



Brian Zoldessy

August 27, 1953 - December 13, 2025

Brian Zoldessy, 72, of Cleveland, Ohio, passed away on December 13, 2025. Brian was born on August 27, 1953 in New York City. He grew up in New Rochelle, New York, where he attended New Rochelle High School. He earned a BFA in Acting from Long Island University, School of the Arts, C.W. Post Center in 1975 and an MFA in Theatre Arts, Acting from California State University, Long Beach in 1987. The recipient of a kidney transplant in 2008, Brian subsequently struggled through many years of unrelated, but life-threatening conditions and surgeries, ultimately resulting in hospice care and a peaceful passing at home.

Brian was the Director of the Theatre Arts Department at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) for 25 years, having received the college's prestigious Ralph M. Besse award for Teaching Excellence in 1995. He retired in 2018. As a professional actor, Brian worked in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Cleveland, appearing on and Off-Broadway, in television and films, and directed and produced more than 100 award-winning productions. His credits and impact are innumerable.

Brian is survived by his dear friend and co-parent, Victoria Blank, their two children, Eva (Zoldessy) Bergsman (Jeffrey Adam Bergsman) and Marnie Hyde Zoldessy (Chelsea Hyde Donahue), and grandchildren Adeline Rose Bergsman, William Jacob Bergsman, and Augustine Hyde Zoldessy.

The family plans a memorial service at a later date, to be announced, and asks for patience as they work to give Brian a dignified and joyful final bow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Donate Life America.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Brian was the Older brother to Monte, who was my OG best friend in New Rochelle, NY. We lived close by, and I knew all the older brothers, but Brian was the funniest and the kindest. When they all went to see Steve Martin at the Dick Clark Theatre in Tarrytown, Brian insisted that I come. He even distributed rubber noses and eyeglasses (Grouchish), and Mr Martin at one point made us all stand during his act because he said his family had come to the show. Brian was warm and made you feel like family. I am certain he got that from his mother, Shirley. I am sorry to learn of his passing. Rest in peace BZ.



Skip Bensley - April 07 at 09:10 AM

CD

“ I’m so sad to be finding out of his passing. He was my acting teacher at Tri-C. I gained so much confidence that I still carry with me today as a working actor in Los Angeles. I’m forever grateful to have had the opportunity to have learned from Brian. RIP

Christina DiBiase - March 19 at 07:34 PM

LK

“ So sorry to hear about my teachers recent passing.

He was my acting teacher when I first started college (Tri-c) back in 2015, and I believe I took two of his classes in two different years. He taught me so much. He was incredibly passionate about what he did, and I truly loved his acting classes.

Recently, while I was looking through some old acting emails, his name immediately stood out to me. I had actually thought about him a couple of years ago, and now that I'm back at Tri-C, I was thinking maybe I could take another one of his classes.

I'll never forget him. He had such a spunky personality — a real cool cat.

Rest in peace, Brian.

Lorraina K - January 17 at 02:10 AM

DM

“ *Brian absolutely loved actors. He was always willing to share his techniques and incredible acting method. I will forever be grateful he took a chance on me and put me on stage at the Cleveland Playhouse in The Man Who Came to Dinner. His impact on my the life was tremendous!
Brian was a giver!!!*

Don Mannarino - January 16 at 02:07 PM

MS

“ Brain was innately humorous and when I (another innately humorous person) was with him the fireworks went off. It was not so much a competition as a liberation of our beings. I remember at a party we both together did a rendition of the apes in 2001: A Space Odyssey with "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" playing in the background. It was hilarious and wild.

Marty Settle - December 20, 2025 at 03:40 PM

DS

“ Beezo where is my closest friend in college. We went to London together and his outrageous antics kept me in stitches for the entire trip. You just cannot believe the pranks he pulled. We continued our friendship into our early 30s in Los Angeles when he and Vicky lived there. I haven't spoken to him in a few years and this really breaks my heart to lose him because once Brian crept into your heart, he never left so even though physically he's gone he's alive in me and everyone else here who have felt his beauty and his humor. We did a few plays together. My favorite was A Cry of Players. I was Shakespeare and he was Will Kemp... the man who inspired Shakespeare to hear a cry of players. That relationship hit home cause that's what Brian did for me. I just loved him. He was a total original a Jerry Lewis fanatic., a Harpo fanatic. When it came to comedy, Brian was fearless. Love to you, old friend and flights of angels sing to thy rest. Say hi to Jerry and Harpo for me.

David Simon - December 18, 2025 at 07:10 AM

EA

“ Wow I am beyond saddened to hear that Brian has passed away I took Theater class with Brian and volunteered on several of his productions at East. He will be greatly missed by all he was always the ultimate professional and brought out the best in every single person he met. Rest In Paradise My dear friend

Evelyn Anderson - December 17, 2025 at 03:24 PM

JA

“ https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/archives/a-true-story-in-three-acts/article_13f4e60e-2b57-59a5-9cea-9cf7ceeb1b3e.html ”

Judie Amsel - December 16, 2025 at 07:09 PM