

A decorative graphic of musical notation, including a treble clef, a staff with notes, and a series of notes floating to the right.

**Jeannine's 50 Years in
Musical Theatre**

Hi Jeannine

Just to say, I hope you'll absolutely enjoy reading through this little memento of your fabulous event on 29th July. Everyone wanted to pay a little tribute to you, a wonderful lady, performer and friend.

I have left a few pages blank in case any more messages come through over the next few weeks, but if they don't, please leave it with me, and when I come back from the US, I'll take it back off you and finish it off with something else I have in mind...

Thank you for having such a brilliant idea in the first place, and for having the courage and strength to see it through to its fantastic finale – despite I'm sure wanting to just give it all up part way through when things were getting tough...

I'm so glad I was able to help and contribute in a small way to your special day with you, and this little book is something that you can keep; unlike the cake, which I know, didn't last long. Whenever you feel a little bit down, or need a little bit of positivity, take this book out, read the messages, and know how important you are to so many people.

So are so loved, and cared for, and the role model for so many, whether as a friend, a mum, a nanny, a wife, an actor or in whatever capacity; just always remember that.

I wish I could be there to give it to you in person but a little busy at the moment (as per usual!) so I'll have to just hear from Fran!

Now just sit back with a cuppa and enjoy...

Lots of love my friend

Eira
xxx



Just a short message my lovely friend ~ because I know how jolly whacked and tired you will be today!

Just to tell you how privileged and truly honoured I felt yesterday in being included on your guest list and to share in your 'WONDERFUL CELEBRATION' show to commemorate your 50th Anniversary in



Musical Theatre

~ ...I promised it would be short so I will keep to my word~ and save my novel for another time to tell you in more detail how much I enjoyed your celebration, more than anything else~ to tell you how beautiful and talented you as a person! ~ YOU are one unique, loving, respectful, humble

LADY that I have EVER had the pleasure to meet! ~



xx

Sam Townsend

Hi lovely Jeannine. I have purposefully left it a few days to let the euphoria of last Saturday settle a little for you... However I just wanted to message you to thank you for letting me be a part of your fabulous celebration.

I loved every minute of the day from start to finish and had such a lovely day

I have met new people that I'm sure I will see again and also renewed acquaintances from many years ago.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting me be a part of it. I'm sure my route back into theatre will now without doubt progress in the next few months... xx

Gary Starkie

Morning, just wanted to say a big thank you for letting me and Rich share your special day it was just amazing just like you. A day full of talented people and theatre families all brought together by you my darling. You deserved such a special day to happen and once again we were touched to be invited and get chance to share your magical day and 50 year journey with you. Tons of love always, you're an amazing friend and lady with a big heart who we love and cherish so much.

You're such an amazing lady with a big heart who we all love and we call our friend with big pride. Ton of hugs, love yer G and R xxx

Richard & Giles Lyon-Worrell

Aaahhh, you've always been very supportive of me and my career, and I do appreciate it. Never think that what you do is anything less than professional, whatever it is called ...you have so much talent and you are a fab actor... it doesn't matter whether you do it in amateur productions or professional... what matters is dedication, talent and hard work and you never give any less than 100%. After all these years you have so much experience, which is something many 'professionals' will never have! You always shine, because of your style and sheer talent. I will never forget your comic timing in the bed with Tony Blackmore... it was truly hysterical and brilliantly done!! Grimsby & Cleethorpes should be proud that you are one of the top actors in the area... and long may you continue to entertain audiences with your passion and great ability. I've known you and we have been friends since I was a little boy and I'm proud that you are my friend. Xxx

'I have known Jeannine since I was in short pants... in fact I remember her and Monica Gagg squeezing me into a very tight pair for The Sound of Music at the ABC Cleethorpes a million years ago! I have seen her perform many times since then in long pants (both me...and her!) and I never fail to think what a great, true & individual talent she is. The great loss to the professional world of Music theatre has been a special gift to the amateur world. She is truly captivating on stage. I'm proud that she is my friend and I'm looking forward to seeing more triumphs over the next 50 years! Much love always, my little bubbly friend.

Michael (Dore) xxx

Jeannine, I'm so sorry it's taken me so long to reply to your lovely message! Thank you so much again for inviting us to your wonderful celebration! We had a great time, and it was a huge success - your family and friends are all so very talented...it was such a pleasure to be part of your special day! I hope you've managed to have a very good rest since though, because you did look absolutely exhausted once the show had finished - I'm not surprised you felt detached from it all. I'm so glad you'll be able to enjoy the voucher - I thought you could never go wrong with a nice afternoon tea, so I really hope you enjoy it.

It would be lovely for us all to get together for a proper natter - we'll have to get our heads together and find a date that everybody's free. It was fantastic to see Emma looking so happy at your wonderful celebration, and to hear the words Haitham had written - just beautiful. Sending

much love and hugs to you and your gorgeous family



xxxxxx



Nicola Ellis

I know you're busy so I'll keep this very short, but just wanted to say a huge, huge thank you for allowing me to be a part of your special 50th celebration yesterday! It was a magical day and the amount of times I teared up when watching you perform is probably embarrassing to share so I'll just say o cried the once....!! (Hahaha!!) absolutely amazing day and congratulations on your 50th year! Love you lots xxxx

Nikki Law

I think everyone was having a great time yesterday and the day of the party will be even better! It will be a very special and memorable day. Yes I saw Mary Adams, she looked very elegant and was amazing for 91! How lovely for her to be part of your special day.

Hello lovely lady, I'm getting really excited about tomorrow so I can't imagine how you're feeling! I hope you get plenty of rest tonight so that you can enjoy every minute of your special celebration tomorrow. I've heard that you've had sleepless nights about it but please try and sleep tonight so that you are well rested for tomorrow. Everyone is there to join you in celebrating your amazing achievement and remember you're surrounded by friends and family who love you dearly xx

Vanessa Gooseman

It was lovely to meet James' Mum and Auntie they are two lovely people. I was so happy to be able to help there. Your afternoon/evening, was absolutely marvellous, fantastic, beautiful, entertaining and in some parts, very funny. I thank you SO much for including me in your day of festivities. I am very much in awe of you my darling. I have been on stage since 1957, but I have never done as much as you have, and certainly not as many musical shows as you, mine were usually small parts of different shows in a variety show. I loved you so much before your wonderful day, but my admiration and love has grown so much more. I do hope to be seeing you again very soon, if not I will see you at J&H on the 26th.

xxxxxxx



Pam Reaney

Really LOVED all the entertainment and shared fun today - thank you Jeannine - we were privileged to be invited - it was a really wonderful memorable time. Look forward to our next musical! Xxx thank you!! Xxx It was wonderful to see your whole family so involved today - my goodness

those girls are such a credit to you! Made me cry - again! Xxx



Pat Fisher

We had a fabulous time. You and your family are something to be mighty proud of.

Mary and Sonya would have loved just as much as we did and as much as everyone else, how couldn't we, there was so much love and happiness in that theatre it was flowing out of the windows and doors.

I would love to meet you for lunch let me know when you are free.

Sooner rather than later Mrs R see you soon luv y xxxx



Yvette Brumpton

I hope you had the best time. Thanks for having us—we enjoyed it and it was great to see old faces! Xx

Lee Peart

It was amazing and I now have a few days to organise myself before heading back to Dubai in a week. Thank you again for the invite to your show! It was a fab day and I love it, such a good time and lovely people and so glad you enjoyed it so much as well. Really special day. Hope you're well and enjoying British summer, lots of love xxx

Kate Prior




Hello darling Jeannine, you're so very welcome for the flowers, I wanted to get you something a little different... I absolutely loved your wonderful do, it was so very special in every single way. I laughed and cried all day. Thank you so much for inviting me, I felt very honoured. I talked about it for days afterwards to my family. It was so unique, and so special. Think by now you must have come back down to earth lol. I know you love flowers so think your flower jug will get some use, love you lots special lady, speak soon xxxxxxxx

Sue Turner

Aww Jeannine I bet you're shattered, it took so much planning and so many sleepless nights for you!! I think you will love the DVD and CD cos it will show you what a wonderful time everyone had, plus all the performances too. You are a very special lady and friend for life now. Thank you once again for inviting us to your unique event. Thanks for your address. Yes see you at Disney show xxxx


Carol Susan Skill

WOW! What a fantastic day! Thank you so much for inviting us to share in your special celebrations. The performance was absolutely amazing, the buffet delicious and the atmosphere in the theatre was fantastic! You are a very wonderful and special person Jeannine, you mean the world to us both, and we are truly honoured to be your friends. Lots and lots of love

and hugs     xxxx
Lorraine and Malcolm Spendlow

Thank you so, so much Jeannine for such a wonderful day! Xx I hope you didn't fret too much and enjoyed the day yourself too! You looked like you did xx It was lovely to see you not only having a fabulous time, but beaming with pride for your lovely family too. As a friend, I'm sure I speak for everyone in that auditorium, in honoured that you asked me to help you share in celebrating your wonderful event xxx I'm sorry I couldn't stay longer and I'm sorry, I didn't catch you to personally say my goodbyes and thank yous, but you were in demand and didn't want to interrupt other people. Thank you once again and a big hug is waiting for you the next time I see you xx

I had a fabulous time; Stuart very kindly gifted me some liquorice allsorts and I'm ashamed to say that only a handful lasted beyond the weekend. I did stay for the buffet but missed the cutting of the fabulous cake,

however I did snaffle a slice at ops on Thurs  . It was beautiful! Who made it? Xx Glad you had a fabulous time and enjoy looking back on it with fond memories xx

Fiona Beasley

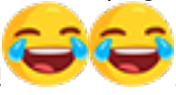
It was a fabulous day and I wouldn't have missed it for the world! Only sorry I couldn't stay longer... I was off on holidays the next day so had to get home. Glad you like the necklace and card. I was going to bring flowers but figured you'd be inundated so went with the necklace instead... I couldn't have come empty handed. Thank you again for inviting me... I know that you had a real struggle choosing who you wanted to be there and I do genuinely feel very privileged to be able to share your day with you. Be happy lovely lady. Xxxx
Allison Smith

Hi we really enjoyed ourselves can't believe it has been 50 years and so pleased we were able to join you. Pleased you like the scarf. We are at the airport now waiting to board then off to Italy, love you xxxxx
Hi thank you for a lovely entertaining day yesterday really enjoyed ourselves, hope you had a restful night And got home safe today all our love xxxxx
Michelle & Les Cowling...


Hi Jeannine,

Lovely to hear from you. We all really enjoyed last Saturday. A lot of work had gone into putting it together. It was a great success. Lovely that people gave their time to support and perform with you, it just shows how much you mean to them. I bet there aren't many people who can have their daughter and granddaughters perform with them. Pity Haitham couldn't be there, although James did a great job representing him. What a lovely young man he seems.

I have to mention one of your comperes, I think his name was Lee Peart. I said to Chris Lea that he should be on the stage, as he was hilarious. I have since found out that he IS on the stage as a stand up comedian! I saw a clip he put up on your page, then found some more on You Tube,

very funny young man!  .

I really hope you find some time to have a rest, as you need to look after yourself! Sending you lots of love. Really must try to meet up sometime.

Take care. Val . Xx 

Val Hutchinson

We had a wonderful time Jeannine and feel I am very lucky to have been part of your wonderful celebration. It would be lovely to meet up sometime. Hope you are now well rested & ready for your next show... We will have to come & see it. So for now a big hug from me to you.

 xx

Pauline Akester

Dear Prism I had a lovely time and loved the concert and sang along to all the audience numbers. I knew that you would not be able to spend much time with me as the belle of the ball. I listened to Haitham's concert on the car radio on my way home. I work in Clitheroe, which is a couple of miles from Gisburn Park Hospital. I was very impressed with the theatre too. You're very lucky to have such a gem in your area. I'm currently directing a rehearsed reading in Manchester. It's a 'forgotten gem' called Deirdre of the Sorrows it's an Irish legend and epic tale (not a lot of laughs). I am retiring next April though will keep a day or two on in the Museum to supplement my pension. Looking forward to being able to go for more roles and not being held back by the need to work. Once again congratulations on your achievement and the West End lost a true star in you xxx

Andrew Husband

Hi Jeannine, sending all my love and blessings to you, hope you enjoyed your truly special 50th celebration day. Such beautiful memories you'll be

able to treasure forever. Hugs from Turkey XX




Beverley Pompa

Hello darling... Sorry I didn't get to say good bye... Thank you for inviting me... Thoroughly enjoyed the show... lots of love T x

Tracey MacKenzie

I haven't seen it yet but I've kept the whole day free so I will be there

whenever I'm needed  I'll look now! Also, it was and still is an amazing idea! It's so stressful but on the day just enjoy it! Don't worry about everything being perfect! Everyone will be there to honour and celebrate you so just live in the moment! I can't wait, I'm going to sing it all for you xxxxx

Hello! Thank you so much for asking me, I loved every minute. I haven't seen the thank you post yet but I'll go have a look at it!

I got to speak to Helen quite a bit and she was so, so lovely!! She managed to show me a couple of videos of Georgia singing and she is incredible. Hopefully I will meet Michael one day then!

Don't worry, you did say bye! You were very busy; I'm not surprised it's all a blur ha ha. Your duet with James was lovely and just fun, so don't worry

about it. Everyone loved it



My friend came to pick me up so all was fine and yeah, I moved to London

a couple of weeks ago. Came back for your concert



Will always keep in touch! Love you so much too xxxx

Mark McCredie

Thanks for today Jeannine - it was fantastic and a stunning tribute to your 50 years! Didn't get chance to write in your book but wanted to say you always were, are and always will be my guardian angel - I'm so very fortunate in my friends and without them and their continued support I'd be very lost. Huge love and hugs to you xxxxxxxx

Rachel Abba

Hi Jeannine 😊 I'm so sorry I didn't get to speak to you properly today, I had to rush off after the show as I had plans tonight for a friends

birthday! I enjoyed every second of the show 😊 congratulations!!!! I quickly wrote in your book but think I made a couple of mistakes (I wrote "mama hen" instead of "mother hen", the line from When Your Good To Mama!) and I ran out of space so I didn't have chance to say what an inspiration you are and how I feel very lucky to have watched you and appear next to you in shows throughout my life!!! Thank you!

Hope you have an amazing time celebrating tonight 😁 hopefully see you soon xxxxx

Rosie Ellen Stark

Your duet with Tony was wonderful. The natural warmth between you shines through and it's both poignant and delightful. I'm so pleased it was in the show. That's what the show should be about. Memories, and recreating special moments that mean so much to you. You're very generous to allow me to sing with you. I know it doesn't really fit the

format but I'm thrilled to be included. Thank you for that. ❤️

Much, much love. Hugs. xxxxxx 😘

Graham Turner

Hope you have an amazing day and evening today Jeannine. Hope it's everything you wish it to be and more and you get the most joy out of it you can get. Try to relax and enjoy yourself because everybody is there for you and it's everybody that matters.

Thanks for letting me be a part of your day I'm so exciting, I think it's going to be an a amazing day.

Gonna go back to deciding what to wear now.

See you soon. Lots of love ❤️❤️❤️ xxx

Kerry Ward

Jeannine what a whirlwind of a day that was!

I'd never imagined when Luke and I sat in Haitham and James' front room back in December what I was letting myself in for, but I've absolutely loved every single moment of the planning and communicating with such fabulous people - including you! Sitting in that hotel in Orlando, Kansas and Niagara in June, a few weeks before your event; often VERY late into your night, or should I say early in your morning, talking about plans and how things were going to work out... we got to know each other pretty well in those lengthy calls and online chats... what the heck would we do without the good old internet and Facebook?

I've met some wonderful people through my new love and passion for theatre, and in particular musical theatre - you and your friends, and our JCS community have changed my life and opened my eyes to what a talented and understated world we live in. I never even knew it existed before 2015, and to think you've been working hard in theatre for 50 years! How is that even possible that it's passed me by for so long? So now I'm a woman on a mission... I'm seeing as many shows as I can, and writing my reviews, telling the world about local theatre and trying to open other peoples eyes to what I've found and now love.

I hope you love all the photos of your show and the before and after bits, and hopefully you can see by the smiles on everyone's faces, in EVERY photograph, how much everyone enjoyed themselves and loved being there, being a part of your 50 year celebration. Danny and I had great fun taking them all. I hope you love the DVD when you eventually get it, Lewis is working hard to get it finished - fingers crossed it will be worth the wait... I may have to run you 2 copies off, in case you wear out the first one, as I know when you see how much of an incredible show you put on, you'll want to keep playing it over and over again!

I'm in absolute awe of your talent. When I learnt to 'let myself go' during a particular JCS rehearsal at the school I felt I could do anything - and I've tried hard to keep doing new things; work has taken off more than I could ever have anticipated, and I love every minute - I'm 100% certain it's down to theatre and the knowledge I gained during those rehearsals and performing with people like you. To think you've been doing the same thing for so long... I'm in awe of your talent; I had never really seen you perform until that rehearsal in the Studio, and I was completely blown away - even more so on 29th July. You are an amazing actress and you'll probably never know how good you are.

Congratulations for a fabulous 50 years, and I can't wait to see you perform again... the date's in my diary!!

Thank you for being my friend... thank you for being you... thank you for continuing to be who you are... I get you Jeannine...

Eira xxx

Nean, what a lovely evening. Thank you so much. Your organisation was perfect. Your choice of songs was great. All the participants were good. It was most enjoyable. The buffet was very tasty. (Hope you managed to get some!) Everybody seemed to be having a great time.

Your singing was superb. And you were the most deserving

STAR. Love S xxx

(Sheila Shelston)

Wow! What a fantastic show. I, and everyone else I spoke to had a great afternoon and evening. With you, your family and friends all giving wonderful performances. It certainly was a day to remember and a celebration for you to be really proud and of. Yes, there were a few hiccups but they made it even more special and gave it all a real family feeling.

Congratulations and well done

Love ♥

Sandra

(Sandra Johnson)

Dear Jeannine

Just a short note to say a huge Thank you and Congratulations for Saturday night's celebrations! It really was the most splendid event and Chris and I were blown away by all the talent on stage. We were particularly impressed by Mark McCredie. What a talent and what a sweet modest guy! I'm sure his will be a name to watch.

We hope you were able to enjoy it as much as you appeared to. You and your team had all worked so hard and the final result was perfect. It all flowed so well and the time passed so quickly. We wouldn't have missed it for the world!

I'm sorry we didn't get to speak to you afterwards at any length. You were, quite rightly, the centre of attention and you were "thronged" by adoring friends. Chris's tinnitus was starting to kick in quite badly so we slipped away without saying a proper thank you and goodbye. Nonetheless we both want to send you our fondest love and thanks once again for including us in your celebration.

Much love

Geoff & Chris

xx

(Geoff Stone & Chris Leeworthy)

Dearest Jeannine,

Thank you so much for including us in your VERY SPECIAL DAY - we feel so privileged. It was a wonderful afternoon with so much real talent and true theatre spirit. There was so much love, respect and admiration all joined together that couldn't be found anywhere else and it was wonderful. We hope you can now have a well-earned rest and find time to savour the memories - you are a very special person.

Much love

John & Maureen

(Lill)

Aw JR you are a lovely person. Looking forward to catching up. We had a great time and Ross was proud of his role.

Xxx

Lucy Wood

Hi

Thank you so much for including us in your wonderful celebration we both had a fabulous time.

You have a fabulous talented family.

You have so many talented friends too.

Here's to the next 50 years.

Love

Hayley and Beth

(Holton)

Thank you so much for taking the time to write to John. He receives so many messages that he isn't able to reply personally, but he really appreciates hearing from people. We leave all the messages here for him to read. John gets literally hundreds of requests to send personal messages for all sorts of occasions, so many that I'm afraid it's not something he can offer to provide. To be fair, he couldn't do one and not all the others but to do them all would not be feasible. Sorry we can't help, but do pass on our best wishes to your mum, who has clearly done so much in the amateur musical theatre world

John Barrowman's Agent - Carole Gordon

I first met Jeannine just 2 years ago when we were thrown together in one of the first workshops for jcs in Lincoln. It soon became apparent that we were destined to be friends for life, this gorgeous, talented, bundle of energy - and me ! I cannot believe that I have only known her and her amazing family this short while, but my life is richer for it!

Hope you have a great day Jeannine, love you "daughter 2 Dawn" xxxx

Dawn Wilson

Where to start Jeannine! I have known you for so many years, maybe longer than you have known me as I remember watching you perform in Oliver! & Oklahoma at Grimsby Auditorium. I remember it as if it were yesterday, my dad bringing me to see the Saturday matinees. If only these amazing shows were still on at the auditorium.

Because I knew your face and your voice I recognised you straight away when I was helping out backstage at Louth Playgoers for the Sound of Music and you of course were playing Mother Abbess. How many times did you message me to tell me I'd said it wrong on the radio!!! I always remember wanting to speak to you but I was so nervous and I can't actually remember how I did pluck up the courage in the end to introduce myself. I think when you did find out it was me you said something along the lines of 'what, David Carrick's son!!!'

I don't know about you but I feel since then we have been great friends and made a lot of memories together. Not always huge things but one liners that we remember each other for or maybe been in a situation where we just know we are thinking exactly the same thing! Of course I've also shared so many of your memories by playing your favourite show tunes on Treading The Boards. My favourite has to be playing 'Secret Love'. The song you would sing to Emma whilst washing her in the sink!!! The memories though are not always for theatre, sometimes they are fish and chips! We had such a good laugh at Steels and I'm sure that was followed by a two hour long conversation in my car pulled up outside your house! I'm sure you promised us the Peabung. Let's do that sometime soon!

There is so many more memories but these are the ones that always spring straight to mind when I hear your name or see you in person. There are millions of people out there who claim to love the theatre but you go a cut above them all. I haven't and don't think I ever will meet someone with the love, passion, enthusiasm and dedication that you bring both to the stage and the stalls. This is 50 years well worth celebrating and here's to the next 50.

Lots of love, Ross xxx

Just a note to thank you for an excellent and entertaining event to celebrate your career in the theatre and opera. We really enjoyed ourselves and were very impressed with the range of talent on show. An enjoyable time was had by your many friends. Looking forward to the next one!

I have spoken to Shirley and she wants you to know that although she would have liked to attend, she was suffering from pains in her hands, for which she is awaiting treatment.

xx

Elizabeth and John Roger

Hi Jeannine,

Thank you for your lovely e-mail we really enjoyed helping you celebrate and from the moment of entering the theatre you could feel the happy warm feeling coming from everyone in the building. We thought we would give you a gift that you could enjoy when the celebrations had settled down and really do think you are "A STAR".

We have known you and Emma for a long time now and enjoyed getting together at the Noda events, we always seemed to meet up and have a great time, good memories.

Since receiving your e-mail, Ann Forward rang last night so I had a long chat and she was fine about not coming to the theatre, she understood and I told her how fab everything was.

I can imagine how you felt on the Saturday, it was a very big event to organise and the build up just gets to you on the actual day. Jeannine you were fab, from the minute you walked on stage you owned us all and we were all with you 100%, hopefully you could feel the warmth coming from the audience.

We didn't manage to get our picture taken, but thoroughly enjoyed catching up with everyone, we had a long chat with Susan Warren, Eric Smart and his wife and loads of other people. The buffet was fantastic and definitely catered for everyone.

All the people taking part did you proud and the whole show was totally original with a wonderful warm feeling throughout, congratulations to everyone and the support for you was brilliant. We particularly enjoyed, Tilly-Grace, Molly-Mae, Emma and yourself as a family ensemble, very proud moments for you all.

Be proud and feel that you are cared for a lot. Would love to get together with you when you have a moment spare, I could come into town or you could come out to us and have lunch whichever is easier.

We have enclosed a picture of us, which is a happy photo. xx

Our love and Best Wishes
Alli & Ken xx

Memories of a pantomime tour with Jeannine Ridha!

By Stuart Williams.

In November 2002 I walked into rehearsals for a pantomime tour I signed up to with a company called Chaplins and the show was 'The Woodcutter and The Wolf'. I was tasked to play the role of Gordon the Woodcutter and on my first day of rehearsals I met my co-star, leading lady and pantomime dame, Mrs Rumbletummy, an exciting role played by the one and only Jeannine Ridha!

Jeannine and I hit it off straight away. I was charmed by her friendliness, her enthusiasm for the show and her work ethic by getting into learning the part and the show so quickly. It was hard work but felt like fun from the start because working with Jeannine was so easy and we had a shared focus on making the show as good as possible.

After rehearsing for one week, which is typically short for small scale touring theatre, we then began our tour around the North West of England. Our tour would usually involve early morning starts at 5-6am with usually 2 hour drives to our selected venues which would be schools in the morning and working man's clubs in the afternoon. We had a very busy working day! Our show would last for one hour and we would be busy behind the scenes changing the music, changing the set, and altering costumes and generally as busy as possible.

Now, anybody involved in theatre will understand the concept of a quick change.

We had an amusing moment in the show about this that Jeannine and I often laugh about!

Whilst playing Mrs Rumbletummy, Jeannine had a quick change into a different character costume and needed my help to do this, which I was happy to do but the problem was that I would be on the musical controls for the pantomime sound effects and needed a cue when to move and help her. So, to get my attention, Jeannine came up with a perfect answer.

When the time in the show came, she ran backstage and said in loud voice:

'Stuart, pull my knickers down I need a quick change!!!'

From then on, I always knew when to be ready to help and I must confess, before and since that show I've never had an instruction like that in my life back stage Jeannine!

That tour ended in February 2003 and since that tour, Jeannine and I have grown to be good friends and I am very grateful for her friendship.

She is a very talented actress who will always dedicate herself in all roles she plays and encourage her fellow actors to do the same, which is instrumental in creating a warm working atmosphere.

She is also very kind, thoughtful and generous and having worked with many actors over the years, she is one of the most precise and conscientious performers I've known. Those are skills that cannot be

taught and are key to her popularity with other performers and directors, because when you've got Jeannine on board a production, you've got somebody who is, 'the real deal'.

Jeannine, congratulations on your wonderful achievement of fifty years in theatre.

Tonight, I hope you raise a glass in celebration and I wish you many, many more years to come.

Love always,

"Gordon the Woodcutter", AKA Stuart Williams

To Jeannine

My talented friend and my stagey soul mate.

Words can't say how much I admire you Jeannine. For 50 years, you have been performing in shows and putting your heart and soul into every one. You are a very special lady.

I first met you when I joined Curtain up for Hey Mr Hollywood. You were so kind and supportive and made me feel welcome straight away, like you do to anyone and everyone that joins up.

You've always been so encouraging of me, on and off stage, and spurred me on, For that I thank you.

You then took me along to Louth playgoers, our actual spiritual home. You knew me well enough to see that I would belong there and grow. I did. I have had the most incredible five years there, all because of you and being with you. Performing 42nd street for the first time at Louth was precious. our shared love and our defining bonding moment, something we get to repeat soon, and performing in Sister Act, with you as my nunny mummy, is another personal highlight for me.

We both have in Common the way we feel about musical theatre and what it brings to our lives, you are infectious to be around and I'm glad we share this together.

The memory of the shows you have done and the stories you tell of all you've achieved, inspire me so much and I love hearing them.

You are also the only person I know who has the power to get me to sing 42nd Street right in the middle of Times Square on my own. The memory will always be there and it came from you. You and your passion.

I hope we will have many more years of performing in shows together.

Enjoy your evening. I hope you get everything out of it you wish, but don't take a final bow yet. There is still so much more to come. The world is a stage and Your friendship is a blessing.

Kerry

Message for Nean - We first met in 1968 when I moved to Grimsby from Hull to take up a teaching post. I went along to a rehearsal of the GDAOS for "My Fair Lady" and there you were! We soon became close friends and I got to know your family too. You were committed to the Operatic and over the years remained very loyal. Eventually you made the big decision to cut back on your teaching to concentrate on your big passion and turn PROFESSIONAL. Musical theatre was, and always will be, your Life. Always a brilliant performer and a STAR.
Sheila xxx

Sheila Shelston

Well it all sounds very exciting so hope you all have a wonderful night especially Jeannine. I am not on facebook so I asked my daughter to send my apologies to Jeannine as I am away for the weekend visiting family in Cambridge with all of my own family. This just happens to be on her special night but I know she will love and cherish every single minute. So please could you pass on our best wishes and tell her to embrace it all.

Love from Mandyx Jezx Jordanx Georgiex

The Pearson Familyx Have Fun ☺.

Dearest Jeannine

I really am so sorry I cannot be there with you tonight.

I know it is going to be a truly wonderful evening to celebrate a truly talented, kind, brilliant, wonderful woman.

I had the pleasure of meeting you at a very young age, and along with all the other young children in the company I was lucky enough to be taken under your maternal wing. You were always right there to take care of us; well, ensuring we were being as well behaved and professional as possible! As I got older I had the honour to work alongside you, even doing your quick changes in 'Fiddler on the Roof'!

My favourite has to be 'Forty Second Street'.

You were so encouraging and supportive, and whenever I had a moment of self doubt or nerves you were right there with a comforting arm around my shoulder or a reassuring word. Always filling me with self-belief and confidence.

To dance and sing on stage alongside a woman I had grown up looking up to was just amazing.

Jeannine ... I hope you have the most wonderful evening surrounded by you family and friends. Here is to many more magical years. All my love, luck and best wishes always.

Sophie. (Your Pegs) xxx

lol. Well when we worked together in my fair lady, she played Mrs Pearce my housekeeper and when she brought in the tea tray her words were written on the tray, the teapot and on the nail she had brought in. When I walked over to my desk, her words were also written on the blotter! In South Pacific as Bloody Mary she played opposite me and once again had words written all over the place lol. But she never faltered and was a great ad libber if anything went wrong. I have so many happy memories of our years in the theatre together xx

David Wightam

Dear Jeannine,

What an honour it was to be part of your special day. Who knew back in December at that first meeting what we would have achieved. And more! Your vision saw us right through to complete the project in exactly the way you wanted. That in itself is a huge achievement let alone the cause of the show: 50 years of performing onstage. Well, when that place is your happy place, it's no wonder! There's a saying "All the world's a stage" But to those of us who live, breathe, sleep and eat it "All the stage is our world!" You are a true inspiration to all performers and when listening to your stories of shows you are an absolute advocate of the show must go on. It has been a pleasure to perform with you today, and through the years since we met doing the Sound of Music. You are an amazing performer, a great friend and a wonderful lady and I'm very pleased you're such an important part of my life. Happy 50th year in Musical Theatre, let's see what mischief we can get up to in the 51st year and beyond!

All my love and hugs from Fran xxx

50 years in any organisation is a long time but, 50 years of enjoyment and performing on stage in an environment that give others so much pleasure is a delight. Keep going, keep enjoying, keep performing and make sure you stay happy while making others envious of your talents. Lots of love Pete

Pete Merrick

To Mum

Just want to congratulate you on such a fabulous achievement of 50 years in Musical Theatre. Half a century of performing on the stage is truly amazing. From the bigger leading roles to the smaller ones you always go the extra mile and put your heart and soul in to delivering a fabulous performance that makes us, your family very proud.

Even though you are 3 years off 70 you still have such energy and almost burst on to the stage at times. Sometimes when you sing certain songs, the hairs on my body stand on end.

Performing our special song of Secret Love together was definitely the highlight of your 'do' for me. This has always been and always will be our special song. Your dedication and passion for musical theatre goes above and beyond and I'm sure anybody that has worked with you over the years will have great memories of your enthusiasm and professionalism.

Keep shining mum; keep making us proud.

Love you so so much

Your Emmakins xxxxx

Hi Nanny, hope you've had a lovely, lovely day, I hope it's been special for you.

It was so lovely to see so many people here to share your special day. I am so proud of you and hope that one day I'll be as famous as you.

Hope to see you for many more years up on that stage doing what you do best.

Love you lots

Tills

xxxxxx

Hi Nanny, what a fabulous day!

It has been amazing for me to experience, so I can't even begin to imagine what you're feeling!

It is so wonderful that all of these people have come to celebrate with you, but that is because you're so loved.

You're such an inspiration to me, and your half a century in musical theatre is what makes me so passionate about performing.

I hope that one day, I will be as talented as you.

Love you so much

Molls

xxxxxx
