



Dennis C. Seyer

March 4, 1947 - September 20, 2022

Dennis C. Seyer, 75, of Cape Girardeau died Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at his home.

Dennis was born on March 4, 1947, to Clarence H. and Bernice A. Seyer (Dickman) in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in St. Louis as the second of three children alongside his older brother, Damon and his younger sister, Deborah (Kozuszek).

After attending secondary school at St. Vincent Seminary in Cape Girardeau, he graduated high school from Corpus Christi in St. Louis. He earned his undergraduate degree at Southeast Missouri State University, received his Masters from Saint Louis University, and completed his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of New Orleans.

On May 26, 1978, he married the love of his life, Ellen T. Gruber, someone who shared his passion for theater.

He served as a faculty member in the Department of Speech and Theater at Southeast Missouri State University from 1977 to 2007. During this time, he touched the lives of a multitude of individuals as a teacher, scenic and lighting designer, and director. Equally at home in the classroom and on the shop floor, by the time of his retirement he had designed over 140 shows and

directed 25 productions.

An avid traveler, he led numerous trips to New York where he shared his love of Broadway with students and community members. He established Dennell Travel after retirement, where he continued to lead tour groups to Europe and the United States. On April 28, 2022, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Holland College of Arts and Media at Southeast Missouri State University.

Always active, he was a 4th degree member of Knights of Columbus Council #1111 and provided continuous service to Old St. Vincent's Church for decades. He shared his love of musical theater with the community through his hit KRCU radio show "Broadway Melodies" over several years. He loved theater and film, and could frequently be seen at the movie theater with his wife and family.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen, his two boys, Sean and Geoffrey, and his grandson, Shane.

Visitation will be held at Ford & Sons Funeral Home (1001 N Mt. Auburn Road) on Thursday, Sept. 22, from 4-8 pm with parish prayers at 7 pm, followed by the rosary. The funeral mass will be held at Old St. Vincent's Church (131 S Main St.) on Friday, Sept. 23, at 10:00 am, with interment following at Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send monetary gifts to the Dennis C. Seyer Scholarship at the Southeast Missouri University Foundation, 1 University Plaza MS 7300, Cape Girardeau, MO, 63701.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Parish Prayers followed by Rosary

SEP **22.** 7:00 PM.

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel

Funeral Mass

SEP **23.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Old St. Vincent's Catholic Church
C/O St. Mary Cathedral
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Tribute Wall

TR

“ *This is belated, I know. I regret that. Mr. Seyer was a drama teacher in the mid-seventies at a prominent girl's academy in St. Louis County at the time that I was working my way through UMSL. I assisted in the productions in my off time. I helped him move from STL to Cape Girardeau when he got his position at SEMO. I will remember him fondly. I hope he forgave me for breaking a bowl of his, during the move. T.R. Reisel*

T.R. Reisel - November 14, 2024 at 09:34 AM

MS

“ Dennis was my teacher, mentor and good friend. Dennis' love of theatre inspired me to become a theatre teacher, and share the joy the way he did with many theatre students. Dennis encouraged me and gave me confidence to become a lighting designer.

I think of Dennis every time I hear an overture of a musical he loved. There were, of course, many musicals Dennis loved, but I remember him particularly when I hear anything from a Sondheim, Kander & Ebb or Stephen Schwartz musical.

Dennis was a good friend of my family. My mother and father joined a number of Dennis' NYC and overseas tours and they loved every minute of them (with the possible exception of that one bus ride in Ireland :-)

I will miss talking with Dennis. His laughter brought me out of many a down mood.

Dennis will live on in the hearts of others, including mine.

Apologies for not posting this before now. For a time I wasn't sure what I wanted to say. I finally decided the perfect words were not that important.

All the best to Ellen and Sean and Geoff.

Michael Sullivan - November 05, 2022 at 02:22 PM

WL

I just learned of Dennis's passing thanks to Stev Parhomski. Dennis worked with me as adjunct faculty at Fontbonne. My condolences to his wife Ellen an family

wayne linder - November 29, 2022 at 07:33 AM

AJ

“ Dennis was an out- going guy with a big heart. He would come to visit my brother Ken as well as the rest of the family at our home. He and my brothers would tell jokes, laugh at situations ie the time he ran out of gas on his way to St Louis and attempted to trade gas for a bottle of German beer. . .and it worked - he got the gas if I recall correctly. He told it in such a way that all were laughing. Including me. He never left anyone out. He was a gentle caring soul who will be missed. The Grothoff family sends our condolences and prayers to the Seyer Family.

AnnGrothoff James - September 25, 2022 at 12:38 PM

DS

“ Ellen and family, My sincere sympathy! Dennis was so good to me in my days of lack of theatre knowledge. He was kind and patient to all. Truly, he was in the right field as he put students ahead of his own free time it seemed. I'm thankful to have worked with him. Prayers for you all! 🕊️🙏🕊️

Donna Shell - September 25, 2022 at 08:01 AM

BK

“ Dennis was one day older than me. We attended St. Sebastian grade school and St. Vincent's in Cape together. We were active in Boy Scout Troop 291 and earned Eagle Scout about the same time. I obviously knew Dennis well when we were young. I will miss him.

Barry King - September 23, 2022 at 05:22 PM

PD

“ I am so saddened to hear this news. Dennis taught me much about the crafts of theatre and of teaching...perhaps never as much as the day he taught me to use the band saw. That day he taught me patience and gentleness. I will remember him fondly and always. Sincere condolences to dear Ellen and his children.

Peggy Dersch - September 23, 2022 at 12:34 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Dennis C. Seyer.



September 22, 2022 at 04:13 PM

DE

“ Ellen and family, So sorry to hear of Dennis passing. I will keep all of you in my prayers. Donna (late Steve) Essner

donna essner - September 22, 2022 at 12:30 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dennis C. Seyer.



September 22, 2022 at 09:44 AM

BD

“ My prayers go out to Ellen, Sean and Geoff, Dennis was one of a Kind. He loved his work, his family, his church and anyone who crossed his path. Dennis was so involved in Drama but never caused it. He will be missed, but the memories will last forever. Praying for Ellen in particular these days, she is a trooper and will continue to make our world better in Song.
Love
Brother David

Brother David - September 22, 2022 at 09:44 AM

MK

“ Sympathy & prayers for the family. We went to Germany on one of his tours, a memory of a lifetime. Dennis was so thoughtful & a pleasure to be with! May his soul rest in peace

mary & Jr Klipfel - September 22, 2022 at 09:40 AM

BP

“ Denny was quite a man. I met him while we were both attending SEMO many years ago. He was so much fun to be around. Ellen, I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
I will do a memorial .
Hope to see you soon.
Love, Beth Pace(Sarah Aydt's sister)

Beth Pace - September 22, 2022 at 09:18 AM

JC

“ *Joan Chappel lit a candle in memory of Dennis C. Seyer*



Joan Chappel - September 22, 2022 at 08:59 AM

DO

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss. George and Donna Sciuto*

Donna - September 21, 2022 at 10:38 PM

ED

“ *So many memories of Dennis. He and Ellen welcomed us to Cape and the SEMO theatre faculty 33 years ago now. All our good wishes to Ellen and the family and the many, many former students and colleagues who are mourning his passing. He touched so many lives.*

Ellen Dillon - September 21, 2022 at 08:07 PM

LH

“ *Ellen- How extraordinarily heartbreaking to hear of this. Dennis “Mr Seyer”, was always so good and gracious to me. You will be in my prayers.*



Laura Hercules - September 21, 2022 at 07:11 PM

JG

“ A wonderful and gifted artist and friend for many years, and **INVALUABLE** to those 'former days' of *The Huron Playhouse*, as well as to the Glann family...before and after Frank's passing! .Love and prayers and comfort to Ellen and the boys....and the entire family. Dennis was a **SPECIAL** gift! The Heavens are surely celebrating upon his arrival, and in reunion with many who have gone before! Carry on thou good and faithful servant!!

Jann Graham Glann - September 21, 2022 at 05:41 PM

WG

“ With much love, Jann, Kerry, John Glann purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Dennis C. Seyer.



With much love, Jann, Kerry, John Glann - September 21, 2022 at 05:34 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Dennis C. Seyer.



September 21, 2022 at 04:45 PM

JL

“ Ellen, We're so sorry to learn of Dennis' passing. What a life he led! I feel so fortunate to have met him and you during my final years in St. Louis. We had quite the time! He had a huge impact on me, helping me to grow as an individual and as a performer, nurturing the self-confidence I needed for my life and career in KC. I will never forget our after-rehearsal evenings of pizza, whether it was at Pizza Hut by Cor Jesu or with Delores Wein by her studio. Whether we were working on Sugar, Fiddler, Babes in Arms, or The Best of Broadway, he had a knack for getting exactly what was needed out of every scene.
Much love to you from your Valentine!
Jim and Kenna Lewis

Jim Lewis - September 21, 2022 at 03:56 PM

MN

Ellen, so very sorry to here of Dennis' passing. I know what you're going through. Prayers for strength and guidance.

Mary Nolan - September 21, 2022 at 09:24 PM

SK

Ellen, please accept our sympathy in the loss of Dennis. He was my cousin growing up and we had many yearly family picnics with many, many cousins. He will be dearly missed by all. Prayers to your family.
Sue King and Michael Meyer

Sue King - September 22, 2022 at 08:36 AM

SH

So sorry to hear of Dennis passing. He will be welcomed in heaven with open arms. My prayers are with the family and our church family

Susan Hileman - September 22, 2022 at 01:10 PM

JS

Thoughts and prayers to the family

James Strathman - September 22, 2022 at 09:30 PM

KD

My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during your time of loss.

Kevin Dillon - September 23, 2022 at 01:08 AM