

MEAT FOR TEA

VOL 18 ISSUE 2
THE VALLEY REVIEW

EARL GREY



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DREW LONSBY

Meat for Tea: The Valley Review

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guest salutation

How do you sum up the life of an artist? How do you take 61 years and wrap them up neatly in a bow? While we can never fully summarize the scope of a person's life, or the impact it leaves on all of those who knew them, you can listen to the stories of those who knew them and generate your own idea about who they were, what they might have been like, and form an opinion of the life they lead.

This issue has been curated by the friends and loved ones of my father, David Drew Longey, June 2nd 1962 to February 21st 2024. Thanks to the efforts of the creators and editors of Meat For Tea, the friends of Dave came together in the wake of his passing to share stories and remember who he was and what he meant to his community, to discuss his art and life and the imprint he leaves behind.

I want to give a hearty Thank You to everyone who submitted their stories and experiences with my father for this issue, because through his art and through our memories he lives on.

Hannah Longey



the hand of dave
David Longey



David Longey

in memorium: david longey

Karen Pava Randall

The hand of Dave is a fibonacci sequence extending rhizomatically across space and time, never ceasing to wave at us as a reminder to keep up the celebration of life.



in memorium: david longey

Stephen Bradbury

My name is Stephen Bradbury. I'm a musician living in Godalming, England, and I record as Black Tempest.

I never met Dave in real life (we were separated by an ocean sadly), but we had been online friends for many years, and I was truly saddened to hear of his death.

Dave was a true creative - a great artist and musician. He made a fantastic sci-fi animation/video which we projected onto the ceiling and stage at a Black Tempest performance at the Supernormal festival some years back. Here is a YouTube video of that gig: www.youtube.com/watch?v=odwkrHoN8dA

He also did the fabulous cover design for my last album Psyborg – rendered in his own inimitable style. It perfectly suited the record.

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He was a kind and generous spirit who stood up for what is right. His memory will live on amongst his many friends.



in memorium: david longey

Russell Brooks

Dave Longey was a sweet and gentle giant. A giant of an artist, and a giant with a giant heart. Dave and I worked together on three performances. He would project his artwork over me while I was playing my music. We even transformed the Parlor Room in Northampton into a surreal art-house theatre. It was thrilling for me! I felt like I was swirling through the shows, deeply interconnected with Dave's drawings and videos. He was always super nice to me. Dave's mind worked like that of a true artist. I never knew what was going to come out of his mouth, or his art portfolio. He was a pleasure to work with, and I'm proud to have called him a friend for over a decade!

This is the only photo I have of those experiences. There are videos, but only this photo.



in memorium: david longey

Wendy Corn

Keep Shaking Things Up

David was an artist first. He was a generous soul and one of the most humble people I've ever known. I love that this homage to Dave comes out in June, his birth month, and mine too. He was my twin brother from another mother. He called me "twinzy". I could always count on an authentic and honest download when we saw or spoke to each other. Those meetings were always meaningful and sacred. We confided in each other about love, life, sobriety, philosophy, and financial struggles. "How's your head? How's your heart?" I'd ask. He was such a good friend to all those in his orb.

We managed to get some light-hearted giggles in there too. He was extremely punny!

My memories of Dave are mostly around how we collaborated in silliness and colorful fun by creating art, and costumes, playing games, and getting lost in the woods at our gatherings. He knew how to let go and find frolic and play. He felt (in his words) "welcomed, valued, and included". A gift this community all give each other.

I shared that I've been listening to a lot of Ram Dass talks about death awareness recently and he said "You know, especially as a twin, we gotta have some 'food' in the way of new experiences or new people or something to keep us from becoming too moribund in our same old stories. That's me I'm describing but maybe you get it, too."

David had a relationship with his mortality that wasn't grounded in fear—it was with total acceptance. This is what I witnessed in our last meeting—over New Year's 2024. I always hoped I'd see him again—but knew that he was struggling with his illness. It's naive to think people bounce back—but I was holding out hope.

When people in a close-knit chosen family start to pass, it imbues life with more meaning. On Dave's FB a Neil Young quote: "It's better to burn out, than to fade away..." No, our love will not fade away!

David's death affirms life is short. Enjoy your tribe. Enjoy your ride.





wendy corn and david longey
Wendy Corn



Wendy Corn

in memorium: david longey

Jan Hubert

Dave Longey was one of my best friends in high school. He was the George to my Emily in *Our Town*, among many other plays over the years. My father was our drama teacher and he especially loved Dave and became a mentor to him and to many other students. We had a very unique experience, living in Germany yet part of a US community. And while our lives took very different paths, and I only reconnected with him over Facebook, I still have such fond memories of the bond that we shared. Attached to some photos from that time. He will be greatly missed.



in memorium: david longey

Krystal Kay

Dave was the person who helped you learn about yourself and supported all your dreams and silly ideas. Like the hand that was his logo we all recognized and wore, he understood that people and life was like that hand with all its fingers each having another hand. His heart was a work of art.

I met Dave at an art gallery in Greenfield, MA. He was there with his camera, and I was there with my friend Shauna. We played Jenga. And that's how Dave and I started building towers.

I had all these ideas and things I thought needed to be reality, and he thought those ideas were really cool. When I was ready to take those ideas and make them dreams, he was there to offer help. When I was ready to take my dreams and make them reality, he provided me with the first graphics. And when it all fell down like a game of Jenga, Dave was there with a hug, his soft voice, and everlasting friendship.

We would go walking with dogs, mine and his friend Rachel's. Sometimes I would stop over for dinner. He fed me chicken the last time we ate together. He served me kombucha when I last stopped by.

He knew the value of pictures, memories, connection. He knew the potential in us to grow, even when you are over 50. I witnessed him change his life to be healthy and more disciplined and I admired his strength. That strength held on, as he kept up positivity with his cancer diagnosis. I was always so in awe of his determination as he was always in awe with the beauty in his friends and in where we lived.



