



## Jeffrey Stephen Carlson

June 23, 1975 - July 6, 2023

Friends are encouraged to share photos of Jeffrey to this obituary page!

Jeffrey Stephen Carlson, 48, of Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood passed away July 6, 2023.

Accomplished Broadway actor, esteemed classical performer, and a dedicated teacher of Shakespeare who leaves behind a legacy of unforgettable performances.

Born in Long Beach, California June 23, 1975. His talented career in the arts took him from television and film to Broadway and finally teaching at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

Upon graduating from the prestigious Juilliard Drama Division and training at the University of California at Davis and the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Jeffrey went straight to Broadway, where he is remembered for his electrifying performances in "The Goat", "Tartuffe", and "Taboo". Onscreen, he appeared in "Hitch", "Backseat", "The Killing Floor", and "All My Children".

Beyond Broadway, Jeffrey was a leading classical actor of his generation. His portrayals of Romeo, Hamlet, Iachimo, Mercutio, and Richard II (among others) at top classical theaters around the world received the commendation

of audiences and critics alike.

Jeffrey played Prince Hal in "Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2" at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, which was then subsequently transferred to the prestigious Royal Shakespeare Theatre Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK, where The Guardian described him as "a star in the making".

He also originated roles in many new works by leading playwrights of the day including Edward Albee, Itamar Moses, Lee Blessing, Sarah Ruhl, and Terrance McNally.

Jeffrey carried his love for Shakespeare beyond the stage into the classroom where he was a much beloved teacher in the Chicago theater community. His many students remember him as a transformative mentor, advocate, and friend.

Jeffrey was kind and gentle and adored his family and friends so much.

Cherished son of Stephen Trent and Susan Lynn Carlson (nee Dufford). Loving brother of Christopher (Freshta) Carlson, Elizabeth (Chris) Gingras, and the late Gregory Carlson. Proud uncle of Blake Andrews, Avery Andrews, Jameson Gingras, Tyler Gingras, and Leah Gingras.

Beloved grandson of Sandra Lee Williams (the late David Williams), and Donald Dufford, Mary Germaine Carlson, and Delwin Edward Carlson. Jeffrey also leaves behind his cherished pup Aspen.

Celebrations of life are being planned in Chicago and California. For information, contact [celebratejeffreycarlson@yahoo.com](mailto:celebratejeffreycarlson@yahoo.com).

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or [www.InclusiveFun](http://www.InclusiveFun)

eralCare.com.

# Tribute Wall

HW

“ I met Jeff doing West Side Story at Davis. Jeff lit up the world for everyone around him. I love these pictures of him dancing my mom at my wedding (2007). I am so sorry for your loss. Love, Heather Wallace



Heather Wallace - July 28, 2023 at 07:59 AM

MC

“ Steve and Susan, I have no words to express my sorrow for your loss. I'm so glad I had the pleasure of seeing a small piece of his talent. Such a beautiful soul. My heart goes out to you and your dear family. I am sending lots of prayers your way. Good bless and keep you. Love you, Mikki.

Mikki Cvejdlik - July 24, 2023 at 08:09 AM

SG

“ Dear Beth and family,  
I was so sad hearing of the passing of your brother(son). He accomplished so much in his life and shared it with others. Keep those memories close.  
In my thoughts and prayers.  
Shari Grant ( John Grants wife)

Shari Grant - July 15, 2023 at 11:38 AM

JR

“ He was an extraordinary friend. We met in the summer of 2000 at the Guthrie Theater. I remember learning more about NSYNC than I ever thought possible, laughing so much laughing and the deepest soul stirring conversations. No matter how much time passed when we reunited it felt like a few days. I loved him so much and am so grateful Ken Washington brought us all together that summer. Sending his family my deepest condolences on this heartbreaking loss.



Jennifer LeGrand Reiter - July 13, 2023 at 08:17 PM

DB

“ Debbie Boardman lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Stephen Carlson



Debbie Boardman - July 12, 2023 at 04:19 PM

JW

“ Jeff Weseman lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Stephen Carlson



Jeff weseman - July 12, 2023 at 07:13 AM