

## IN MEMORIAM

### *Local 357 Remembers Jay Klassen*

Brother Jay (James Howard) Klassen member of Local 357 passed away peacefully and unexpectedly in his sleep Saturday, January 24, 2015.

He was 62 years old heading into his 33rd year at the Stratford Festival where worked as a stagehand extraordinaire. In 1983 he got his dream job at the Stratford Festival as Head Stage Carpenter at the Third Stage. In 1988 Jay took the position of Head Stage Carpenter at the Avon Theatre where, for the next fourteen years he led that team with grace, intelligence and sensitivity. He gave up the position in 2002 to pursue his many other passions: gardening, piano, cross-country skiing, travelling, reading and spending time with his wife and children. He continued to work at the Stratford Festival – he never wanted to work anywhere else.



The meticulous care and attention he brought to his work in every capacity, together with his unfailingly cheerful outlook and positive can-do spirit, earned him the love and admiration of everyone who knew him.

A true Renaissance man, he had a deep love and knowledge of music, theatre, art, literature, philosophy and history. He read widely, shared his thoughts and insights liberally, and celebrated life to the fullest. In his work and life, he impacted many - and was always eager to help. Jay will be remembered for his creativity, his great heart and his infectious laughter.

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