

## Larry Hart

May 19, 1944 - January 4, 2026

Larry Hart, 81, sound engineer, actor, designer, photographer, and visual artist; of Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, passed away unexpectedly after a fall, en route to a drawing group. He had suffered a couple of mini strokes in the past year.

Frank Lawrence Hart was the fifth of seven children born into a Latter Day Saints family in Lovell, Wyoming. Larry grew up in Powell, Wyoming, where he earned his Associate's degree in Theatre from Northwest College before moving to Chicago's Goodman School of Drama. Larry trained in the Stanislavsky Method with Bella Itkin, John Reich, and Charles McGaw and earned his B.F.A. in Acting. It was at the Goodman that he met Pat Hart, a costume design student who would become the love of his life and creative collaborator. The couple married in 1967 and were fixtures in the off-Loop theater scene; Pat for her costumes, Larry for acting, poster design, and sound design. Larry was instrumental in developing the Off-Loop theater movement.

As a sound designer, Larry collaborated with Steppenwolf, Next, Body Politic, Pegasus, Lifeline, Bailiwick, Loyola University, Touchstone, and Organic Theater.

He founded the Take it to Hart graphic design firm in 1980.

As an actor, director, and producer, Larry worked with Tennessee Williams, James Earl Jones, Howard DaSilva, Morris Carnovsky, Len Cariou, and Eugenie Leontovich. He was Producing Artistic Director at Pary Production Company and a founding member of Kingston Mines Theater. Larry acted with Aidan Quinn, was cast by Edward Albee in a production of "Tiny Alice", and was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award in the role of Phil Hogan in "Moon for the Misbegotten" by Eugene O'Neill at Touchstone Theater.

By day, Larry worked as a sound engineer at McCann Erickson and then for several decades at Leo Burnett Worldwide. He was also a somewhat underappreciated visual artist and photographer.

Preceded in death by wife Patricia L. Hart, devoted father of Michael Lawrence Hart of Alexandria, VA, brother of the late Pearl Ann, Barbara, the late Ila, the late Heber, Bill and Rhonda.

Son of the late Howard Hart and Ethel Tippetts Hart.

Larry donated lower-extremity skin and bone through the Anatomical Gift Association. The family has chosen a private cremation.

A celebration of Larry's life is being planned for the coming months. Please check back to this website for information.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to [www.strokecomebackcenter.org](http://www.strokecomebackcenter.org)

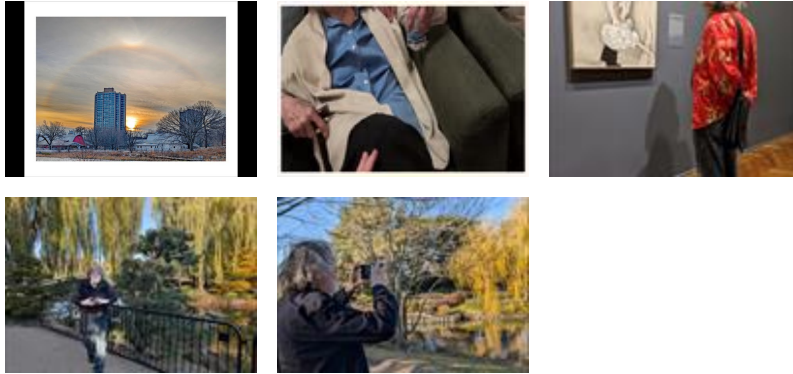
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# Tribute Wall



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Linda Ozag - January 10 at 02:02 PM

LO

<https://youtu.be/N61yYp9xpFU?si=GzowGQCgFTwto58G> Bye, Larry

linda ozag - February 13 at 02:38 PM

LO

11-14-25 Botanic Garden <https://youtu.be/cx45USBpn1E?si=PqgcUh3mWfTvgLWO>

linda ozag - February 13 at 02:48 PM

BC

“ I am writing on behalf of my late husband, Bob Swan, who, according to himself, owed his career to Larry. Bob spent many hours with Larry in his studio at Leo Burnett, using the in-house phone there to call producers in the firm, and making demos. Years later, Bob used Larry to make all of his posters for his Harbor Country Opera, his local opera company out here in Three Oaks Michigan. I have a picture he made of tulips, which I look at every day, and which will now have even more meaning to me. The house I still live in, which Bob and I shared until his death in 2023, was found by Bob while looking for a prospective house for Larry and Pat, when they were considering moving out to this area--alas too late since it was close to her demise, or at least after her cancer was diagnosed. At least Larry will be back with Pat, and I am sure Bob will be seeing him as well. May they all rest in peace.

*Barbara Collins (Swan)*

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**Barbara J Collins** - January 10 at 12:26 PM

IM

“ Larry worked with our theatre, Touchstone and then Organic as an actor, a designer and a friend. He was immensely talented and inventive. He was brilliant in *Roughing it*, *Design for Living*, *Sea Gull* (twice) and so many more. I loved his perspective. We met up every time I came back to Chicago, and he visited us in Colorado. He left us too soon.

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**Ina Marlowe** - January 09 at 09:16 AM

BH

“ Larry was my first friend, since I was two years younger than him that made him my big brother, I remember the early games we played together and the fun in the game room downstairs, the things we explored together and trouble we got into together. Larry was the talented creative brother, the one that had so many accomplishments in the arts and drama field, I always enjoyed (and maybe questioned some of) his creative photography that he posted on Face Book. I said he should have made a coffee table book of his work. I always looked up to him and admired all that he had achieved, my lifelong friend and big brother, love you Larry, God Speed on your new journey! Bill

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**Bill Hart** - January 07 at 02:23 PM

AF

“ Larry Hart was the master inventor of stage business. He was never out of a scene but was always building something that made the moment better. I watched him do it for many years and it always astounded me and made me appreciate him so much.

*During “The Phone Room” we opened the show with a casual introduction of the players like it was the beginning of a normal office work day. Chuck Bailey was listening to the sports report on the radio, I was tapping out a jazz tune in my head, and the outside door opens and in comes Larry-the old man. It’s winter and he’s all bundled up moving to the desk behind me. So he takes off his hat, scarf and overcoat, shakes them out and hangs them up with care. Then he sits down at his desk behind me and proceeds to take off his galoshes (the old fashioned rubber kind with buckles. Probably from Pat). So there’s all this metal tinkling from the buckles as he takes them off revealing wads of newspaper for warmth that crinkles as he removes it to reveal plastic bags over his shoes. He removes the bags and carefully puts paper and plastic back in the galoshes and places them under his desk. All done without any self consciousness or hurry.*

*I’d watch the audience raptly watch him with delight. It took me right into the piece every night. People asked me if I resented him upstaging me but I never saw it as that. I just saw a master at work. It just made me pay attention to what was happening at that moment. And isn’t that what we’re all going for.*

*I said goodbye to Larry on New Year’s Eve. I hugged him hard and kissed the top of his head (the best hair in Chicago theater) and told him that I loved him. He said that he loved me too, turned, walked down the stairs and out of my life.*



**Alan Felgenhauer** - January 06 at 08:48 PM

AF

*I did a quick watercolor sketch of him as a character in "Marat Sade." He said that it was "horrible!" I thought that it showed his ability to completely lose himself in the character.*

**Alan Felgenhauer** - January 06 at 08:49 PM

GH

*I can see him as the monologist who starts with "I am a raging animal..."*

**Gary Houston** - January 08 at 07:23 PM

TO

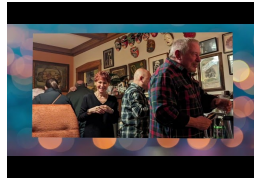
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**tom** - January 06 at 08:10 PM



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**Linda Ozag** - January 06 at 07:31 PM



“ *Larry was the nicest, kindest, and sweetest gentle soul. He was always ready to go and try something new and different.* ”



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**Linda Ozag** - January 06 at 07:25 PM



“ *Jim Sikora and I often drove Larry home after parties, since his condo was on our way. The last time we did this was in early November. Jim and I were both a little down (politics, etc.) and Larry, without asking any questions, somehow intuited this and told us how much he loved us. That's the kind of guy he was - so sweet, so humane - along with being a great artist. He will be missed.* ”

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**Mary Wisniewski** - January 06 at 10:18 AM

CH

*The sweetest, most talented in a variety of talents, genuine good fun and a put delight always  
Turned me on to 'poster' art in the early days of making theater  
This is the saddest news*

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**cordis heard** - January 06 at 02:29 PM

CO

*\*pure delight*

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**cordis** - January 08 at 07:19 PM



“ I recall when I first met both Larry and Pat. Pat was costuming and Larry was creating the artwork for the poster of the new play our theatre company was producing. He photographed me, brilliantly, for the poster and from the moment we first met, I became a lifelong fan of both. The support they showed not only me, but all of the Chicago theatrical community was a lesson in love. Larry, for me, was the embodiment of love. Love of his fellow artists, love of all art and so much love for his family. I will miss him very much. My deep condolences to his son, Michael and all who knew and loved him.  
Josette Di Carlo

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**Josette Di Carlo** - January 06 at 02:17 AM

JB

What a remarkable career and a lovely man. So very sorry.

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**Judy Blue** - January 06 at 02:47 AM



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**Team Inclusive Funeral Care** - January 05 at 02:29 PM