



## Thomas M. Suda

June 9, 1953 - June 16, 2016

Thomas M. Suda, age 63, of Rochester, passed away on June 16, 2016.

Tommy is predeceased by his parents Kathyra and Thomas Suda; and sister Cynthia (Frank, still living) Nuspel. He is survived by his sister Cathy Suda; nephews John and Patrick Iwanski, Frank Jr. and Craig Nuspel; niece Susan Kozlowski, his uncle Eugene Suda, aunt Lillian Rothchild and many cousins.

Tommy was born in Detroit, Michigan and graduated from Royal Oak Dondero High School, where his love for theater began. He attended Wayne State University, where he received his BFA and MFA. Tommy was a professor, Special Instructor of Theatre at Oakland University, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Tommy so loved and inspired his students.

He has taught at the Attic Conservatory Theatre, the University of Detroit and Wayne State University, where he received his MFA while performing as a mentor of the Hillberry Repertory Theatre Company. Other acting credits include Off-Broadway regional and metro Detroit area stages. He was the first recipient of the Detroit Free Press James Kisicki Award for Ensemble Acting and created the role of Tony Whitcomb in the long-running Gem Theatre production of "Shear Madness".

He has appeared in concert with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Tommy

also was involved in much on-camera work, including television commercials and industrial films, as well as numerous voice-overs.

He was the 2016 recipient of the KCACTF Region 3 Gold Medallion Award.

Tommy had many hobbies, but absolutely loved gardening. He was an avid reader and writer. Collecting antiques was also a passion of his. Tommy had such a love for dogs, especially his beloved Maggie and Fergie. He loved to spend time at his log cabin cottage in East Tawas, Michigan. In addition, Tommy was very active in every community he lived in.

Tommy will be missed by his family, friends and students.

A memorial service is being planned for a later date.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Michigan Humane Society or Oakland University, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

# Tribute Wall

SK

“ I miss my uncle so much- He was a friend to me in some of my hardest moments and this world will never be as funny as when he was here ❤️ xox forever and always uncle T-



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**susan marie kozlowski** - July 08, 2024 at 02:08 PM

JD

“ So sorry you are taking a final bow. Greenfield Village Town Hall show...so fun performing with you. Wayne State...made a huge impact on everyone. Laughing into the wings! I will never forget you, my dear dear friend.

*Jeffrey Dreisbach*  
*New York, NY*

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**Jeffrey Dreisbach** - July 11, 2016 at 03:58 PM

DB

“ *The world came to be a lighter, funnier, more zippity place because Tom's quick wit could find the acerbic comedy in almost everything. A master of the one-liner, the double take and the great bellowing guffaw that could fill Grand Central Station, he shared his spotlight with all who could keep up with him. He leaves all of us, and a boatload of everyday dogs, goofier, gigglier and sillier for having known him. No one could have played him better . . . thanks, Tom.*

*Dianne Blake, Detroit*

See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/detroitnews/thomas-m-suda-condolences/180437784?cid=full#sthash.rEYT1lpl.dpuf>

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**D BLAKE** - June 30, 2016 at 04:56 PM

 Ron  
Sudol

“ *Tom was an exemplary theatre professional whose quiet approach to the arts and crafts of performance were distinctive and admirable. I will miss our conversations about being in "the room where it happens," to quote a current hit musical. My condolences to family, friends, and colleagues.*

*Ron Sudol  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences (retired)*

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**Ron Sudol** - June 24, 2016 at 08:53 AM

RS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Russ Smith** - June 23, 2016 at 04:32 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Russ Smith** - June 23, 2016 at 04:29 PM

RS

“ *Oh, Tommy...Who will play all of those wonderful characters now? Who will coach actors for me when I have lost patience? Who will bring Nira & me "Southern Comfort" to get us thru the second act tech of George M!... which just started at midnight? Who will keep us all informed on the latest gossip? Who does Merman & Channing better than Merman & Channing? Who has been a best buddy for so very long?....I think no one....those very large loafers simply cannot not be filled.....Russ Smith*

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**Russ Smith** - June 23, 2016 at 04:10 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Russ Smith** - June 23, 2016 at 03:53 PM

PA

“ I've known Tommy since 1985. In August my partner Julie and I were to have spent some time with him at Spruce Cottage at long last. I always called him my "golden" friend because of his blond hair and I could never get enough of his Ethel Merman and Tallulah Bankhead imitations.

Tommy was part of the cast of a play at the Attic Theatre entitled *Ten November*. It was a play with music about the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. He played several roles including the ship's cook. I was the production stage manager. It was a haunting show about a sinking that is now part of the lore of Great Lakes maritime history. A motif of the staging included a long table that would move up and downstage in and out of certain scenes. The cast would be seated around it and as it traveled downstage, the men would stir their coffee, clinking their spoons against their cups until the table was in place and the scene began.

For years after on the 10th of November many of us would contact each other to pause in remembrance and Tommy even went to Whitefish Point in the UP about 17 miles from where the Fitzgerald sank and visited the museum there.

The "cook" has passed. I shall also travel to Whitefish point, say his name and listen for his spoon clinking against his coffee cup. Rest in peace dear, dear Tommy my beautiful golden friend.

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**Pat Ansuini** - June 22, 2016 at 08:17 PM

YF

Beautiful, Pat. I never got to work with Tom but knew him for his sense of humor and warm hugs!

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**Yolanda Fleischer** - June 23, 2016 at 08:33 AM

MM

Gosh, we loved him. And he sure loved you Pat.

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**Mo Keenan Meldrum** - June 23, 2016 at 10:36 AM



*Beautiful. What a great man. Will miss him. Xo Jaime Moyer*

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**Jaime Moyer** - June 23, 2016 at 11:35 AM

MH

“*Dearest Tommy, I am already missing you in my heart. Although we have lived apart for all the years since high school, you are and will always remain one of my closest friends. With a love of theatre, music, and life, the world has lost a great talent. I have lost a kindred spirit, and one of my greatest advocates. I will love you forever, dear friend.*”

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**Marianne Williams Hebenstreit** - June 22, 2016 at 06:53 PM

SK

“*Tommy was one of the kindest and funniest people I ever knew. I have wonderful memories of summers spent working at the Detroit Grand Prix box office with him and Bruce Mathieu. None of us knew anything about racing, nor did we care. We just had a great time together, laughing and drinking a lot of coffee. I'm sad that you're gone, Tommy. Love, Shirleyann*”

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**Shirleyann Kaladjian** - June 22, 2016 at 05:21 AM