



# Don Burdick

JUN 27, 1933 - AUG 23, 2013



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**P**FISS & BILLS  
**POKLASNY**  
FUNERAL HOME

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Don Burdick**

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**D**on Phillip Burdick, 80, of Oshkosh, passed away on Friday, August 23, 2013. He was born in Racine, June 27, 1933 to Bert E., Jr. and Lucille (nee Nigbor) Burdick. Don was a professor of the Arts and Sciences starting at the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh in 1962 and retiring in 1998. Don graduated with a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Northwestern University, Illinois. He then went on to the University of Wisconsin—Madison where he earned his Master's degree in theatre. Don then moved to Montana where he taught at the University of Montana—Billings for a short period of time. He moved back to Racine to help with the care of his brother's family during a lengthy illness. The time Don spent with his family helped to strengthen his bond with them that he carried throughout his life. Don was also a member of many theater stock programs as a director, actor, instructor and mentor. He was a mentor to many students at the University in which he helped countless students develop their skills as actors by helping each individual create their own identities along with instilling the wonders of the well-spoken word. Don was presented by the UW—Oshkosh in 1992 with the Distinguished Teaching Award. Don's passion for people and learning continued through to the end of his life. Don also gave many hours to such organizations as Learning in Retirement where helped organize many trips and dining experiences for others to enjoy along with being a guide for the gardens as a Master Gardner at the Paine Museum in Oshkosh. Don had an insatiable desire for learning and a curiosity for the wonders of people and life. He will be dearly missed by his family and the many friends and souls that he touched along the way. He is survived by his three nephews, Michael (Deborah) of Racine, Thomas (Barbara) of Port Barre, LA and David of Racine, his sister-in-law, Donna of Racine, many great nieces and nephews along with many friends that held a special place in his heart. He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Horace (Ed).



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In Lieu of flowers a Memorial has been established to the American Diabetes Association or one's own favorite Charity. Memorial services for Don will be Friday, August 30, 2013 at 6pm in the Fiss and Bills Poklasny Funeral Home. Family and friends may call at the Funeral Home, Friday from 4pm until the time of services.



## Tribute Wall

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BP

**Bruce Poburka** posted:

Don Burdick's talent and passion for the arts and teaching are among my very best memories of my time at UW-O. I'm grateful to have learned from a true master.

September 6 at 5:12 AM

JH

**Julie Hearlson** November 4 at 9:33 AM

I have a painting by Don Burdick and would be interested if someone wants it.

CC

**Christopher Caldwell** posted:

Don and I shared such wonderful, precious days filled with creative, collaborative labors of love. Pacem, Don.

August 31 at 6:59 PM

ER

**Elizabeth Hitchcock-Reed** posted:

Don taught me a great deal at UWO not only about acting and directing, but also about life and responsibility. He was truly a master teacher and is still an inspiration to me as I continue to teach high school theatre 28 years after walking out of his classroom door and into the world.

August 29 at 5:09 PM

KB

**Klara Fenyo Bahcall** posted:

You have given us so much throughout the years! We all will miss you but your voice, your elegant artistry and the magical moments you have created will always be with us. Klara

August 28 at 8:16 AM

LC

**Lori Carrell** posted:

The legacy of this artist and teacher will live on...

August 28 at 3:18 AM



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JA

**James** posted:

I am sorry to hear about the death of Don and hope that the support of friends and family can provide a small dose of comfort during the upcoming days. In addition, may the God of Comfort assist you during this grieving process (2 Corinthians 1:3). Don enjoyed life which is something that God intended for us to do. As a result, it is good to know that God has a desire to bring our dead loved ones back to life at a time when death will be done away with allowing everlasting life in peaceful conditions (Job 14:14,15, Isaiah 25:8).

August 27 at 3:55 PM

TP

**Tony Palmeri** posted:

Great man, wonderful colleague, with a voice I never tired of listening to. Don was a true believer in the power of the arts to uplift the human spirit.

August 27 at 12:05 PM

JW

**Jane Purse-Wiedenhoef** posted:

His humor and ability to steal a scene on stage will be missed. This spring he had already called me to say that he was interested in some roles in an upcoming production. What a supportive soul and a sweet and honest gentleman.

August 27 at 10:20 AM

LK

**Laura Kleist** posted:

I had the privilege of getting to know Don as a participant in the Winnebago County Master Gardeners trip to Vancouver in June. A genuinely kind, true gentleman. My sympathy to his family and friends.

August 26 at 6:01 PM

DK

**Dale Klitzke** posted:

This is a loss to all who had the opportunity to get to know and work with Mr Burdick. A wonderful human being and a great teacher!

August 26 at 2:58 PM



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**Kristina Mosley** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with your family in your time of loss. Don will greatly be missed by all of us here at the Theatre Department. Don was a wonderful man.

August 26 at 9:41 AM



**Barbara Carroll** posted:

Good night, sweet Prince. Thank you for all you taught me.

August 26 at 7:22 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Don by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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