

PLAYBILL®



THE FABULOUS LIFE OF

Doug Bowser

[BA'ASER]



DOUG BOWSER LIFE CELEBRATION

Friday, September 16, 2022 at The Rep

LOBBY RECEPTION with DJ Kirk 6:00 - 6:50 pm

THEATER DOORS OPEN FOR
SELF SEATING with DJ Blue Star 6:30 pm

PROGRAMME 7:00 pm



PROGRAMME

SPECIAL SURPRISE GUEST -
Presentation

THE LUNCH BUNCH:
Adam Rogers
Rhonda Graham
Daniel Blumberg

Wanzie

Performance by
Rebecca Fisher

A Message From Scott Maxwell

Janine Klein

David Lee

A message from Sarah-Lee
Dobbs

Tommy Wooten

Performance by Tymisha Harris

John Ryan & Eddie Cooper

FIVE FAGS (minus one):
Scott Stowell
Jay Lovell
Russell Walker
Matt Garner

Darcel Stevens

Divine Grace

Performance by Ginger Minj &
Gidget Galore

Wayne and Lynne (Moira) Dictor

Taffy Does Improv / She's In
Love

Alauna Friskics - Fringe
Presentation / Finale

*Drive home carefully - Take care
of one another* ♥





DOUGLAS MOORE BOWSER

31 March 1960 – 16 July 2022

Doug was born on 31 March 1960 in Bethesda, MD to Ruth and Paul Bowser. He has 3 older brothers, David, Jeff, and Ross; a younger half-brother, Matthew, and stepsister, Shellie. All of his sibilings join us today.

Paul (a Naval officer) and Ruth were both from Rhode Island and some of Doug's happiest childhood memories are of summers spent on the shore with his grandparents and family.

Unlike his brothers, Doug was not a sporty child, but he managed to start his entertainment career early by training as a puppeteer at the age of 10.

The family moved to Maitland, Florida when Doug was 8. Although Doug was proud of his Bethesda birthplace, he was more-or-less a native of Central Florida and was witness (and contributed) to the remarkable changes that have taken place to Orlando in the last 50 years.



He attended Dommerich Elementary, Maitland Junior High, and Winter Park High School from 1975 – 1978. It was at the latter where his remarkable talent to entertain became apparent, to the great amusement of his classmates, many of whom became lifelong friends and are here tonight.

Doug completed his education at University of Central Florida but, by then, it was clear that his interests and talents were not in academia!

Whilst still in High School, Doug worked on a seasonal basis at Walt Disney World, and it is here that his love of performing came to the fore, notably whilst causing havoc in the Tencennial Main Street Parade. He later worked as a mime at SeaWorld in the late-lamented Seal and Otter show.

Around the same time, Doug started frequenting the burgeoning gay scene of Central Florida and became a close friend of the talented actor, Paul Wegman ('Miss P' from the Parliament House), who was a great influence and mentor. This is when his love of pageants

(all kinds, straight, drag – he did not discriminate) started.

Doug's first professional stage appearance was on this very stage, at what was then the Civic Theater, playing the 'Scarecrow' in *The Wizard of Oz*. He also got his first review (a rave!) in the Orlando Sentinel.

Doug appeared in numerous theatrical productions during his 20s and entered into important artistic collaborations with Michael Wanzie (appearing together in the wonderfully titled *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*) and David Lee and his Per4mAnts company (*Psycho Beach Party*). These appearances planted the seed which would later bloom into his most famous creation, 'Taffy Pinkerbox.'

It was during this time that Doug became a habitue of legendary downtown Orlando bar, Big Bang, run by the equally legendary (and much missed) Singhaus family; Sam, Marcy and Steve. All 3 were very influential on Doug's artistic development, with Marcy making many of his most memorable costumes.

Of course, rent has to be paid and food bought, so Doug also had a series of 'day' jobs, which he treated with varying degrees of seriousness, including a memorable stint working in the Reservations department of the airline, Florida Express, with his great friends Randall and Daniel. Later, he worked as a Tour Guide

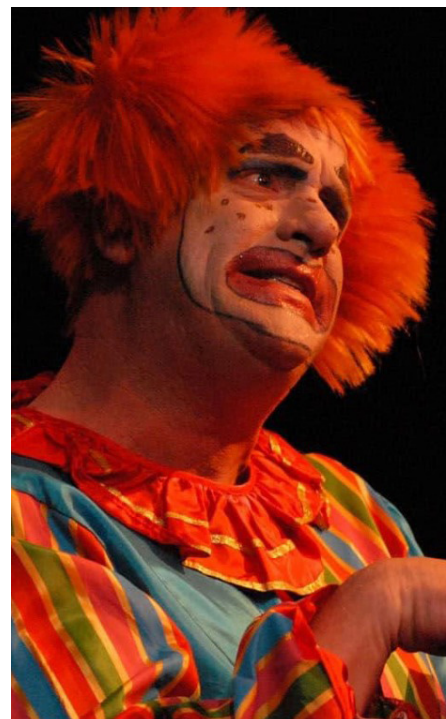


for British tour operators, Thomson Holidays and Travel City Direct. This allowed him to work in Tunisia and England, and he developed a love for overseas travel.

But theater and entertaining were his great loves and he worked deceptively hard at his craft. To his eternal credit, he was eventually able to make a living from doing what he loved. He was an absolute legend of the area stage. He was revered by the actors he worked with, both in the "legitimate" theater and at attractions like Sleuths Mystery Dinner Shows, who knew him as a fearless performer who could make any bit better via his impeccable timing

and delivery. Even locals who never set foot inside a live-performance venue knew and loved him as one-half of the Wanzie and Doug movie-review team on Real Radio 104.1's 'The Philips Phile' for many years.

His theatrical appearances are too numerous to list and he will be best remembered for his wonderful comic performances in shows such as Wanzie's *The Ladies of Eola Heights*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* and, of course, *Joan Crawford's Houseparty*. However, he was also a superb actor in serious roles, notably in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, Larry Kramer's *A Normal Heart* and *The Destiny of*



Me, and alongside Paul Wegman in Martin Sherman's *Bent* (directed by Julia Gagne) at the Parliament House. He was equally adept at musical theater, appearing as 'Herr Schultz' in *Cabaret*. He even appeared with the Orlando Opera, giving a memorable performance in *Der Fledermaus*.

Ironically, it was his 'side hustles' (bartending and hosting bingo/trivia) that helped create his most famous character. Taffy made her first appearance in the Fringe show, *Tired Old Whore*. But it was as a bingo host that the newly christened 'Taffy Pinkerbox' emerged in her full, vulgar, leopard-print glory. Taffy was a wonderful character, a creation of comic genius and 100% Doug.

Doug was taken from us far too soon when he had so much more to give. He was just about to embark on a tour with the hugely successful TVlandlive production of *The Golden Gals*. And who knows what else Taffy had up her batwing sleeve.

Doug is remembered by his family as always easy-going, gentle, funny and likable. He was a wonderful brother, brother-in law and uncle, and an even better son to his late mother, Ruth. He was loved by his family every day of his life.

His family and friends mourn him but take comfort in knowing that our lives are infinitely richer from having known him.

REMEMBER

FREDERICK BUECHNER

When you remember me, It means
you have carried something of who I am with you,
that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are.
It means that you can summon me back to your mind
even though countless years and miles
stand between us...
it means that even after I die,
You can still see my face and hear my voice
And speak to me in your heart.
For as long as you remember me,
I am never entirely lost.



WHEN I THINK OF DEATH

MAYA ANGELOU

When I think of death, and of late the idea has come with
alarming frequency, I seem at peace with the idea that a day
will dawn when I will no longer be among those living in this
valley of strange humors.
I can accept the idea of my own demise, but I am unable to
accept the death of anyone else.
I find it impossible to let a friend or relative go into that
country of no return.
Disbelief becomes my close companion, and anger follows in
its wake.
I answer the heroic question, 'Death, where is they sting?' with
'it is here in my heart and mind and memories.'



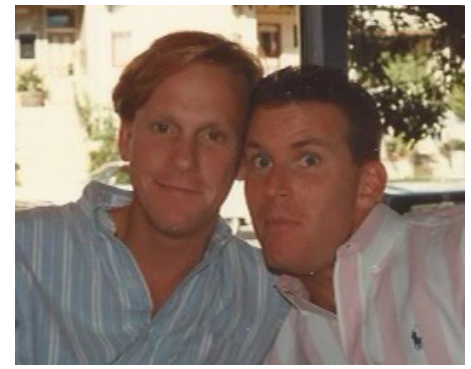


SPECIAL THANKS



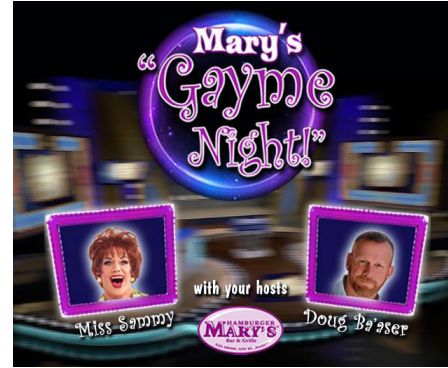
Commissioner Patty Sheehan
John Kucik
Blue Estrella
Kevin Chippindale

Jim Philips
Rich Charron
Catherine Goodison
Margaret Nolan
Jocelynn White



MEMORIAL PLAYLIST

Scan QR Code:



HAMBLINGER BERRY & COMPANY PARLIAMENT HOUSE - ORLANDO proudly sponsor

DRAGNESS OF BOB

AND THE NAKED HOLY GHOST

A Comedy Adaptation by MICHAEL WANZIE
Directed by KENNY HOWARD

"SERIOUSLY OFFENSIVE AND SERIOUSLY FUN"
-Orlando Weekly
"IT'S A HOWL"
-Orlando Sentinel

WARNING: FULL FRONTAL NUDDITY

TOMMY WOOTEN
as Dr. Livingston

DOUG BA'ASER
as Agnes

DAN HUFFY
as The Naked Holy Ghost

WANZIE
as Mother Superior

ORANGE VENUE SHOWTIN
THURSDAY, MAY 14 7:00
SATURDAY, MAY 16 10:00
SUNDAY, MAY 17 2:15
MONDAY, MAY 18 8:45
FRIDAY, MAY 22 10:00
SATURDAY, MAY 23 8:00
SUNDAY, MAY 24 7:45

MAKRY'S Parliament House FRINGE

The Golden Gals

A Christmas Musical

GIDGET GALORE as Rose
DIVINE GRACE as Dorothy
MRMS ADRIEN as Sophia
GINGER MINJ as Blanche

with special guest **DOUG BA'ASER**

parliament house

DECEMBER 19-23 7PM
MATINEE DECEMBER 21 3PM
TICKETS \$25-\$50 PHOUSEORLANDO.EVENTBRITE.COM

INCLUDES FREE ADMISSION TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE AFTER THE SHOW!
FOOTLIGHT THEATRE • 410 N. ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL • ORLANDO, FL

Taffy's

BINGO



LIVE

2

9

8 20 40 54 69
9 24 34 67 87
6 18 30 50 65
2 16 42 62 77

TAFFY'S

BINGO

Bonanza

5



Wanzie's

Ladies of FOOLA HEIGHTS



Joan Crawford's

House Party

SHOW SCHEDULE
Thursday 17 May at 10:15pm
Saturday 19 May at 10:00pm
Sunday 20 May at 6:45pm
Monday 21 May at 11:15pm
Thursday 24 May at 9:45pm
Friday 25 May at 6:45pm
Saturday 26 May at 9:30pm

Stop by Joanie's house for some laughter and surprises! Oh, and bring your dancing shoes!

DAVID DORSMAN

FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Pink Venue - Tickets \$10
Cocktails WILL be served.

Two popular actors, ten outrageous characters, one killer tornado!

TRAILER TRASH TABLOID!

written & directed by Lewis Routh

Bowie's Burger



Doug Ba'aser Comedic Actors Memorial Fund

Orlando Fringe is proud to present the "Doug Ba'aser Comedic Actors Memorial Fund". All donations to this fund support the future of laughter in Central Florida. This monetary award will be awarded to one Fringe Drag or Comedy show artist yearly, with a preference given to local up and coming drag queens.

This fund will honor his legacy by supporting the next generation of comedic actors. Donations will go through United Arts of Central Florida as the charity on record to Orlando Fringe, where 100% of donations will be given as awards.

THE ORLANDO
FRINGE

