



Jonathan K. Farwell

November 22, 2025

Jonathan Kirkpatrick Farwell was born in Lansing, Michigan, to composer Arthur George Farwell and actress Gertrude Everts Farwell (née Brice) on January 9, 1932. He was preceded in death by his older siblings Brice, Bea, Arthur Bragdon, Sara, and Emerson, as well as his younger half-sister Cynthia Hensch (née Farwell) and his niece and nephew Judy and David Milbert.

Jonathan served in the United States Air Force before pursuing his passion for acting. He attended Ithaca College, earning an undergraduate degree in acting, and continued his education with postgraduate studies at Yale University, both made possible through the G.I. Bill.

In 1955, Jonathan married his first wife, actress Jo Farwell (née Joerle Anne Gaines). Together, they had two daughters: Alison Beatrice (Garrigan) and Elisabeth Evelyn (Farwell-Moreland).

Jonathan began his professional career working with Joseph Papp in The New York Shakespeare Festival (Shakespeare in the Park), Ellis Rabb and Rosemary Harris in the APA, and touring with Eva Le Galliene. He was the first to play El Gallo in the premiere production of *The Fantasticks* at Barnard College. His career flourished as he performed at regional theaters nationwide, including Seattle Repertory Theatre and The Cleveland Play House, where he joined the company with his wife, Jo. He toured as Salieri in

the national tour of *Amadeus* and appeared on- and off-Broadway in various roles, such as understudying Yul Brenner in *The King and I* and performing in *Mornings at Seven*, as well as appearing opposite Maggie Smith in Tom Stoppard's *Night and Day* in Washington D.C. His career extended to television and movies, with memorable roles including Judge Marvin Martell on *All My Children*, George Rawlins on *The Young and the Restless*, and Captain Walker Keel on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. He also was a life-long student of the piano, often using practicing as his way to relax between rehearsals and performances.

After Jo's passing from cancer in 1990, Jonathan married actress Deb Note (née Debra Notarangelo). The couple moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, where they worked together at Bas Bleu Theatre and OpenStage Theatre. They were celebrated locally for their performances as C.S. Lewis and Joy Davidman in *Shadowlands* and *Sylvia* at Bas Bleu Theatre, and as the title role and the Fool in *King Lear* at OpenStage Theatre. Deb passed away from cancer in 2018.

Jonathan received critical acclaim for his roles as Judge Francis Biddle in *Trying*, Gunner in *The Outgoing Tide* at Bas Bleu Theatre, and Salieri in *Amadeus* at OpenStage Theatre—with the latter two performances earning him Henry Awards for Outstanding Actor.

Before the pandemic, Jonathan met director, writer and kindred soul, Ann Vermel, when she directed him in *Under Milkwood*. Their professional collaboration soon developed into a close personal partnership. Together, they ran *The Reader's Theatre* at Bas Bleu Theatre and taught a popular series of acting classes, sharing their extensive theatre and arts experience.

Jonathan passed peacefully in the presence of his daughters, Alison and Elisabeth, following a series of strokes after a fall that resulted in a broken hip.

He is survived by his daughters Alison (married to Sean Garrigan) and Elisabeth (married to Gary Moreland), grandchildren Christopher Mitchell (married to Aisling Montague) and Jessica Moreland, great-granddaughter Lorelei Mitchell, beloved nieces and nephews Daniel, Peter and Sharon Fawell, Katherine Kaufman-Glass (née Milbert), Michael Hensch, and Diana Hensch Adkins, as well as numerous grand- and great-grand nieces and nephews and his beloved life-partner, Ann Vermel and her daughter, Valerie Taylor.

For those unable to attend the service in person on January 24th, here is the Zoom live link for the service:

<https://zoom.us/j/94870369478>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 24. 2:00 PM (MT)

Foothills Unitarian Church
1815 Yorktown Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Zoom Live Link for the Service: <https://zoom.us/j/94870369478>

Tribute Wall

SW

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Jonathan in 1994 during a production of SHADOWLANDS in Columbia, CA.
I was cast as the priest who marries Joy and CS Lewis in the Hospital after she is diagnosed with cancer.
As the show moved forward, I began to notice the friendly "Have a great Act 2" turn into a hug then soon after a kiss...
I was witness to the beginning of two people I admire falling in love. Eventually, they were to be married but I like to think I was the first Priest to do so, albeit 20 times!
Sadly, the parallels of fact and fiction were too great and like Joy and C.S., the loss of Debi heartbreaking.
I am so glad that Jonathan found Ann and I enjoyed our many Zoom meetings as well as my many conversations with Jonathan over the years, always laughing at his Marlon Brando story, especially when I would call as Brando
My love to Ann and Jonathan's family I will miss my friend very much.

Steven Warner
San Diego, CA



Steven Warner - March 01 at 05:33 PM

KL

“ Not only was my friend Jonathan an incredible actor, he was one of the most decent men I have ever met! He was kind and thoughtful. Jonathan was interested in others and supportive when friends were in a difficult point in life. I will miss him!

Kathy Leonatd - January 12 at 02:17 PM

MH

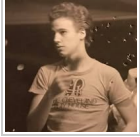
“ I remember far too much to put here, all of it good. I remember how my Mom always kept a humidifier going for him when he visited. He came to an after party for the East Players Dracula production (I think it was Dracula, could be off, may have been Pippen) and regaled us with an impromptu monologue from a role he had played for the Cleveland Playhouse. But the thing I remember most was how nice he was. It was always a treat when he visited.

Michael Hensch - January 05 at 09:20 PM

CV

“ Ali and Elisabeth, I grew up watching your Mom And Dad's brilliant work at CPH, I got to work briefly with Jonathan in a Sherlock Holmes reading at Ensemble, which I'll never forget! SO SORRY, by condolences to all of you, but he's up there with Jo, watching over all of you now. ❤️

Cindi Verbelun - January 01 at 02:13 AM



“ *This man was a titan. When I was growing up in Cleveland in the mid-70's, Jonathan and Jo towered over the Cleveland Play House. He was what all of us dreamed of being ... a theatrical Everyman effortlessly moving from Shakespeare to Dracula. But more to the point, he proved to the next generation that it was possible to live a life in the arts. And for that example I am eternally grateful. Rest in peace, Jonathan*

Tony Phelan - December 31, 2025 at 08:45 PM

EF

Thank you Tony - this means the world to us coming from a current Titan of the arts and a beloved friend from the glory days! Much love - EFM

Elisabeth Farwell-Moreland - January 18 at 05:51 PM

JO

Nearly everyone has multiple mentors in the course of a lifetime. Most are with you early on and for a relatively short time. Some you never meet (more like inspirational heroes). And if you're diligent and lucky a very few stay with you and you with them, becoming true and lasting friends.

Jonathan was in that last category for me. We met when I was 19, an eager kid and Jonathan was 39, a seasoned veteran. He was my first acting teacher past high school.

Mentorship is one thing and true and lasting friendship another. But what is unique, at least in my experience, is when a mentor at a certain point accepts you as a peer. Though nothing was ever said in an explicit way, that's what I felt happen somewhere in the middle of my 55-year relationship with Jonathan. To me it has always spoken of true magnanimity. I think of it often with pride and humility as I do my dear friend. I will miss him more than I can say.

One last thing. My wife Karyl Lynn couldn't be at the memorial as she was helping another dear friend of ours with a serious health issue this weekend. But she wanted me to say of Jonathan for her that she loved him very much.

Jim O'Neil

James O'Neil - January 24 at 07:14 PM