thanks, Martha. Allen said Andy was a huge help! We appreciate him so much!

**Phyllis Karsnia** - August 31, 2020 at 05:44 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of the death of your brother, Phyllis. My thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Take care.  
Jeannine

**Jeannine Nelson** - August 26, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ Thanks, Jeannine. And I'm sorry about you losing your sister. And we both will miss our friend Roberta.

**Phyllis Karsnia** - August 31, 2020 at 05:46 PM