

A Thanksgiving Message from KEVIN METZING CBA '84

Dear Mimes Alumnus:

Did you ever work on a Mimes show back at Fordham and find yourself one night the last person on campus?

It was late November 1981 and we were doing Shakespeare's "As You Like It." My position for this production was Tech Director. The seats in Collins were being replaced that semester and the Mimes had just done its comedy - "The House of Blue Leaves" by John Guare - in the round with the audience on stage. We decided to keep the same seating set-up for the next show and my assignment was to create the *!@**^#**! Forest of Arden on the Collins stage.

Unfortunately for me, time was running out to get the set completed. Dress rehearsal was the next week and I was still trying to take chicken wire, papier-mache and lots of brown and black paint to transform the proscenium into huge tree trunks.

That is how I found myself alone and still at work at 10 PM the night before Thanksgiving. I had forgotten to bring a radio along and there wasn't a sound outdoors on campus. The only noise I heard from time to time was the ghost of John Collins who always seemed to be active in those days up near the ceiling of the auditorium above the Mimes' office. I was awfully careful when I climbed Alex to paint the highest parts of the "trunks." If I slipped, no one would find me for days. And, Collins' ghost would not be any help.

Finally, a little after 1:00 AM on Thursday, Thanksgiving morning, I was done. I cleaned the paintbrushes in icy cold water in the tool shop. I pushed Alex over to a side stage and closed the curtains. I turned the house lights off and, after walking up the aisle in the dark, I locked the doors. I stumbled across the campus to my room in 555 (Walsh Hall) for a few hours' sleep before heading home for Thanksgiving dinner. But the job was done and the set was ready for when the cast returned after the holiday break.

We all made sacrifices for the Mimes, but the things we did and the friends we made in Collins Theater are what many of us remember best and are most thankful for. We hope you will consider joining us for the 150th reunion on Saturday, April 8th. We hope to rekindle some old friendships and share some fun memories.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

Kevin Metzging, CBA 84 - Orlando, Florida
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www.mimesalums.org