

Dean Richard G. Fallon

September 17, 1923 - May 23, 2013

Richard G. Fallon

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you imagined.”

Henry David Thoreau

Richard Gordon Fallon, Dean Emeritus of the Florida State University School of Theatre, passed away peacefully on May 23, 2013, after a full and rewarding life. He was a man who was passionate about living his dreams, but, as important, he was devoted to creating dreams for others and helping them realize their dreams. He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Suzanne, who died in 2002, and his brother, Robert, who died in 2011. He is survived by his daughter, Diane Tomasi, and her husband Tom; son, Rick Fallon, and his wife, Sharon; and five grandchildren: Julia Tomasi Breeding and husband Matt, Rosanne Tomasi, Corinne Tomasi, Alex Fallon and Patrick Fallon. For him, however, there was an extended family that included thousands of students whom he loved and nurtured, staying connected to some of his students for more than 60 years. To these students he bequeathed a reverence and love of theatre as a means to discover our common humanity.

Born in 1923 in White Plains, NY, to Margaret and Perlie Fallon, Richard absorbed their love of the arts and developed an appreciation for his Scottish/Irish heritage from having his grandparents living with him as he grew

up. Richard would later regale friends with stories of his irascible Irish grandfather and put on his best Irish brogue to charm his audience. But in truth, he was a shy, sheltered young high school student when he discovered the stage. There, as a character in a play, Richard had the opportunity to be and say the things that he would not be able to as himself. Immediately after high school and before college he worked in radio where he used his voice as an instrument, becoming adept at portraying different emotions and characters. He entered Brown University only to be drafted before finishing his degree. He was sent to England where he worked on the enigma project as a cryptologist and entertained troops through live theater. Upon returning to the U.S., he completed his education at Columbia University. During this time he was greatly influenced by writers such as Robert Edmond Jones, who inspired him to use the power of theater to help audiences reach, as Jones described it, “the quivering raw edge of experience.”

While in England, he met Suzanne, the British army officer who outranked him, and immediately proposed on their first date. Thus began a storybook life of romance most believe exists only in fiction. With Suzanne’s iron-willed support, Richard forged ahead with his dreams and a 60+ year career in theater, which, among other accomplishments, resulted in the development to national prominence of the School of Theater at Florida State University and the co-creation of the Asolo State Theater as one of this country’s finest regional repertory theaters. With students as his priority, his goal always was to create a bridge between college and professional theater. For this reason, Richard was most proud to receive the national E. Harris Harbison Award for Gifted Teaching presented by the Danforth Foundation, due in part to nominations received from his students. Through his students Richard has lit hundreds of candles in a dark world that will forever help to “find beauty even in life’s ugliness.”

Richard Fallon truly lived the life he imagined and in doing so created his

greatest legacy...that all of us who have known and loved him now can “keep in our souls some images of magnificence” to share with others.

Gifts in memory of Dean Fallon, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the following organizations:

The Richard Fallon Scholarship Fund
c/o The FSU Foundation
2010 Levy Avenue, Bldg. B
Suite 300
Tallahassee, FL 32306

LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts
125 North Gadsden Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Big Bend Hospice
1723 Mahan Center Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **29**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Richard G. Fallon Theatre
540 West Call Street
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Reception

MAY **29**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Richard G. Fallon Theatre
540 West Call Street
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Dear Fallon Family;

While reading the online obituary, I observed the death of your love one.

Death is an enemy to mankind and who can understand it? It can and dose have a devastating effect on you and your family as well.

Can you imagine reading a newspaper with the headline; "When Death is Swallowed Up Forever....." What a wonderful time that will be. Revelation 21:4 offers this hope, it states: "And he (God) will wipe out every tear from their eyes and death will be no more, neither will morning nor outcry nor pain anymore. The former things have passed away. What a comforting hope.

If you would be interested in learning even more, I can send you a little tract that is entitle "What Hope for Dead Loved Ones"? If you have any Questions please feel free to contact me at this e-mail address here (b.molina56@yahoo.com).

I offer my sincere condolences, may the God of peace be with you and your family.

*Sincerely Yours,
Brandy Molina*

Brandy Molina - July 20, 2013 at 10:19 AM

CC

“ Bless you Dean Fallon and thank you for all you shared with the world. You are missed by so many of us who's lives you changed with your smile, your love of life, your curiosity, and your boundless energy in inspiring others. God is happy.

Carolyn Crowe-Fain

Carolyn Crowe-Fain - June 13, 2013 at 11:41 AM

SD

“ Other than my father, he was the most important man in my life and all I may have achieved in theatre is due to him. In the twenty-three years I worked with him, I never heard him say an unkind thing about anyone. He was the epitome of a gentleman and a leader. The lives of each of us whom he touched are the better for knowing him. The world is now poorer but heaven richer.

Stan DeHart

Stan DeHart - May 30, 2013 at 06:53 PM

MH

“ Richard Fallon was a lovely man. He and my father, Dr. Philip Caplan (also a Fulbright Scholar, theatre prof at MJC) were close pals during their Sarasota/Asolo days. While my father died tragically in 1969, I remember fondly the kindness Dean Fallon showed me, when I was a student at FSU from 1980-83. He spent his precious time telling me stories of my father and their work together...helping me remember so many things. How thoughtful of him to spend valuable time with me. My condolences to his family, and I am absolutely sure that somewhere in the beyond, he is directing a fabulous, spectacular show ...hopefully with his old pal, Phil Caplan!

Melissa Caplan Havard - May 30, 2013 at 11:33 AM



“ *Dear Diane and Rick and the entire extended Fallon Family,*

On behalf of thousands of us, thank you for sharing your father and grandfather with us. As you will easily determine from our passionate descriptions of him, he was our artistic, spiritual father. He will forever be our inspirational light and role model. He taught us to dream courageously and work each day to achieve those dreams. He demonstrated the value of a life filled with passion and integrity and, if we have succeeded in being caring, loving and successful adults, it's due to his influence. We will carry him in our hearts until our final days and beyond as our children will feel the resonance of his sweet, gentle kindness for generations to come. We are forever blessed to have known Dean Richard "Dick" Fallon. Heaven has a new angel and we will miss our dear "father". We send you love and our sincere gratitude for the unselfish way, you shared him with us.

John D'Aquino

John D'Aquino - May 30, 2013 at 10:16 AM



Denise
Simon

“ *I will always remember Dean Fallon as a sweet, kind, loving man who touched so many lives. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family.*

*Denise Dunayer Simon
Class of 1981*

Denise Simon - May 29, 2013 at 01:56 PM

JB

“ My Love, thoughts and prayers are with you all. I served as Dean Fallon's assistant for several years and worked closely with him after he left the Deanship. What an exhilarating, fantastic, unpredictable and loving man he was. I am another of those whose life will never be the same because our lives crossed. God bless and keep you all. I envision your Dad and Mom locked in a welcome embrace now!! Love, Jalma Baker

Jalma Baker - May 29, 2013 at 09:41 AM

MW

“ I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Dean Emeritus Richard G. Fallon. He not only gave me a vision of the theatre; he gave me a vision of life. I will forever be grateful. His is a living legacy, spread amongst more people than you will ever know. I need only see the love, the sparkle in my daughter's eyes, and the brightness of her smile when she is on stage to know that the Image of Magnificence has been passed on to another generation. God bless you all.

Mark Woodland - May 29, 2013 at 09:16 AM

CC

Bless you Dean Fallon and thank you for all you shared with the world. You are missed by so many of us who's lives you changed with your smile, your love of life, your curiosity, and your boundless energy in inspiring others. God is happy.

Carolyn Crowe-Fain

Carolyn Crowe-Fain - June 13, 2013 at 11:38 AM

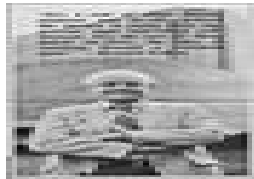
CH

“ Dear Diane and Rick,
Your Father touched so many of us so very deeply -thank you for sharing him~
He was my Mentor and my friend~ He inspired me to me a better person ~
He held the light for us to follow ~He was a beautiful human who lives on through all of us ~Please take a look at our Facebook page "The Dean Fallon Fan Club"
we started in his honor as a place we have joined to share memories of him.

Carol Halstead - May 29, 2013 at 09:10 AM

CH

“ 3 files added to the album Dean Fallon



Carol Halstead - May 29, 2013 at 09:05 AM

MR

“ My deepest sympathies go to the Fallon family. Dean Fallon has been a major influence in my life and in the lives of countless others. Thank you so very much for sharing him with so many.

Michael Richey - May 29, 2013 at 08:37 AM

JH

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the family of the finest man I have ever known. I felt blessed to have known him.*

Jorgene Duke Hayden

Jorgene Duke Hayden - May 28, 2013 at 08:42 PM

RB

“ *The happiest 4 years of my life were as an undergraduate in the theatre department at FSU under the leadership, artistic integrity and nurturing teaching of Dick Fallon. I was fortunate to be able to perform with him at the fabulous Asolo Festival (seeing him as Capitano in the Commedia is an indelible memory. He knew and lived Truth and Beauty!*

Rhett Bryson

Rhett Bryson - May 25, 2013 at 04:58 PM

DJ

“ *Please accept my condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. Take comfort in knowing that soon our heavenly Creator will permanently remove all pain, sorrow, and death. Yes, we are assured a hope of a resurrection soon to take place. May you be granted the inner peace and strength to cope with the days ahead. Revelation 21:4, John 5:28,29, Philippians 4:13*

D. Johnson - May 25, 2013 at 02:03 PM

AL

“ *Diane and Rick -- Thank you for sharing your extraordinary dad with so many of us caught up in his cherished world of theater. He dared to dream the impossible dream, and we followed that dream with love, admiration and appreciation. You have my deepest sympathy.*

Annette Hannon Lee

Annette Hannon Lee - May 25, 2013 at 01:36 PM

MW

“ *Mark Woodland lit a candle in memory of Dean Richard G. Fallon*



Mark Woodland - May 25, 2013 at 10:09 AM

JE

*The theatre world has lost a strong advocate. He was Dean/Dept. Head when I received my Ph.D. in Theatre at FSU. He was supportive of my career and a very dear friend. He was mesmerizing on stage, a wonderful teacher, and inspired students to carry the torch for theatre. He will be greatly missed.
Love and prayers to Diane and Rick.
Jean English-Hurst*

Jean English-Hurst - May 25, 2013 at 06:27 PM