

A celebration of life of Joseph Lucas Jones

1st July 1940 – 30th December 2020

12.00 Friday 26th February 2021, Southend Crematorium

a personal goodbye

Humanist
Ceremonies

The Tribute

Joe was born on the 1st. July 1940, in Islington, the youngest of Gladys (Ma) and Charles (Pa) Jones' ten children. Pa worked as a fish porter in the mornings and in the theatre at night with Ma. The family were poor, but family life was rich in humour. The Jones's love of humour, innuendo and banter made it a lively, chaotic but loving home. Joe, like most of the family members, ended up working in the theatre. Their family life made the perfect backdrop to this setting. He started work at the Sadler's Wells theatre and then onto be prop master at the ENO (English National Opera Co) at the Coliseum in London. He worked there at the "Collie" for most of his career, working with his brother Jimmy. He loved his work and was proud of it, working hard but not taking it too seriously. The hours were long, both commuting to and from the job, and on stage. He loved a few laughs and a prank with his colleagues Little Ray "Irish", and the Liddell's Harry, Terry (whom he took under his wing and treated like a son), and Danny.

He spent many a happy hour at the "Lemon Tree" pub, which was fortunately right next door to the stage door (a 3-minute run). There were some close shaves for Joe getting back to the stage on time.

He married Joan Sevei in 1967 and after 12 years they separated and subsequently divorced.

He met Anne in 1980, she also worked at the "Collie" and was tasked with looking after stars of the show which could be challenging when they were subject to some of Joe's pranks.

Joe and Anne bought their first home together in 1982 and he became stepdad to Michaela, Natalie, and Coral. He was a great dad, a good listener, always ready to give advice, and always willing to have a joke and create some fun. Over the next 25 years they travelled widely, to Turkey, Northern Cyprus, the Greek Islands, India, and America. He gave Coral and Natalie away at their weddings and went on to be the much-loved granddad of Dan and Zac who affectionately called him "Pops". The Sunday lunches at Joe and Anne's were fondly remembered as a chance for some of the Jones's to catch up with each other. He also liked to eat out enjoying good wine and food being very fond of the fish pies at the "Royal Oak".

Anne and Joe separated by 2006 divorcing in 2010. In the last few years of his life, they had become friends again.

Joe took on several new jobs, he was a proud Londoner who knew the city well and loved it. Following his retirement from the stage he did some cabbage around Southend and then worked for Enterprise delivering cars for hire.

Joe loved the sun and in later life also went to Gambia, Swaziland, Egypt, and Cape Town; he also loved cruises. He enjoyed a flutter on the horses or dogs and liked to study their form in the Racing Post. He loved playing tennis, especially with his brother Jimmy, whom he longed to beat at the game but never did. He was especially close to his brothers Jimmy, Jeff and George and his sister Joyce (mostly J Jones's).

He kept himself fit and went to the gym daily and played table tennis well into his mid-70s. He loved clothes and especially shoes (all the same style). He was known for keeping an ironed crease in his jeans and his shoes in stretchers. Always known for his pristine presentation, he was known to comment "I look sharp, don't I?".

He was always keen to give his things away "I've got a this or that you could have ". A kind and generous man, keen to pass on his belongings whether you wanted them or not. His cheerful demeanour made him good company; his smile so memorable as was the twinkle in his eye. He liked the company of others and especially enjoyed making the ladies laugh. Joe was a great storyteller, although not always true, he especially enjoyed telling the stories of the Jones family life. The humour of Laurel and Hardy particularly appealed to him, the kind gentle humour of it. His fondness of John Wayne's cowboy films may explain why he greeted anyone below the age of 60 with "Alright Kid". He had many passions including a love of red wine and whiskey; somehow rarely experiencing a hangover. Joe enjoyed cooking, usually from scratch, making lasagne or spaghetti bolognese.

He had many interests, and once he retired, threw himself into the U3A, travelling abroad and even had a go at Microlite instruction.

He was not a sentimental man so when he said something emotional it meant a lot. He had a very private side to his personality as well as the charismatic, fun side. The last few years of his life, as he became unwell, began to like his own space more.

He liked to pay unannounced calls on friends and family, sometimes getting some technical IT support from Jerry for help with his TV and ipod. He always took a great interest in others and the chance to tell a few more of his favourite stories.

The family are very grateful for the wonderful support he got from his neighbours Rose and Joyce. A key person to him at this time was Elaine who helped him in so many ways and went above and beyond to assist him.