



## Charles Janes Bailey

February 14, 1945 - June 5, 2020

Charles Janes Bailey, of Houston, died June 5, 2020. He was 75. I was his granddaughter.

A pillar of the local theater community, Charlie directed and performed in shows in every major theater in Houston. He played in dramas like Elizabeth Rex and he played in musical comedies like Singing in the Rain. He also appeared in Richard Linklater's Bernie, Friday Night Lights, Robocop 2, along with many other film and television roles. On film, he played Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Alexander Graham Bell, a professor... perhaps through this flagrant typecasting you are getting a good sense of him. In the 70s and 80s, he operated the Balanese Dinner Theatre in Galveston with his partner Morgan Redman. It was there that he met his wife, Jo. They married in 1982.

He was also an educator. He taught English at San Jacinto College for 35 years. He loved and championed education and learning. His papers appeared in journals worldwide. He was a scholar of Mark Twain and a scholar of Cormac McCarthy, but mostly just a scholar, who could work a Chaucer reference into his silliest stories.

Born February 14th, 1945, in Cooper, TX, to Charles Woodrow Bailey and Avon Janes Bailey. He spent most of childhood in Canada and Connecticut, but the family returned to Cooper when he was thirteen. He left only three years later for Duke, and then East Texas University, and then, eventually, Houston, but the town lingered in his memory. He traced his own fate with that of the small Texas town, writing: "I graduated and went to college and graduated again and left for good and went to work and made new friends and did new things and fell in love and got married and lost my parents and sold my family home and then came back to my forty-seven-year reunion. Cooper's humbling seems very fast, although it took my lifetime, but then time has changed. Now the seasons flash by. Always before, I had the insulation of another generation between me and death. No more. That insulation departed with my parents. I have passed into that stage of life we call old age. My generation has become the next to go. So be it."

He is preceded in death, as he says, by his parents. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jo

Perkins Bailey; three children, Marc Perkins, Monti Perkins, and Julie Perkins and husband Kenneth Oatman; four grandchildren, Alexandra, Hannah, Rhodes, and Sophie Oatman; a sister, Nancy Hankins, and many, many friends.

He loved celebrations. A half-celebration wouldn't've done for him, so we will see you for a real, big one when it is safe to gather. Save your funniest Charlie Bailey stories. In the meantime, have a little funeral food for him. Not a sad cheese tray from Sam's Club – the real stuff: we're talking fried okra, chicken spaghetti, pork-laced green beans, a big piece of pie.

In lieu of flowers please donate to your favorite charity or share a good book.

# Comments

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“ Dear Charlie was a friend of mine. As I like to live in present tense, he still is a friend of mine because he is here with us. We're linked with friends in the arts, always supportive and encouraging with a great wit and gentle spirit. See you later Charlie. Love, Francie

Francie J Mendenhall - June 13, 2020 at 12:43 AM

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“ Dear Charlie, you will be missed. May Jo and the whole family find that his memory will always bring a smile and be as a blessing.



Sharon Williams - June 12, 2020 at 06:56 PM

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“ a memory of Charles Janes Bailey or send condolences to the family.

Phillip Hurley - June 11, 2020 at 05:42 PM

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“ Charlie Janes was a part of my childhood memories that will not be forgotten. Memories of laughter with my mother, trips to see his plays in Galveston, and spending time with his mother, Tistie. On Christmas 1972 Charlie gave me a book Jonathan Livingston Seagull which was inscribed “To Evelyn, because this is the way we think it is.” I re-read the book today. I realized that Charlie was a living example of Jonathan’s story. “Don’t believe what your eyes are telling you. All they show is limitations. Look with your understanding. Find out what you already know and you will fly.” Jo, may God comfort you and your family.

Evelyn Berndt - June 10, 2020 at 06:41 PM

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“ I met Charlie and Jo at The wonderful Balinese Room back in the 80's when they were courting. They are the sort of people that you fall in love with instantly. Charlie was so handsome and Jo so beautiful and they were so much fun to be around. Charlie was outgoing, if perhaps a bit shy. He was hugely gracious and made everyone welcome. Morgan and Charlie didn't know me from anyone, but they brought me into there fold. Never was there a nicer place to be! I acted in a number of shows for them and enjoyed every moment. Charlie was always so appreciative and thankful for everything. He made you feel important. After The Balinese closed, I, unfortunately saw less and less of Charlie and Jo. We met several times for dinner and, of course, we saw a lot of the two of them at the various theatres and at parties, etc. You can't really talk about Charlie without talking about Jo too! The two were so devoted and always together, Very rarely did you see them apart. I so regret that I did not see Charlie during his illness. He was a wonderful man, articulate, funny, charming, way talented as an actor and director, and very kind. He inspired me to go on with my work in theatre. I loved him as a friend and will never stop thinking of him! I love you too, Jo.

**ron jones** - June 10, 2020 at 06:15 PM

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“ My condolences to Charles' family and friends. I went to school with Charlie (as we called him) in Cooper, Texas. Many fun and fond memories. A lot of laughs too.

**Peggy Wood Hadaway** - June 09, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ I remember him but his Mom and 3 nrothers. Dr. Osler Janes delivered me. He told my parents..Name this little girl Avon She will always be loved Those 3 dotor brothers did love their sister. Footnote. I have love. But given more love. Charles Mom had 3 great brothers. Charles onit speaks of love passed down to him. Peace and comfort to his family.

**Katherine** - June 09, 2020 at 11:03 PM

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“ I'd finished my nursing degree and was waiting to take my boards, when I stage managed A Thousand Clowns and met Charlie. I had a terrible crush on him and returned from the army to see productions he was doing. I'm so very saddened by his passing. JK Langlois

**JK Langlois** - June 09, 2020 at 01:49 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Julie Oatman - June 08, 2020 at 09:21 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Julie Oatman - June 08, 2020 at 09:14 PM