



Frederick Marvin Edell died peacefully at home on January 3, 2024, in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico with his beloved wife, Cara, by his side. Earlier that day, he and Cara had joyfully celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary, so we take comfort knowing he left us with nothing but love in his heart. He was 88.

Frederick was born in the Bronx, New York on July 15, 1935, to Irene and Lawrence Edell, and grew up in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. He was Bar Mitzvah-ed at Vasser Temple, where his parents were founding members. He graduated from Hobart College and went on to Yale Drama School for his Masters degree and the University of Bristol, England. Further studies included Asian theatre at New York University and Japanese theatre in Kyoto, Japan.

During his 40 year career, Frederick directed hundreds of professional and student theatre and opera productions in Canada, the U.S. and other parts of the globe. Some of his favourite memories were of attending international theatre festivals with his students.

Frederick immigrated to Canada in the late 1960's, where he became a citizen, and held teaching positions in film and drama at the Universities of Victoria, and Isaac Brock, and was the head of the theatre departments at the Universities of Manitoba, Acadia, and Saskatchewan. He was Professor Emeritus at the University of Saskatchewan, where he retired. He then relocated to San Francisco CA, and Nelson B.C., where he met Cara, who worked in international education. Together, they travelled the world and lived in Montreal, Singapore, Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia and the United Arab Emirates, before settling down in Mexico four years ago. Frederick continued to take great pleasure in teaching film and had an upcoming film series scheduled for later this month focused on early Yiddish film at the Jewish Community Centre in San Miguel.

Frederick loved the cinema, theater, music, art, architecture and good food, and was an avid reader of books and the news. Friends and family relied on him for recommendations and critiques of films and enjoyed lively discussions with him about world affairs. He was a dog-lover and doted on Rosa, Pepe and Jose, the Mexican rescues he and Cara shared. Frederick took delight in all life has to offer and lived with enormous grace and intellectual curiosity.

Above all, he considered himself a teacher.

He is survived by his beloved wife Cara Weston-Edell, sister Francine Isert (Eugene), son Gabriel Edell (Sarah), stepson Max Edgington (Karys), grandchildren Hyacinth Edell and Levon Edell, nieces Molly Brignall and Nina Bozak, and nephews Garrick Isert and Todd Isert. His life was a blessing to all of us and his memory will continue to be.