



Mark Miller Bramble

December 7, 1950 - February 20, 2019

Mark Bramble, the American theatre director, author, and producer died yesterday (February 20, 2019) at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore following complications of a stroke. He was 68 years old.

Born on December 7, 1950, in Chestertown, MD, to David and Margaret Bramble, Mr. Bramble grew up near Chestertown and was educated at McDonogh School, Owings Mills, Maryland; Emerson College, Boston; and New York University.

He began his theatrical career working as an apprentice in David Merrick's office in 1971, and for whom he worked on many Broadway productions. As an author, his work includes the 1980 musical *Barnum*, with songs by Cy Coleman and Michael Stewart. He wrote the book for *The Three Musketeers* (1984) with the music of Rudolph Friml.

He was nominated for the Tony Award three times: the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for *Barnum* (1980) and for *42nd Street* (1981), and the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical, *42nd Street* (2001). The 1981 production of *42nd Street* won the Tony award for Best Musical and became a long running hit, and the 2001 production won the Tony Award for Best Revival. The 1984 London production of *42nd Street* won the Olivier Award for Best Musical.

He directed and was co-librettist for the 2001 revival of 42nd Street with songs by Harry Warren and Al Dubin and was the co-author of the book for the original 42nd Street in 1980, which was produced by David Merrick. He directed many productions of 42nd Street, in London, Sydney, Shanghai, Tokyo, Amsterdam and Vienna.

He collaborated with Michael Stewart on many shows, including The Grand Tour (1978) with songs by Jerry Herman; Pieces of Eight, a musical adaptation of Treasure Island with songs by Jule Styne; and the off Broadway opera Elizabeth & Essex based on Maxwell Anderson's Elizabeth The Queen, and was an assistant on the 1974 musical Mack and Mabel.

Mr. Bramble wrote the libretto and directed, with music by Henry Krieger, for the musical Fat Pig, which premiered in Leicester, England, in November 1987. He adapted and staged Notre Dame (1991) at Saddler's Wells, London.

Following the London launch of the revival of 42nd Street in March of 2017 at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Mark returned to Gresham Hall outside Tolchester, MD, his boyhood home which he had recently completely remodeled. A deeply knowledgeable gardener and collector of rare and unusual specimen plants, he enjoyed his several acre gardens overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. He kept many of the specimen plants in his expansive greenhouse filled with his prize orchid collection. Orchids fascinated him as he propagated them along with an unusual collection of coleus topiary standards which he cultivated and formed.

Mr. Bramble was also a passionate collector of tea caddies. According to his lifelong friend, Mr. Stiles T. Colwill, former Board Chair of the Baltimore Museum of Art, Mark started with a small collection of caddies formed by his late mother and grew the collection to well over 500. Drawn from international

sources during his many worldwide travels with the various productions of his shows, the collection is believed to be one of the largest and most important known today. Mr. Bramble had written on this subject in the 2017 boldly completed book *A Tea Caddy Collection*. A series of exhibitions of the collection were shown to much critical acclaim, including at Homewood House Museum at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and at the Historic Odessa Foundation in Delaware.

He was a member of the Dramatist's Guild, the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, and the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers.

Mr. Bramble is survived by his two brothers and their spouses, David & Holly Bramble and Alan & Cathy Bramble, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at 4:00 pm at the Decker Theater at Gibson Center for the Arts at Washington College in Chestertown.

Donations in Mark Bramble's memory can be made to The Actors Fund to be used for The Lillian Booth Actors Home.

Previous Events

celebration of life

MAR 9. 4:00 PM (ET)

Washington College's Gibson Center for the Arts, Decker Theater
MD 21620

Tribute Wall



“ *Mark Miller Bramble*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Mark Miller Bramble*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Mark Miller Bramble*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Condolences to the Bramble family. Thinking of you. I remember Mark fondly and enjoyed his shows.*
Rik Lundell

Rik Lundell - March 09, 2019 at 09:38 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers to all.*
Love always, Mary Lou Christian



Mary Lou Christian - March 04, 2019 at 01:42 PM

SH

“ *David, Alan & Family*
I am so sorry for your loss. I pray you will find comfort in your warm memories of Mark. I remember him as always lighting up a room with his smile and his love of and talent in the theater.
Susan Merriken Haggerty

Susan M Haggerty - February 26, 2019 at 10:03 AM

NC

“ *Nancy Coleman lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble*



Nancy Coleman - February 25, 2019 at 11:56 AM

DD

“ *Debbie Dalrymple lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble*



Debbie Dalrymple - February 23, 2019 at 11:55 PM

LM

“ *Lee And Susan McGinnis lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble*



Lee and Susan McGinnis - February 23, 2019 at 05:13 PM

MU

“ Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble



Marie Usilton - February 22, 2019 at 09:50 PM

DN

“ Debbie And Bob Nickerson lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble



Debbie and Bob Nickerson - February 22, 2019 at 06:26 PM

DN

Thoughts and prayers are the family.

Debbie and Bob Nickerson - February 22, 2019 at 06:28 PM

KS

I had the great pleasure to work closely with Mark a few times for fundraising events with my trio Sombarkin' and many other talented local& renowned artists. He was a joyful spark of light and love. Always supportive. He will be missed! Thank you Mark for all you've done for the Arts!

Karen Somerville - February 28, 2019 at 10:03 AM

CF

“ Connie Fithian lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble



Connie Fithian - February 22, 2019 at 05:14 PM

LS

“ *Liz Smith lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble*



Liz Smith - February 22, 2019 at 10:56 AM

CE

“ *Charles & Donna Edwards lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble*



Charles & Donna Edwards - February 22, 2019 at 10:49 AM

DE

“ *Donna Hubbard Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Mark Miller Bramble*



Donna Hubbard Edwards - February 22, 2019 at 10:45 AM

DE

Mark was a sweet, wonderful man and enjoyed seeing him in the bank. He will be missed greatly and my thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Donna Hubbard Edwards - February 22, 2019 at 10:48 AM

FD

“ Frankie And Jane Dill sent a virtual gift in memory of Mark Miller Bramble



Frankie and Jane Dill - February 22, 2019 at 09:37 AM

RT

“ Roni Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble



Roni Thomas - February 22, 2019 at 09:06 AM

JH

“ Jeff & Donna Hollett lit a candle in memory of Mark Miller Bramble



Jeff & Donna Hollett - February 22, 2019 at 08:18 AM

SF

“ Shirley Foster sent a virtual gift in memory of Mark Miller Bramble



Shirley Foster - February 21, 2019 at 09:33 PM

DM

“ There are not enough words to say how much I am going to miss you. You lived life like you wanted; and left this life doing what you loved, I love you rest in peace.

donna mcginnes - February 21, 2019 at 06:32 PM



“ Uncle Alan and family,
We are so sorry to hear about Mark. Our deepest sympathy to you all.

Tracey and Kevin Middleton



Tracey Middleton - February 21, 2019 at 04:43 PM

MW

“ Mark, I will miss our talks. You were always such a joy! May you rest in peace.



Mandy Worth - February 21, 2019 at 04:13 PM