



A Memorial for the life of Robert Randall Laha III

Centenary College
Marjorie Lyons Playhouse

1 February 2011

Happy Birthday Rob

Contributions can be made in the lobby to:

The Rob Laha Award **For** **Excellence in Theatre**

Proceeds to go to Godwin High School in Richmond, Virginia and Centenary College

Please, make checks payable to Centenary College with Rob Laha Memorial in the memo line.





Photos and Music

Welcome.....Josh Porter

Robert Buseick

Videos

Seva May

Don McCoy

Videos

Austin Vickrey

Don Hooper

Conclusion.....Josh Porter

Rob was born in Richmond, Virginia, the first of three children of Rocky and Sally Laha. As a little tow-headed boy with an engaging smile, he started winning the hearts of people from an early age. Ever inquisitive, he loved all things mechanical and was forever taking things apart and putting them back together-sometimes in their original form but, more often than not, in some new configuration that better suited his own taste. He was the type of person who, once you met him, you felt though you'd known him forever. As a teenager, he blossomed into an extraordinary actor and singer, equally at home with Shakespeare or an American musical. For many, he was "Hamlet" and the "Music Man." His theatrical skills were expanded in college where he also developed a love for set design and building. Over the last four years he put these skills to good use doing home repairs and remodeling, working both for professional builders and, most recently, as an independent contractor. And, as anyone who ever hired him will tell you, he would throw in some singing and dancing for free.

Rob's college years were interrupted by the war in Iraq. As a young member of the Louisiana National Guard, his keen mind and mechanical abilities accelerated his advancement. He quickly found himself a Staff Sergeant in charge of about 50 mostly older men who were responsible for maintaining the Humvees and Bradley Fighting Vehicles of his armored division and for making recoveries of the same. There are plaques recognizing him in both the basic and advanced Army trainings facilities where his scores were the highest ever posted.

Like his sister and brother, Rob was a child of the church where his musical skills and leadership abilities helped to enrich the lives of many church folks in both Virginia and Louisiana. From an early age, he was interested in and always ready to debate matters of theology, with a flair for the unconventional, of course. The one thing he never wavered on was his confidence in God's love and grace. He knew he was a child of God.

Like any brother, he knew how to push the buttons of his sister and brother (an ability he also put to good use with his parents). However, he was always fiercely proud of their achievements and ever ready to cover their backs when the need arose.

As a son, he sometimes challenged but always brightened the lives of his parents. His readiness to forgive and forget, to come back again and again after any and all conflicts or disagreements, and to embrace them with his strong arms, bore witness to the goodness and grace that was within him. Those are gifts that will forever inspire them to try and do the same for others. So, they join with all his good friends to say: "Good night sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."