



## John Arthur Ritschel Jr.

October 1, 1931 - November 7, 2020

John Ritschel, who most of you know as Jack, 89, of California, passed away peacefully at home on November 7, 2020 . He was born in 1931 in Peoria, Illinois. Jack graduated from High School from Spalding Institute in 1949 and received his BA in Speech from the University of Iowa in 1953. Jack is survived by his Daughter, Susan Boring and her Husband Steve; Sister Mary Ann (Susie) Burton; Stepdaughter Jennifer Friedman; Granddaughter Dawn Schmidt and her husband Randy; Grandson Eric VanLandingham and his wife Carinn; Grandchildren Amelia, Neal, Breanne, Sophie and Jaxon VanLandingham; and Nieces, Michelle Grant, Becky Inghelterra, Kris Gladson, Georgi Behrends, Mary Childers, Amy Carter, and Trudy Shallenberger. Jack was a man of many talents. He is known for being an amazing stage and screen actor with a fantastic voice. He began his career at the college radio station (WSUI). He played the leading man in many plays throughout his career. His most memorable roles were Daddy Warbucks in "ANNIE", Horace Vandergelder in "HELLO DOLLY" and Gerard Carriere in "PHANTOM (YESTON/KOPIT)".

JACK RITSCHER appeared throughout the country, repeating productions of Hello, Dolly! (Vandergelder), Annie (Warbucks), Me & My Girl (Sir John), La Cage aux Folles (Dindon), Man of La Mancha (Governor/Innkeeper), Gigi (Honore), and many others. Along the way, he garnered 3 awards for his portrayal of Carriere in Phantom, as well as awards for Dr. Engel in Student Prince, Biggley in How to Succeed..., the Major General in Pirates and Max in

Mirette. He played Broadway in 7 Brides for 7 Brothers and had a major role in the world premiere of Chaplin at the L.A. Music Center.

Featured on Cheers, Murphy Brown, and Mad About You, Jack starred in several courtroom dramas and the children's show Sing Me A Story. He appeared on L.A. Law, Unsolved Mysteries, and several episodes of Santa Barbara. He also did the movies Chaplin and The Taking of Beverly Hills; and was featured on several commercials. All the worlds a stage and the stage truly lost a legend. Jack will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. " You will forever be in our hearts dad and I love you Always."

### In Loving Memory of my Wonderful Dad

He never looked for praises  
He was never one to boast  
He just went on quietly working  
For the ones he loved the most.

His dreams were seldom spoken  
His wants were very few  
And most of the time his worries  
Went unspoken too.

He was there....A firm foundation  
Through all my storms of life  
A sturdy hand to hold on to  
In times of stress and strife.

A true friend I could turn to  
When times were good or bad  
One of my greatest blessings  
The man that I called Dad.

## The Day God Took you Home

A Million times I've needed you  
A million times I've cried,  
If love alone  
Could have saved you  
You never would have died.  
In life I loved you dearly;  
In death I love you still.  
In my heart you hold a space,  
Where no one can ever fill.  
It broke my heart to lose you,  
But you didn't go alone  
Part of me went with you,  
The day god took you home.

In lieu of flowers, the family would love as many memories and stories of John (Jack) as you all are willing to share. You can also post pictures. It would mean the world to the family to be able to share all of the wonderful memories with generations to come. If you have a memory or a story or condolence to share please click on the view or sign guest book and post one to John's memory page, it can be as long or as short as you would like. Feel free to post multiple memories as this can be very helpful in the healing process. If you have any personal stories you would like to share with the family that you do not want to be public, Susan, (Daughter of Jack) would love to read them via email, her email address is [gwamasusan@gmail.com](mailto:gwamasusan@gmail.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

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**Laura Marx** - December 06, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

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“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

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**Dr Collier** - December 06, 2020 at 09:16 PM



“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

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**Dr Collier** - December 06, 2020 at 09:16 PM



“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

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**The Burtons** - December 06, 2020 at 09:14 PM



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**The Burtons** - December 06, 2020 at 09:14 PM



“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

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**Shellee Goodspeed** - December 06, 2020 at 09:11 PM

SG

“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

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**Shellee Goodspeed** - December 06, 2020 at 09:11 PM

MC

“ *I was in awe of this man from my first memory of him at seven years old. He may as well have been Steve McQueen! Our visits through the years were sparse, but to me treasures. I appreciate having the opportunity to spend some time with him these last few years. What a generous, interesting, intelligent, talented, funny and wonderful man he is. I am so grateful to have known him.*

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**Mary Childers** - November 29, 2020 at 11:41 AM

KM

“ *My leading man, Mr. Vandergelder!!! What a lovely man to work with. He talked me through a hairy pre show mini health crisis, filling me with fluids, candy, good words and a joke or 2. He watched me through the whole show just in case I got sick again. But i made it. Lately his emails kept me thinking about him and I loved sharing them with my friends. I'm so sorry for your loss. His many co-workers will mourn with you!!Karen Morrow*

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**Karen morrow** - November 25, 2020 at 09:30 PM

WM

“ I first met Jack back in the late 1960's. He joined many Actors of many ages that wished to study Acting for the Film Industry. The group was FIWI (FILM INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS INCORPORATED). At the time I was happily employed at FIWI as a Staff Director. I remember being very Impressed with Jack's talent, his personality with all the humor he had. We really got to know each other one Christmas Eva when we happened to go to the same XMAS Gathering at a friends house in the San Fernando Valley here in California. We spent a great deal of time talking, but mostly laughing. It was a memorable evening. Our very friendly relationship lasted for the brief time he was a part of our Acting Group. Unfortunately, we never had any photos taken of the two or us together (I am sorry for that). I sort of lost track of Jack for many years. Then a few decades ago (I don't remember exactly how) we hooked up on line via email. Well, that started a corresponding relationship that was thoroughly enjoyed for a very long time. A relationship that very unfortunately came to an abrupt and heartfelt conclusion with Jack's demise. I had hours of email exchanges over the time we again hooked up. He had stories of his career, remembrances of the people he worked with (and enjoyed doing so), and a boundless sense of Humor. I shall miss that very much. He always was appreciative of the Humorous tidbits I sent his way, and always said so. I now regret that I never took a trip to Las Vegas to meet up with him face to face again. My loss, and I expect it would have been a few good moments in his life. My love goes out to Susan (who I never met in person), and all of his wonderful family. I know he Loved all of you to the fullest. I am sorry for your loss - it is mine also.

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**WARREN MUNSON** - November 25, 2020 at 01:49 PM

SB

“ Dad was so much fun, this was our St. Patrick outing complete with bagpipes

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**Susan Boring** - November 23, 2020 at 02:20 PM

JF

“ Las Vegas fun at Titanic exhibit with Sister Susie and dad Jack. So many wonderful memories of fun outings I am going to miss. I loved and will miss him dearly, Jenny

Jenny Friedman - November 23, 2020 at 12:18 PM

JF

“ Jack, Jennifer and Susan

Jennifer Friedman - November 23, 2020 at 12:18 PM

MC

“ Flowers card from Mary and Dave

Mary Cim - November 22, 2020 at 02:27 PM

TD

“ Flower Card from Tami and Eric Daale

Tami and Eric Daale - November 22, 2020 at 02:23 PM

JE

“ John Arthur Ritschel Jr.

John and Cheryl Emmons - November 22, 2020 at 02:19 PM

JE

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MG

“ John Arthur Ritschel Jr.

Mikki and ED Grant - November 22, 2020 at 02:14 PM

MG

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Mikki and ED Grant - November 22, 2020 at 02:14 PM

MG

“ *Card From Mikki and Ed Grant*

Mikki and ED Grant - November 22, 2020 at 02:14 PM

AC

“ *Card from Amy and Walter*

Amy and Walter Carter - November 22, 2020 at 02:09 PM

AC

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Amy and Walter Carter - November 22, 2020 at 02:09 PM

AC

“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

Amy and Walter Carter - November 22, 2020 at 02:09 PM



“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

November 22, 2020 at 02:02 PM



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November 22, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ *Card from Aunt Susie*

**Susie Burton** - November 22, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

**Tami and Eric Daale** - November 22, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ *John Arthur Ritschel Jr.*

**Tami and Eric Daale** - November 22, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ *Card from Tami and Eric Daale*

**Tami and Eric Daale** - November 22, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ *I did a couple of shows with Jack. What a wonderful and talented man. Take a bow from Heaven, Jack!*

**Jeannine Barba** - November 20, 2020 at 12:56 PM

TH

“ Oh my...Jack, what a wonderful gift you gave us all over the past years. Your funny and your educational emails were always looked forward to. We met at FCLO, starring in Jekyll and Hyde. What a presence you held. Welcomed me as a close friend and remained so through the years (even as you shook your head at my outspoken lifestyle )You will be remembered with fondness, love and respect my dear friend. Safe travels sir...

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**T Eric Hart** - November 20, 2020 at 03:28 AM

EV

“ I had the pleasure of performing with Jack in both Phantom and The Student Prince. He was incredible. Such talent with a heart of gold. My deepest condolences.

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**Enrico Villanueva** - November 20, 2020 at 12:29 AM

SB

“ John Arthur Ritschel Jr.

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**Steve Boring** - November 19, 2020 at 10:33 PM

SB

“ My Wife Susan's favorite scene in Phantom. Cried all 9 times we saw it.

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**Steve Boring** - November 19, 2020 at 10:33 PM

PG

“ I was so fortunate to know Jack for almost 40 years. He appeared in so many shows for us over the years 1st when we were known as Whittier La Mirada Light Opera and performing at the La Mirada Performing Arts Center and then when we became Musical Theatre West at La Mirada and for the last 22 years at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach. He started or repeated many of his signature roles with us over the years, among them Dr Engel in Student Prince, Carriere in Phantom (twice), Vandergelder in Dolly (twice ), Sir John in Me and My Girl and several others. He was a great friend and after he retired when he'd come to see a show would always follow up with a note or email telling me what he enjoyed about the production, He and Jan were fixtures at MTW events and shows for almost 3 decades and contributed so much to the growth and success of the company as we progressed over the years .Always a gentlemen, he was the at home onstage and off and loved theater and the many friends he made over the years. I was honored to call him a friend and so grateful for his long friendship and support. Our hearts go out to Susan and Jennifer as well as the rest of the family Paul Garman, Executive Director/Producer and the MTW staff

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**PAUL GARMAN** - November 19, 2020 at 07:35 PM

DL

“ John Arthur Ritschel Jr.

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**Dana Leach** - November 19, 2020 at 11:48 AM

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**Dana Leach** - November 19, 2020 at 11:48 AM

DL

“ I first met Jack at the age of 12 when I went to my voice lessons. He always seemed like a movie star to me. When I had just turned 13, I was at a late evening voice lesson and Jack was on his way out. He was dressed in a Tux. I had never seen a man in a tux except for in the movies. He was so handsome and dashing like Clark Gable in *Gone with the Wind*. Later in the late '80s when Jack had his first computer we would talk about all the new things we were learning about mail merging. In the 90's I worked for a production company. We were on set in Long Beach at Pioneer Electronics. The script was being rewritten on set and they added the role of "the expert scientist" I needed an actor in 1 hour. I called Jack and he arrived even with a white lab coat. He looked at the copy for 10-15 minutes, said "I'm ready" and did the scene in 1 take. The crew, my boss, and the client had their jaws on the ground. he was AMAZING! In 1992 I was involved with a groundbreaking video project that eventually went all over the world making headlines. We need a narrator to tie the project together. Jack was the perfect voice. It was a sizable amount of VO so I booked an entire day at the Post-production facility. Jack came in and did the entire thing with only a few takes for each segment. We were done in 3 hours, not the 8 I had booked. Once again everyone in the post house was so impressed with his talent and professionalism. In 2013 I became involved with a small theatre company. They were struggling and attendance was low. We were producing a series of *Classic Books on Stage* done in a radio-style. I contacted Jack who said he really was retired. I just laughed and told him I really needed that golden voice. He kindly came to our humble theatre and performed in both *Rikki Tikki Tavi* and *Treasure Island*. I have posted photos here from those productions. I so loved Jack's emails and we used to speak by phone before email was the way to communicate. He will always be Clark Gable in my eyes, tall, dashing, handsome, and elegant. Dana Rydell Leach

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Dana Leach - November 19, 2020 at 11:48 AM

RC

“ Jack was a dear friend for many years. He will be truly missed.

Richard Cox - November 19, 2020 at 07:35 AM

BP

“ I met JackO in 2000 when we shared the stage in OLIVER! in Santa Barbara at their CLO. I also met the woman who is now my wife, Cindy, whom Jack knew. We became good pals. His turn at Mr. Brownlow was nothing short of stunning. That voice...OH, that voice! He turned me on to what has become one of my favorite steak joints, Stubriks in Fullerton, when he came down to see me perform in CRAZY FOR YOU at their CLO. We stayed in touch thought the years mostly by email. I regret not being in touch for the last several...after he moved to Leisure World. Our love and deepest condolences to the entire family. A quote I heard many years ago has always resonated with me during such occasions: "He is just away."

Barry & Cindy Pearl - November 19, 2020 at 01:14 AM

RS

“ John Arthur Ritschel Jr.

Ronnie Sperling - November 18, 2020 at 11:22 PM

RS

“ John Arthur Ritschel Jr.

Romy and Ronnie Sperling - November 18, 2020 at 11:07 PM

SB

“ John Arthur Ritschel Jr.

Susan Boring - November 17, 2020 at 10:38 PM

SB

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**Susan Boring** - November 17, 2020 at 10:38 PM

SB

“ *My Dad had an amazing life and I am so proud of him.*

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**Susan Boring** - November 17, 2020 at 10:38 PM

SB

“ *I love you and miss you Dad*

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**Susan Boring** - November 17, 2020 at 09:24 PM