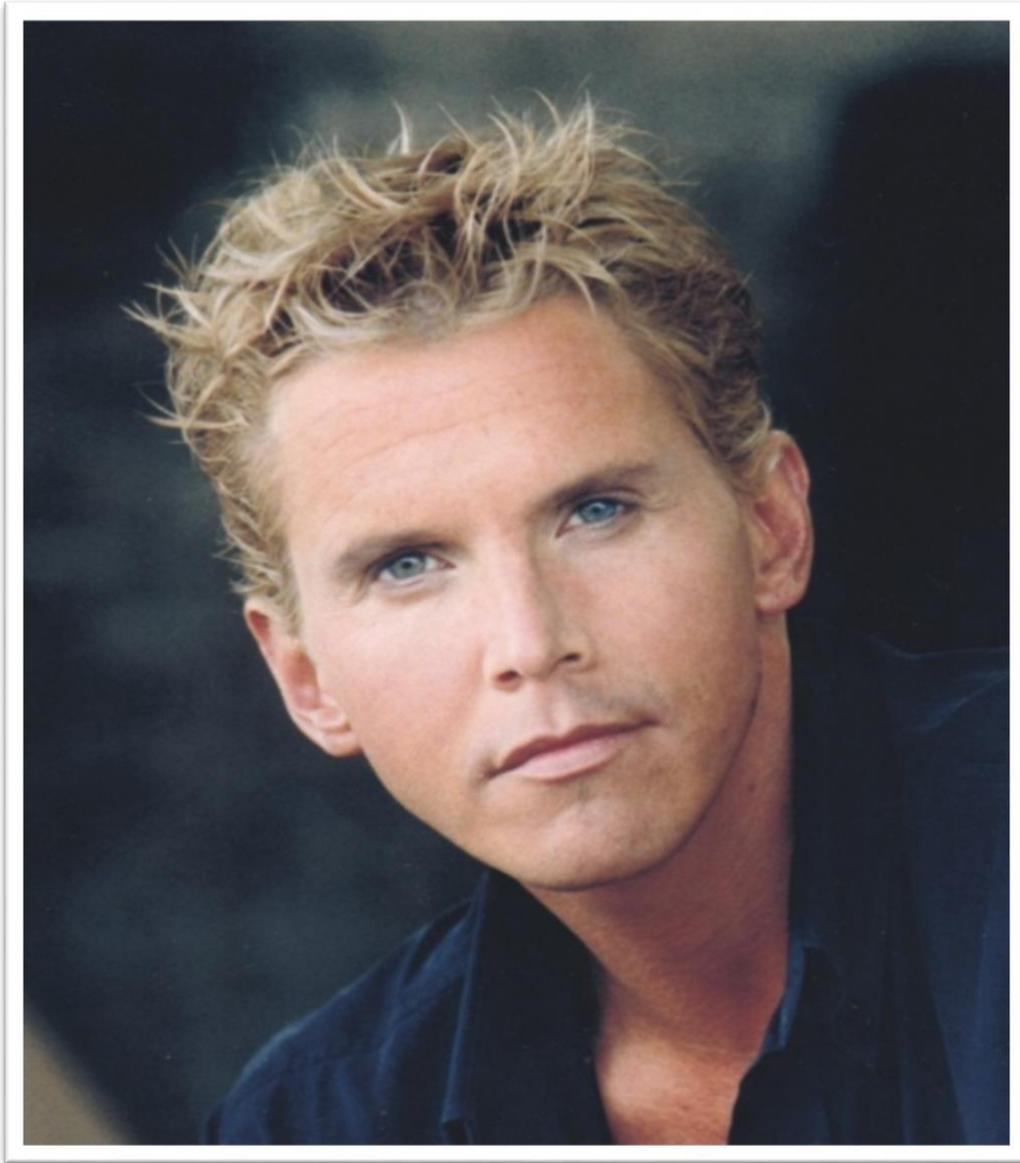




*A Celebration and Thanksgiving
for the life of*

**ADRIAN RICHARD SWERHUN
(RICHARD SWERRUN)**

1st December 1961 - 8th January 2019



*The Service will be conducted by
The Rt Revd GEOFF ANNAS
Bishop of Stafford
Theatre Chaplaincy UK Chaplain*

DURING SEATING
“Somewhere over the rainbow”
Sung by Judy Garland

OPENING MUSIC

Finale from the “West Side Story” Symphonic Dances
by Leonard Bernstein; played by The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
commemorating Richard’s performances as Juano & Tony in the stage musical

THE GATHERING

SHORT READING

“If I should go before the rest of you”
by Joyce Grenfell
Read by The Rt Revd Geoff Annas

HYMN

“The King of Love my Shepherd is”
Tune: Dominus regit me J.B. Dykes

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on His shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me.
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

READING

Isaiah 55: 6-13

Read by Suzie Chard

MUSIC

Richard singing

“Any Dream Will Do”

From “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”

By Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber

READING

Psalm 121

Read by Jane Cooper

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD FROM DAVID

Read by The Rt Revd. Geoff Annas

MUSIC

Richard singing

“A Whole New World”

by Alan Menken & Tim Rice

A live performance on Millenium Eve from the Blackpool Grand Theatre.

Richard is in full flight with friends Patricia Leonard & Mike Buchan.

Joined by a choir of local school children & The National Concert Orchestra, conducted by David

(With thanks to Dan Samson for his skilled work on the tape transfer)

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name;

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen

COMMENDATION

THE COMMITTAL

MUSIC

Nimrod : Lux Aeterna

Sir Edward Elgar arr. John Cameron

Sung by the Choir of King's College Cambridge.

Elgar dedicated Nimrod from his Enigma Variations to his friend August Jaeger who Richard played in Ken Russell's 2002 film "Elgar – Fantasy on a Composer on a Bicycle" Richard's great great grandfather William Done was a colleague and friend of Elgar.

THE BLESSING

RICHARD'S DISMISSAL

Read by Trevor Jary.

Dance Music

"Majorca" The Chris Barber Jazz Band

My Joseph.

For over forty years now I have worked alongside my boys. Or more particularly my brothers. And the wives. And the Narrators. And my Josephs. And his dad – and his Pharaoh.

There are few that I haven't loved. There are many that I remember with the utmost affection. The stories of the Joseph tours are beyond compare. The love that they generate is legendary...

It helped change my life.

They all helped change my life.

But every team has to have a leader. Every company has to have a main man. The very best of Josephs weren't actors who flaunted their position as top of the bill, but artists who would lead from the front – on and off the stage - more often than not for twelve shows a week!

My boy Richard led from the front. In everything he did. He took notes like a dream – and a smile – like John Marvin he always found his light – especially downstage centre! He wore the costumes as they were meant to be worn – especially those tight gold trousers!! And he became the Joseph that all of the others looked up to. Twelve shows a week!!!

Okay, he had his moments!!!! Who of us doesn't? (12 shows a week??!!) But they soon ended with a smile and a flash of those teeth. And maybe a finger or five through that magnificent blonde quiff...

But on top of the fact that he was loved by his fans, by the critics, and by those who gave him a standing ovation every night – he was simply the loveliest lad!

I have obviously been close to his other half (Steaders to all who know and love him also) throughout Richard's illness. David's constant 'I can't believe how strong and upbeat he is...' punctuated every conversation. And there were many.

And he WAS strong. And he was clever. And, not just for today, not just while he wore the coat, but throughout the time I knew him, he was 'amazing'.

I am looking at his photos as I write this – other shows too but - mainly Joseph - alongside Henry, Peter Lawrence, his narrators, his brothers, his Elvis's. They are such magnificent memories, that will stay with me forever. As will Richard.

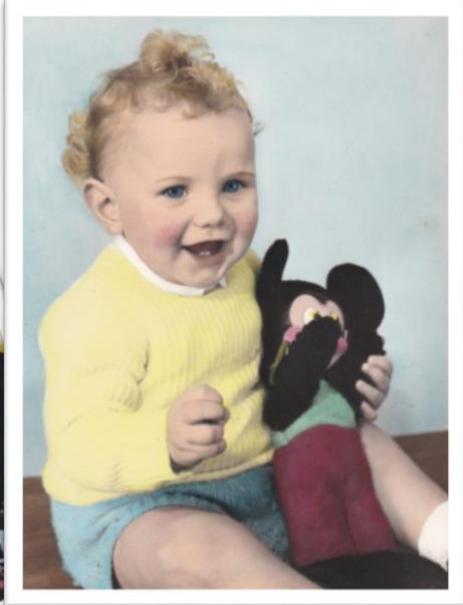
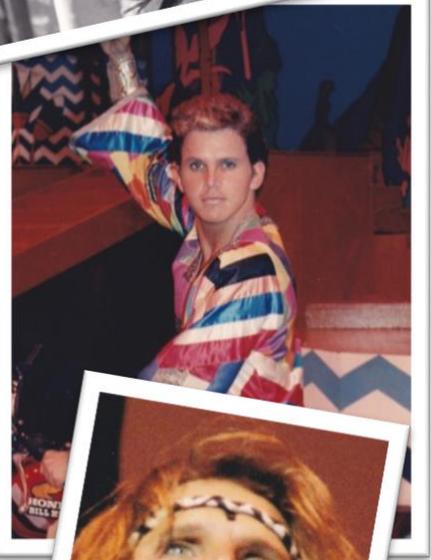
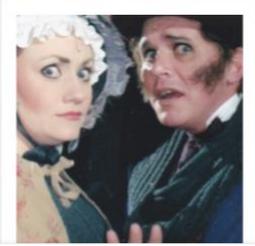
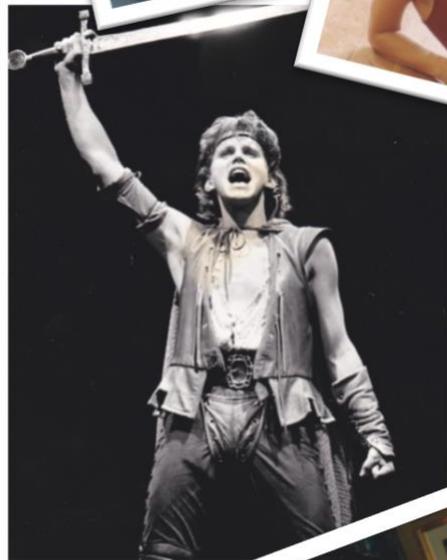
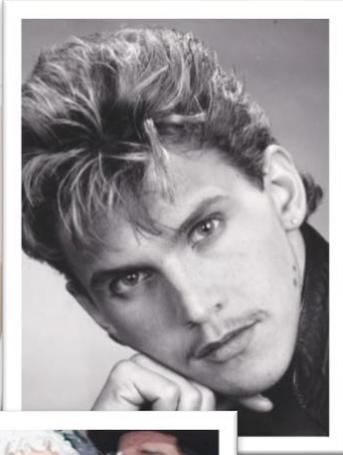
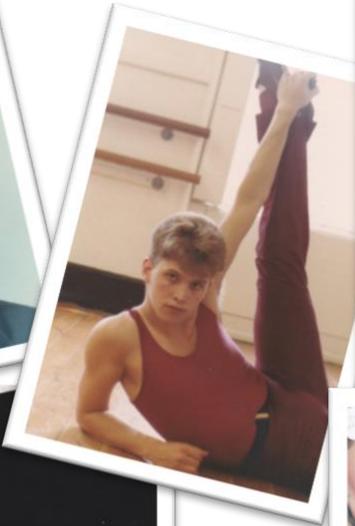
Everyone who knows me, knows that I love David Steadman. Another lad who seems to have been with me since the start of my career – almost. My arm is around him, and his beloved Richard, as they part briefly today. But not forever.

We start rehearsing our fortieth anniversary Joseph in one week's time. The 'flash of light' will not be as bright for a while – but it 'will return' as Richard would want it to.

'Children of Israel Are Never Alone.'

Good night, God bless, Sweet Richard.

Your fan Bill



Special thanks go to:

Geoff

Bill

Hamish, Dan,

Jane, Simon, Ian & Linda

Tanith, Suzie, Trevor and Graham

The District Nurses, Macmillan Nurses,

Dr. Kelly

& The Nurses, Doctors, Consultants, Chefs and all at The Severn Hospice.

*Any kind donations received will be to support
The Severn Hospice, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury SY3 8HS.*

*Everyone is invited to join the family for light refreshments at
The Mytton and Mermaid, Atcham, SY5 6QG, following this service.*

Funeral arranged by
AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors
Frankwell, Shrewsbury
Tel: 01743 368999