

Steve Lemenille will be long remembered by the acting community and especially by Westfield Community Players (WCP). During the years he was active with WCP, he wore many hats and was a defining force both artistically and administratively as was his late wife JoAnne.

As a director, Steve shaped some of our most memorable and ambitious productions. His work on shows such as *Twelve Angry Men*, *The 39 Steps*, *Dial 'M' for Murder*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *A Soldier's Play* consistently garnered praise from audiences, reviewers and fellow artists.

This commitment to craft also earned him recognition as he was the recipient of numerous NJACT/Perry Award nominations and several awards, including honors for Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Production, placing his work among the elite of NJ's community theaters.

Steve's contributions extended beyond the stage. As a leader and administrator, he served on WCP's Board of Directors—including tenure as President—where he helped guide the theater through seasons of expansion, modernization, and renewed community engagement. His efforts strengthened volunteer involvement, improved operational continuity, and preserved WCP's reputation as a desirable home for local artists.

As a retired Jersey City teacher, Steve easily stepped into the role of mentor. He supported countless performers, new directors, stage managers, and crew members. His rehearsals were known for balancing discipline with encouragement, and he strove to help actors grow creatively and personally.

Whether directing a challenging drama, assisting behind the scenes, or fostering the next generation of community theater, Steve Lemenille has contributed immeasurably to both WCP and the broader community. His work reflects a deep belief in the power of community theater to inspire, challenge, and bring people together.

We are all saddened to learn of his passing.