

## Thomas Bradac (1947-2024)



You may have already received the notice of the passing of Professor Emeritus Thomas Bradac but if not, I am forwarding the sad news from the Office of the Provost, Norma Bouchard.

I remember when Tom began working at Chapman and the acclaim he brought to the University with his passion for Shakespearean plays—where his producing and acting skills were a joy to experience. I will treasure my memory of him striding across campus in his sandals, energetic, smiling, purposeful.

Sincerely, Claudia Horn, Communication Chair  
Retired and Emeriti Faculty Association of Chapman University



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**From the Office of the Provost**  
Norma Bouchard, Ph.D.

It is with sadness that I share the news of the passing of Professor Emeritus Tom Bradac. Tom left us on March 13th, surrounded by his family and loved ones, marking the end of a remarkable journey that spanned over five decades of unwavering dedication to the theatrical arts.

Tom joined Chapman University in 1990 and quickly became a cornerstone of our community. His contributions to the Department of Theatre were nothing short of extraordinary. As the founder of Shakespeare Orange County (SOC) theatre, Tom's visionary leadership led the organization to unparalleled success. Under his guidance, SOC was honored as the Arts

Organization of the Year by Arts Orange County and received special recognition for Community Service from the Walt Disney Company. Additionally, Tom established the Grove Shakespeare Festival, earning prestigious accolades including the Hollywood Drama-Logue Publisher's Award for Exceptional Achievement in Theatre.

Internationally recognized, Tom served as the founding director of the Shakespeare Theatre Association, shaping the global landscape of Shakespearean performance. His artistic endeavors transcended borders, with memorable adaptations and stagings of Shakespearean works, including a notable production of "Venus and Adonis" for the Prague Fringe Festival with The Prague Shakespeare Company.

In addition to his administrative and directorial roles, Tom was a consummate actor, captivating audiences with his performances in iconic roles such as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. His membership in esteemed organizations like Actors Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild reflected his commitment to the craft.

Within academia, Tom's impact was profound. As Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, he initiated Chapman University's participation in the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, earning the Excellence in Education Award for his dedication. His directorial achievements, including the acclaimed production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2021, showcased his pedagogical excellence and commitment to nurturing talent.

Tom's legacy extends far beyond awards and accolades; he was a beloved colleague, mentor, and friend. His unwavering dedication to artistic and pedagogical excellence inspired generations of students and colleagues alike. His loss leaves a void in our community that will be deeply felt.

As we mourn the passing of a true titan in the world of theatre, let us remember Tom's profound impact and extend our deepest condolences to his wife Anne, his daughters Caitlin and Alyssa, and his entire family.

In honoring Tom's memory, let us carry forward his passion for the arts and his unwavering commitment to excellence.