



# Kay Cummings

DEC 15, 1940 - JUN 14, 2022



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# Kay Cummings

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**K**ay Cummings, of Lewes, DE and formerly of New York City passed away peacefully with her beloved wife Ellen McKeon at her side on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, in Lewes, DE. She was born in New York City on December 15, 1940.

Kay attended the preparatory division of the Juilliard School, graduated Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude from Elmira College, and had a Master's degree in Performance from New York University. She played leading roles off-Broadway, in national tours, stock, theater, television soaps, series and commercials and appeared in major motion pictures as well as writing and performing in series of highly acclaimed one-woman cabaret shows.

Kay was the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Fulbright Panelist, and the dance curator for Symphony Space. For all her success in the theater, it was as a teacher and mentor that Kay made her greatest impact. Kay served from 1992 through 2002 as the Chair of the Department of Dance of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and continued to teach choreography and acting until her retirement in 2016.

In 1992, Kay founded the Tisch Dance Summer Residency Festival. In 1996, Kay was awarded the NYU Distinguished Teaching Medal and in 2016 she received the David Payne Carter Teaching Award. Since moving to Delaware, she enjoyed working in theatre again, directing *Three Tall Women* and appearing in *Stop Kiss*, as Dr. Kitty Cochran in *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, and as Rosie in *The Wedding Singer*. Her most recent collaborations include a two woman show, *The Other Shoe*, with Beth Corning, performed in Pittsburgh, and *The Home Project* with Tiffany Mills in NYC.

Kay nurtured her students and changed the course of entire lives for the better. She will be missed by many, but her bright spirit and brilliant legacy will live on.

In addition to her devoted wife Ellen McKeon, Kay is survived by cherished family, her sister, Janie Messina; her nephew Vicente; her brother and sister-in-law William and Jennifer Feinberg;



## Obituary

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her niece Meira and nephew Noah; and her brother, Jeffrey Feinberg.

Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 11:00 AM at Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, where friends may visit beginning at 10:30 AM. Friends and family are invited to a gathering after service in the banquet room at Irish Eyes, 213 Anglers Rd, Lewes, DE 19958.

All who cannot attend in person are invited to join the services via live streaming by visiting the following link: <http://www.parsellfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/permalink/10550102/LTWebcast>.

Please sign the virtual guestbooks located on the tribute page.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 5:00 PM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022 AT OUR LEWES LOCATION.



# Events

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## Visitation

 **Monday**, June 27, 2022

 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-  
Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



## Celebration of life

 **Monday**, June 27, 2022

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-  
Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958





# Tribute Wall

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**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared a **Webcast Video**.



June 17 at 9:05 AM



**Leslie Berman** posted:

For 4 years, the Elmira College Class of 1962 were fortunate to have Kay in our class. Every song we sang was her song, every play was her play, every special event, she made it more special. Even casting me in our senior play as a Fumfit was her idea. I was a disaster but the audience loved her play. Kay was adored by everyone and will be missed by every member of our class. Kay is no longer with us , she will be missed and absolutely never forgotten. Rest in Peace !Leslie Gomborov Berman

June 27 at 6:31 AM



**Beth** posted:

Sending love - but knowing Kay (as I do), and Ellen (as I do), I am also sending ridiculous rain coats and shower caps, raucous laughter and margarita's, gossip sessions and intensive conversations, and more love than is possible in one lifetime. We are ALLLLLLL so ridiculously rich for having Kay in our lives - and she lives on in each and everyone of us - THOUSANDS OF US!!!! :-)

June 27 at 6:07 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Magnificent Life Spray to the Cummings family.



June 24 at 7:00 AM



**Tom Cayler** posted:

Kay was the first person Clarice and I told that Clarice was pregnant. That was twenty-seven years ago. We will always cherish the years we spent together. And whenever we see our son, we'll think of Kay. She was the first to know that he was comin' to live with us and in this world. What a gift. Clarice Marshall Tom Cayler Cai Marshall

June 23 at 12:07 PM



# Tribute Wall

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**Tiffany Mills** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



When I learned Kay Cummings passed away, I thought, "What a loss to the world!" She was infectious with her energy, spirit, generosity, and wit. Not to mention, her impressive accomplishments as an actor, director, choreographer, and teacher! Kay spoke her mind and shared wisdom with kindness. She mentored me as choreographer and artistic director of the Tiffany Mills Company since 2003 as our dramaturge and editing advisor — a guiding light in our work. My last communications with Kay were the Saturday before she passed when she told me she was "fighting through". She lived fully up until the end and will live on in all those students at Tisch Dance Alumni and elsewhere who were lucky to have her as a teacher! The Tiffany Mills Company's next performance of HOMING will be dedicated to Kay — including Kay's cameo voice over in this evening length work. So grateful Kay will "be with us" every time we perform and tour this latest project. Thank you Kay for all you gave and shared. Fly free. Sending our love to her amazing wife Ellen McKeon and all of Kay's beautiful extended family.

June 22 at 8:24 AM



**Etienne Liesse** November 15 at 6:04 AM  
Is Kay Cummings well Kay Liesse?



**Kelly Sheridan** posted:

Deb and I will miss you always, Kay. Your smile, your laughter, and your sheer joy for life was an inspiration and a delight to be around always. Rest in Peace.

June 22 at 5:44 AM



**From Sarah Schlesinger** sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Cummings family.



June 19 at 3:53 PM



**Fred Carl** sent a Basket Full of Wishes to the Cummings family.



June 19 at 8:19 AM



# Media

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**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared a **Webcast Video**.

June 17 at 9:05 AM





**Tiffany Mills** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 22 at 8:24 AM



**Tiffany Mills and Kay Cummings backstage at LaMaMa Experimental Theater, NYC, April 14, 2022**



**Etienne Liesse** November 15 at 6:04 AM

Is Kay Cummings well Kay Liesse?



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kay by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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