



David Christopher Olsen

February 25, 1966 - August 29, 2021

David Christopher Olsen, 55, took his own life on August 29th, 2021. He was born on February 25th, 1966, in New York City, the first born and only son of Charles Monroe Olsen and Rosalyn Margaret (Newport) Olsen. David was preceded in death by his father, Charles. David is survived by his mother, Rosalyn (Newport) Olsen, his sister, Kristin Elizabeth Olsen, his daughter, Jaime Aerwyn Olsen, and his widow Judy Ann (Nock) Olsen to whom he was married for 23 years. David attended Stuyvesant High School in New York City and was a graduate of Florida High in Tallahassee and The Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre.

David was a third-generation theater professional, having enjoyed numerous personal and professional successes in his life including but not limited to stage and screen. An adept carpenter and a welder, David was also known for his technical theater skills and worked for many Off-Broadway houses including the New York Shakespeare Festival where he was one of two resident welders. He was the artistic director of the Ergonomic Theater Company and took on the roles of producer, director, set designer, and star of his vision of Hamlet in a way that only he could do. He appeared as a co-star in an episode of the popular television show "In the Heat of the Night" and others including "Orange is the New Black" and the movie "The Basketball Diaries." Some of his best stage performances were in Atlanta, Georgia where he captivated audiences with his portrayals of leading roles in "Oedipus" and

"West" which got rave reviews and attracted fans.

Music was a central part of David's life. He was a guitar player and a songwriter and will always be remembered for his hit songs including "Mary MacDougal" and "Follow Folly Far" which he would play with his friend and songwriting partner Merald Clark to the delight of their companions in the Society for Creative Anachronism where he was known as Daenn Oakenfist, a name that referenced his fighting ability. David was a skilled sailor and enjoyed navigating his Irwin sloop around the New York waterways. He lived in Tallahassee for many years, having first moved there at the age of fifteen, then returned to New York where he lived with his wife and darling daughter until he returned to Tallahassee where he spent his final years. David worked as a taxicab driver in New York City. He was also a Local 40 structural ironworker and made significant repairs to the Manhattan Bridge. A world traveler, David made several trips abroad and had a wide appreciation for culture in many forms from decorative arts to cuisine.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial gathering will be held online and in person on Tuesday September 28th at 6:00 PM. EST at TheaterLab located at 357 W 36th St, 3rd floor, New York, NY. The gathering will be live-streamed on the internet for those who wish to attend virtually. Proof of vaccination is required for all who wish to attend in-person.

Please join us for the virtual memorial service honoring David Olsen on Tuesday September 28th 6:00 PM EST:

Google Meet joining info: <https://meet.google.com/poy-ovwd-mwp>

If you have any difficulties please email jaimeolsencollegefund@gmail.com

David's final interment will be at Rose Hill's Memorial Park, King David

Memorial Gardens at 100 Mill St, Putnam Valley, NY 10579 on Sunday, May 29, 2022.

11:00-11:30 Arrival

11:30-12:00 Procession to grave site

12:00-12:45 Graveside service and inurnment

1:00 Reception at Apropos at The Abbey Inn, 900 Fort Hill Rd, Peekskill, NY 10566

In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor David may make a donation to the college fund of his beloved daughter Jaime in the following ways:

Google Pay: <https://gpay.app.goo.gl/pay-pYroaWcKQDg>

PayPal: [PayPal.me/jaimeolsencollege](https://www.paypal.com/jaimeolsencollege)

Venmo: @Jaime-Olsen-College-Fund

Cash app: \$JaimeOlsenCollege

If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-3852193)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 28. 6:00 PM (ET)

TheaterLab
357 W 36th St
3rd Floor
New York, NY

Inurnment

MAY 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

Rose Hill Memorial Park King David Memorial Garden
100 Mill St
Putnam Valley, NY

Reception

MAY 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

Apropos at The Abbey Inn
900 Fort Hill Rd
Peekskill, NY 10566

Tribute Wall

NN

“ I'll never forget the time we were out back at B's house and we were talking about Star Wars and how most of their arguments/fights could've been prevented with just offering eachother cake.

Nathan Nock - February 27, 2025 at 01:56 AM

JO

Thank you for sharing a happy memory. We cherish them all.

judy olsen - July 29, 2025 at 04:46 PM

AF

“ I've only known Dave a year, he and I parked next to each other for awhile when I was passing through Tallahassee, and stayed in touch after we departed. We shared instant coffee in the mornings and shared tobacco in the evenings, sang songs and shared thoughts on life. He introduced me to the indigo girls and recited Shakespeare as we watched windshields fog up across the parking lot Infront of us, I woke up to him fixing a broke down car for some other hard time travellers out of kindness, he was always open to me and he crawled under my own truck when it suddenly spang a bad gas leak as well. Much of our relationship was over the phone after I left, and we fell out of touch as time went on and his depression worsened. It saddens me greatly to see his obituary, he was always happy to talk for hours, give lots of advice, and listen to my own problems as well. He often spoke of how much he loved his wife and daughter, his regrets and wished things haven't happened the way that they had. I'm deeply sorrowed by what his family is going through, and Im so happy to see so many stories of his better qualities. I never knew that he had so many as I'm finding here, thank you all so much for sharing and listening to mine.

Aaron Frisbie - January 09, 2022 at 08:27 PM

JA

Thank you, Aaron. We miss him so much.

Judy Ann - February 07, 2022 at 12:43 PM

MK

“*Funny, gracious, humble, never-fake, my memories of David come from getting to know him through our daughters, who first became friends in elementary school. Never knew that he was an actor or loved Shakespeare! Would have loved to talk to him about that and theater. Bonded with him during a night at the museum sleepover while our kids laughed and stayed up 'late' (for them). He himself stayed up all night because he didn't want his snoring to disturb anyone. Rest in peace, David. Love and best wishes to Judy Ann & Jaime. See you very soon! Best, Mike, Rebecca and Natasha*

Mike Kim - October 17, 2021 at 06:22 AM

JA

Thank you for sharing memories and thank you for being there at the memorial. Your family is very special to us.

Judy Ann - October 18, 2021 at 05:39 PM

JA

Thank you for sharing memories and for being there with us and for us. Your family is very special.

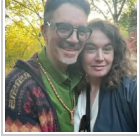
Judy Ann - October 18, 2021 at 05:39 PM



“*Sander Hicks lit a candle in memory of David Christopher Olsen*



Sander Hicks - September 29, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ David Olsen was my friend, and my carpenter at Zen Carpentry. He said he would fit in with zen, because he was "something of a Dao-ist" and it's true. He strived for balance in his life, even if sometimes the search was ongoing. He was proud that he could point to the Manhattan Bridge in NYC and note the parts that he helped build, when he was in the union at one time, doing iron-work. He was Hamlet, acted and directed, in a production he created. He was a supporter of the Nonviolence Works online peace conference. I got misty looking at the texts from him, this time last year, that he caught some of the peace conference online, and that he wanted to get more into peace activism. I loved his energy. I loved that he would disappear for two years, and then pop back up, having lost 40 lbs and gained a snazzy new mustache. I am so sorry that he is gone. But not gone, just in a different part of the cycle of death/life/death and again.... Follower of the Dao! May you find the balance.



Sander Hicks - September 29, 2021 at 07:14 PM

JA

Thank you, Sander. You meant a lot to David.

Judy Ann - September 30, 2021 at 08:22 PM

KT

“ I have nothing but fond memories of David, always selfless and caring with his hearty laughs. He was a great and husband and dad as well, supporting the band activities Judy and I were in, often times he helped me carry a full set of drums up to my walkup apt during the wee hours. When my daughter Emily started preschool David and Judy came in to perform few children songs at the fundraiser. Then when Jaime was born few years after mine, we spent many quality family times together. Most memorable one was the summer trip to Bear Mountain, David cooked the greatest meals and we took stroll to the trails under magnificent stars at night and made tie dyed T shirt the next morning.
Thanks for great memories, my friend! I will always remember you.
~ Kenji



Kenji Tajima - September 28, 2021 at 09:37 PM

JA

Thank you, Kenji, for being there for us in many ways.

Judy Ann - September 30, 2021 at 08:23 PM

CB

“ Kristin, remember the Star Trek Enterprise command console that David drew in exquisite detail on the underside of his upper bunkbed in his bedroom at 100 West 94th St #23A? It was better than the real thing. And his beloved Aquaman action figure that we accidentally melted in his overhead light fixture trying to hide the fact that we were playing with it? There was so much love and joy in your home. I'm so, so sorry for your loss, and hope that memories of your dear brother give you some comfort. Love always, Cathy

Cathy Snook Branda - September 27, 2021 at 10:32 PM

KB

“ I don't like to imagine what my years at FSU and in Atlanta, (or on Earth, in general) would have been like, without Dave being part of it. Somehow, I'll always be on the back of his motorcycle, somewhere on I-10, on our way to Thanksgiving. He was a great friend and a beautiful person. I'm lucky I was in his life. My heart goes out to all of his family and friends.

Keith Blaney - September 27, 2021 at 02:19 PM

JA

Keith, thank you for the memories and the photo. We miss Davis.

Judy Ann - September 30, 2021 at 08:24 PM

NE

“ Such big part of my life, going back to my early years at FSU. Since I am in Tallahassee, I got to spend more time with him than most of you these past few years. Here is a memory of one of the better days



Nathan Epps - September 11, 2021 at 09:23 AM

JA

Thank you, Nathan, for being a true friend to David until the end.

Judy Ann - September 30, 2021 at 08:25 PM

JD

“ *David was a fascinating man. He was a fine artist, and simply, a mensch. May his memory always be a blessing.*



Jonathan Davis - September 06, 2021 at 11:38 AM

JA

Thank you, Jonathan.

Judy Ann - September 30, 2021 at 08:25 PM

KO

“ *I haven't seen Dave in many years. But my memories of him are sweet and silly. It seemed we were all always laughing. Thinking of his quirky sense of humor and kind heart has always made me smile. Sending love to his family.*

Kelly O'Neal - September 05, 2021 at 07:48 PM



“*Dave was a funny, quirky, beautiful, singular soul. I had the good fortune to work with him onstage and to be friends with him in Tallahassee, in Atlanta, and to visit with him briefly in NY. Once you saw him on stage you never, never forgot him. Kristen, I have had the good fortune to act with both David and your lovely mom and to be directed by your wonderful Dad. Your entire family is very special to me. My deepest condolences to Dave's wife and daughter and I hope that you are all a comfort to each other during this hard time. I've posted a picture of Daenn Oakenfist celebrating a triumphant moment with friends at Pennsic.*



Suzanne Roush - September 04, 2021 at 11:50 AM

KO



Kelly O'Neal - September 05, 2021 at 07:49 PM

NE

Those were the days.

Nathan Epps - September 15, 2021 at 08:52 AM

PR

“ Dear Rosalyn, dear Kristen.

*I think of David as a beautiful tiny boy, and as a memorable Hamlet.
So talented,
so versatile, and so loved -- I share your grief, and will be with you
when you
come to New York.*

Until then, all my love to you,

Pat Robbins

Pat Robbins - September 02, 2021 at 03:26 PM

AS

“ We are so sad to hear this news. We have so many wonderful memories of Dave, Judy Ann and Jaime... the picnic in Isham park when Dave brought his guitar, his great stories of celebs in cabs, so many birthday parties, the day in Putnam Valley... He was always full of fun and stories... I'll always remember how glamorous Dave and Judy Ann looked at my 50th b'day... like a couple of movie stars! His love for Jaime and Judy Ann was as clear as day. Our hearts are with Jaime and Judy Ann...

Amanda Sullivan - September 02, 2021 at 12:30 PM

JA

Thank you, Amanda.

Judy Ann - September 30, 2021 at 08:26 PM



“ I have known Dave and his family for many years and I will miss him very much. I hired Dave as an actor and also as part of my film crew on several occasions and he was always an excellent addition to my video projects. I nick-named him "my rock" because he had the ability to calm me down so I could think clearly and make better decisions as producer. I came to rely on Dave for emotional support as well as for his physical job abilities.

We all shared wonderful celebrations including birthdays, holidays and trips. Once when riding with Dave to one of Judy Ann's musical gigs he burst out in joy saying how happy and excited he was to see Judy Ann. Dave always made sure that everyone had everything they needed and were having a good time. When he organized a surprise birthday celebration on a boat sailing around NYC, I was low on funds so Dave immediately insisted paying for my ticket so I could take part in this wonderful celebration.

When Jaime was just a little one and I was between jobs, Judy Ann and Dave entrusted me with caring for Jaime while they were at work. This turned out to be a very joyous experience for me. Dave would pickup Jaime at the end of the day she was always so excited and happy to see him. I have many more precious memories of Dave which I will hold close in my heart which to help with this loss. I will treasure our professional and personal relationships for ever.

Julie Gillis - September 02, 2021 at 12:03 AM

JA

Julie, thank you for all your support.

Judy Ann - September 30, 2021 at 08:26 PM

DT

“ Our deepest sympathies to David’s daughter Jaime and to Judy Ann, to David’s mother and to his sister Kristin. I will always remember David’s sweet face the night I went to see Jaime dance in *The Nutcracker* at Lincoln Center. It was the kind of smile that shined beams of light and joy. David was so proud of his little girl. I was honored to be a part of that beautiful family occasion. We were grateful to David for bringing his creativity into our shop, once helping Sean build a low wall and install a sink that we would rely on for years to come. Wishing Jaime a guiding light through this storm. I have enjoyed watching her grow up in my studio from a little girl in ribbons at my work table with crayons. It was always apparent how David cherished his daughter. Sean and I have been marveling over her artwork. No doubt she has inherited many loving gifts from both of her parents. Rest In Peace David. Condolences, xo Donna and Sean

Donna Distefano Thomas - September 01, 2021 at 11:12 PM

GW

“ Dearest Rosalyn, Kristin, Judy and Jaime,
I am so sorry to hear about Dave's passing. I will always remember his talent, humor and unconventional way of seeing the world. I enjoyed being around him and am honored to have known him. I'm sending love, hugs and deepest sympathy your way.
Love,
Guy (aka Western Guy in a Denim World)

Guy West - September 01, 2021 at 09:34 PM

DW

Dear Olsen family,

I had the privilege of seeing David take the Atlanta theater scene by storm in the 80s. When David was working as a stage tech he helped me to build the set for my first production in New York. He was an incredibly talented man. My heart goes out to all of you. God Bless

David Watson - September 04, 2021 at 01:06 AM

FK

“ Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Judy Ann and Jaime and to friends and family for the loss of dear David. I got to spend time with David on a few occasions when his daughter and mine were at school functions and play dates at the park together. David was sweet, smart, open, and creative. I remember him talking about theater and his education, his family, and about how much he admired his wife Judy and her style of music which he said was akin to Joni Mitchell. I understood a little of his sense of adventure and creativity when he talked about being a cab driver and living on a boat for a year, or when he mentioned how he would find all kinds of things on the street, bringing them home for their potential, such as an old broken guitar. Although he struggled with issues later in his life, he absolutely loved his daughter and wife and was so proud of them. We are so sorry for your loss. Rest In Peace David. Love,
Faith Kimberling

Faith Kimberling - September 01, 2021 at 09:27 PM

GA

“ I made masks for David's production of Hamlet the first year I lived in New York. He had such a strong creative vision for his project but at the same time he was a fantastic creative collaborator. I will remember his talent, his creativity and his passion for theater and music. Rest In Peace David.

Greg Ayres - September 01, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Mr. Olsen’s passing. I got to know him and his family through BPAC. He was always there to lend a hand when he could, particularly with the sets for our various shows and recitals. His daughter Jamie is a wonderful dancer and a kind soul, and I know those are only some of the great traits she inherited from both of her parents. My prayers and thoughts are with Judy, Jamie, and the rest of David’s family during this time.

Allison Canning - September 01, 2021 at 06:09 PM



“ David was one of the most creative people I ever met. Loaded with talents
He made his daughter a surfboard just because and worked magic on a few websites I needed. He was very very loving

Elizabeth Miller - September 01, 2021 at 05:57 PM



“ David Took me to my first U2 concert. He made me go, because he knew I was a big fan. He did it because he knew it would mean more to me than to him. That’s the kind of guy he was. David told great stories and was always a character. And I mean that in the best way. I will remember his big smile and engaging personality. He was older, and I mostly knew him as Kristin’s big brother, but he never talked down to me or treated me like a kid. I told him the last time I saw him that he should write a book about his life. I wish he had.

Woody Compton - September 01, 2021 at 05:10 PM

CN

“ I remember David and Judy’s wedding in Tallahassee and the fun family Thanksgiving visits with us in Carlisle Ma. He always brought something to share...chestnuts to roast on the fire, homemade mead, a song on his guitar or his skills at hanging giant speakers on my son’s wall! Life is too short...we must take care and enjoy the time we have with the people we care about. Reach out to someone every day!

Cindy Nock - September 01, 2021 at 04:04 PM

TI

“ Dave was very involved in his daughter’s dance recitals by helping build the sets. His memory will live with BPAC, as we prepare for recitals and build our sets. He was a very proud father of a beautiful dancer. May God’s bless Dave & his family. (Picture attached of his art work.



Tina - September 01, 2021 at 03:27 PM

MM

“ I will always remember how humble and sweet you were. A day won't go by that I will not think of you and the beautiful work you did every day. Thank you, David, for being part of our lives. We will miss you...

Maggie Manning - September 01, 2021 at 02:46 PM

KC

“ *David was a kind and gentle soul who will be missed by those of us who came to know him. He will be greatly missed.* ”

Keith Cricks - September 01, 2021 at 11:18 AM