

As has been said before – Peter was the reason I came to Chelmsford in 1973. I met him whilst he was 'guesting' for Brentwood's "Annie Get Your Gun" playing the tap dancer, 'Tommy Keeler'.

I actually met Peter, Stan and Jill when they came to the final night of my World Amateur Premier of "Fiddler on the Roof" in October 1972. They were auditioning it the following day at CAODS. Subsequently, I was invited to direct for Young Gen and then CAODS the next season (Kismet).

Peter was always great to bounce ideas off – he had a great sense of what could look right and often made it, painted it, and acted it. So he was an artist in his own right – a true perfectionist, almost wasted in his daytime job – but if he'd entered the world of the professional theatre doing something artistic, we would not have had the benefit of his very many talents and they were manifold. Often sharing his ideas with him, he'd give me a Peter Smith blank look and then nod – followed by a "mm-and-we'll see" and the following rehearsal he'd produce something out of a plastic bag being exactly what I'd talked about and wanted. This could be a banner, wig, painting, props, costumes, mask – all superbly achieved.

As a performer he knew his personal limitations and only ever auditioned for roles which he was totally suitable for and always achieved them.

Nice! A Gentle –man of the first order who will never be equalled in his many, many talents.

I'm sure St. Peter's got him actively involved up there.

With much affection

Ray Jeffrey