



## Dr. Richard I.G. Hughes

August 8, 1936 - January 14, 2013

Richard Ieuan Garth Hughes, (RIG), philosopher, scholar, author, poet, singer, composer, actor, and loving husband, father, and grandfather, died peacefully on Monday, January 14, 2013. RIG was born in London, England in 1936. He attended The Highgate School (estab. 1565), earning the school's coveted Prize for Science. He attended Cambridge University, St. Catharine's College, graduating with both BA and MA degrees. While at Cambridge, RIG was also a member of The Footlights, an old and venerable theatrical society, and performed in numerous Reviews, plays, and cabarets, composing and performing many of the original songs for these productions. He was also a member of the ADC (Amateur Dramatic Club) of Cambridge, and performed in and directed plays and cabaret acts. He was a member of the Theatre Company at Frinton Summer Repertory Theatre, along with actor friends, Gawn Grainger and Vanessa Redgrave.

Following his University years, RIG served his National Service in Her Majesty's Royal Artillery, followed by a return to London, and to teaching, which became his life's work. In London he taught at his alma mater, The Highgate School, as School Master, teaching physics and math, directing school plays and musicales, composing music, and teaching such talented students as John Rutter, John Tavener, and David Cullen, who became life-long friends. He also coached the school's soccer team, a sport he continued to love all his life. While in London, he and good friends, Geoffrey Strachan and Norman (Will) Fyans formed a Cabaret group, The Pedestrians, and performed their original songs and political satire at venues across the UK and at the Edinburgh Festival, accompanied in performances by John Rutter and David Cullen.

He later moved to British Columbia, and was School Master at Shawnigan Lake School, before moving to Vancouver to obtain his Ph.D. degree in Philosophy from the University of British Columbia. His subsequent academic career included faculty positions in Philosophy at the University of Toronto, Princeton University, and Yale University, before joining the faculty at the University of South Carolina, where he served as a Professor of Philosophy for over 24 years, retiring in 2012. During his tenure at USC, he served as Visiting Professor at The London School of Economics, the University of Konstanz in

Germany, and the University of Oregon. He was a revered teacher, mentor, speaker, and internationally-published author of numerous articles and books on the Philosophy of Science, Physics, and Quantum Mechanics, as well as in the field of Philosophy of Aesthetics and Theatre.

He sang in the Columbia Choral Society, and served on its Board; was an actor and member of the South Carolina Shakespeare Company, performing in numerous roles; appeared in roles at Trustus Theatre, Workshop Theatre, and Theatre South Carolina; and was a member of the Columbia Drama Club. It was through his activity in the Columbia theatre scene that he met his wife, Barbara, sharing the stage with her in several productions, and becoming a loving and devoted husband to her until his death. He and Barbara were also members of Chamber Pots, a small group of close friends, formed many years ago for the purpose of enjoyment of classical chamber music in their homes, good food, and the cherished friendships of its members.

RIG was preceded in death by his father, John Basil William Hughes; his mother, Mae Hughes; and his brother, Dafydd Hughes. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Lowrance Hughes, and her sons, Steve Lowrance and Paul Lowrance; his son, Nicholas Hughes, and wife, Carolyn, and son, Dylan, of Vancouver, B.C.; his daughter, Kate Birch, and her son, Mats, and daughter, Kaya, of Minneapolis, MN; and many dear friends in England, Canada, and Columbia. The family would like to express its gratitude to the caring and compassionate staff at The Retreat at Covenant Place in Sumter, SC.

His memory will live on in all who knew and loved him, through the legacy of his scholarly work, his witty and wise songs, his memorable stage performances, and his remarkable wit and good humor. He was greatly loved and will be sorely missed.

A Memorial Celebration of his Life will be held on Sunday, January 27th at 4 PM, at The Heritage, 1829 Senate Street, followed by a reception. Private burial at The First Presbyterian Churchyard will precede the celebration. Memorials may be made in RIG's memory to the Workshop Theatre Building Fund, PO Box 11555, Columbia, SC 29211; USC Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts & Science, Columbia, SC 29208; Trustus Theatre, 520 Lady St, Columbia, SC 29201; or the SC Shakespeare Company, PO Box 50807, Columbia, SC 29250.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**First Presbyterian Churchyard**

1234 Marion St

Columbia, SC, 29201

**JAN**

**27**

**Celebration of Life**

04:00PM

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The Heritage

1829 Senate Street, Columbia, SC, US, 29201

# Comments

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“ I remember RIG from my childhood in Highgate, London. He taught at the same school as my father and lived in the flat below. I am sorry to hear of his passing as I have very fond memories of him and the family. Please accept my sincerest condolences.

**John Wallis** - July 15, 2013 at 07:32 AM

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“ I have missed RIG for many years from the University of South Carolina theatre department productions. I played many roles for us and was always a delight to work with, generous and fun and willing. I also always appreciated seeing him on the other side of the lights after he and Barbara had seen a show. He was supportive but astute in his observations of our hopeful work. Its good to have known the man just a little. My sympathies to Barbara and the rest of the family for their loss.  
Sarah Barker

**Sarah Barker** - February 01, 2013 at 09:43 AM

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“ RIG was one of the most significant people in my life. He was not just a professor, but mentor and role model. His range of interests and joyful expressions in pursuit of them both inspired and humbled me.

Though I had not seen him since late 2000, he was never far from my mind - more on it than not, in fact. I'll always have an image of him facing the board, on which was scrawled a really long proof. One hand on the shock of white hair covering his head, the other hand splayed out at his side...

He will be missed by all of his students - and there were too many to count.

-Mia Wood

**Mia Wood** - January 30, 2013 at 10:34 AM

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“ I had not known RIG before coming to USC - besides one conference or so. It was tragic to initially see him searching for single words, then for most of the words. When he finally succeeded - under most difficult circumstances already - to finish his book, we held a short presentation at the department. But we just signal a few hints at discussions. I found the connection to Bakhtin quite original and so typical for his broader interests, but it was too late to discuss it with him. It is the worst thing if a philosopher is gradually doomed to silence.

**Michael Stoeltzner** - January 26, 2013 at 07:34 PM

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“ I had the joy of sharing a house with RIG the year he taught at Princeton. What a merry, kindly soul he was, full of wit and comedic invention, a gifted musician and philosopher, a truthful teller of tall tales, a polymath with a passion for clarity, a generous and exacting egalitarian, a man of the Sixties. I never heard him say an unjust, unmeasured or foolish thing.

Amelie Rorty , January 26, 2013

**Amelie Rorty** - January 26, 2013 at 09:47 AM

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“ As a senior at the University of South Carolina, I took a course with him on Wagner and Schopenhauer. Only later did I learn that he worked in philosophy of quantum theory! I was privileged, some 20 years later, to be his colleague here at South Carolina. His is a great spirit that will be missed.

**Michael Dickson** - January 23, 2013 at 01:47 PM

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“ RIG was a dear friend and a very warm and wonderful human being. He is one of the people who made the philosophy department at USC a very pleasant place to be. I admire his kindness, wit, intelligence, and good humour. I miss him dearly. I offer my deepest condolences to Barbara and the rest of the family.

Jan Opsomer

**Jan Opsomer** - January 23, 2013 at 01:24 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories of a musical Rig



Bas van Fraassen - January 21, 2013 at 08:20 PM

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“ RIG taught me philosophy of quantum mechanics at the same time as I played the evil Antonio to his Prospero in a production of the Tempest at the British Art Center. Both were pretty humiliating experiences. I didn't realise then that RIG didn't need to do any of this with us punk undergrads. He was as deeply dedicated to education as anyone I have ever met.

When RIG was onstage, you felt that you were suddenly in a real play. He always recited the last soliloquy with measured seriousness, and my impression was always that it meant a lot to him.

"Gentle breath of yours my sails  
Must fill, or else my project fails,  
Which was to please. Now I want  
Spirits to enforce, art to enchant,  
And my ending is despair,  
Unless I be relieved by prayer,  
Which pierces so that it assaults  
Mercy itself and frees all faults.  
As you from crimes would pardon'd be,  
Let your indulgence set me free"

David Hyder - January 21, 2013 at 04:24 PM

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“ From two brief meetings with Rig in the home of Nick and Sally when he was just starting down the road of memory loss we are lucky to have had the opportunity to meet such an interesting, remarkable and gifted man. We regret that Rig and Barb could not be more involved our lives here in Vancouver especially as he is one of Dylan's other grandparents and was so admired by Dylan's mum, our daughter Nicola. Barb you have been such a great support to Rig in his illness. May he rest in peace, and memories of his teaching live long with his many students.  
Roger and Martine Stilwell

roger and martine stilwell - January 20, 2013 at 12:34 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Richard I.G. Hughes.



January 19, 2013 at 10:21 AM

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“ Dear RIG, You will be sorely, sorely missed. Thank you for your guidance, support and conversation over the years. Chrissie and I still both remember that long chat outside the Anne Frank museum house in Amsterdam. I often think of you when walking around in Highgate. Your last email was moving - I could not bring myself to reply (you did not invite a reply), but I was immensely touched.

Thank you. Rest in peace. -- Mauricio.

**Mauricio Suárez** - January 19, 2013 at 04:13 AM

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“ RIG had an enormous influence on me and played an important role in my decision to make a career of philosophy. I took two classes, and a small seminar with him during my junior year at Princeton. He also valiantly attempted to lead me and another undergraduate through general relativity but I'm afraid I wasn't mathematically equipped for the task. He made philosophy fun and exciting and it was while working with him that I first considered it as something I might want to pursue as a career. We were later colleagues for a year at Yale and I came to a fuller appreciation of what a wonderful and well-rounded man he was. I've tried my whole career to follow RIG in displaying for students how philosophy can be both serious and fun.

**David Hilbert** - January 18, 2013 at 09:58 PM



“ Hello David. it has been a long time. I too was in the four student seminar junior year at Princeton and RIG was terrific. I am so sorry to hear of his passing as he was a wonderful teacher and a good man. I remember well his dog Wellington as well as I remember our spirited discussions about Karl Popper and The Logic of Scientific Discovery. May he rest in peace. Arun Alagappan.

**Arun Alagappan** - December 04, 2013 at 06:17 AM

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“ I have so many happy memories of RIG Hughes from graduate school at South Carolina. He was brilliant, funny, the kind of professor you always looked forward to seeing, who was able to reach out to so many different students, and willing to chat about so many different aspects of philosophy, art, music, drama. I still use many of his examples in my Logic classes, and shared his Philosophical Companion to First Order Logic with my current colleagues teaching logic. I hope to live up to his standards when I teach, and share with my students the wonderful interactions he had with his students. I send my condolences to family and friends, I will always be grateful to have known him. - Christine James, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Valdosta State University

Christine James - January 18, 2013 at 12:50 PM

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“ I had the good fortune of taking two courses from RIG Hughes at the University of Toronto. Though the first of these was merely Elementary Logic, it was actually responsible for my becoming a philosopher (the fact that my father taught philosophy had not drawn me into the field). He wouldn't let anyone in the class get a grade above A- without completing some extra, special, assignments involving both more advanced logical work, and philosophical reflection on the class material -- and it was those assignments that made me realize the study of philosophy (initially mainly logic and the philosophy of logic) might be for me. He opened the door, and I walked in. Later, RIG wrote me a letter of reference based on my work in the second course, on modal logic and philosophy, which I am sure helped me into graduate school. It is a bit hard to explain why he was such an inspiration to me. I think I was impressed by the fact that he had entered philosophy later in life, after a successful career teaching high school physics -- perhaps this was the reason he was so obviously interested in his undergraduates, unlike many (not all) of my professors at Toronto. Later, we lost touch, but I used his little book "A Philosophical Companion to First-Order Logic" as the basis for more than one reading course with talented students.

But I had no idea of some of the amazing facts of his life, such as this: his high-school students included "John Rutter, John Tavener, and David Cullen, who became life-long friends." Wow.

Michael Kremer (Philosophy, University of Chicago)

Michael Kremer - January 18, 2013 at 11:10 AM

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“ It was my distinct honor and privilege to be a colleague of RIG Hughes for many years in the Philosophy Department at the University of South Carolina. RIG was an extremely valuable member of the Department as well as a wonderful person. For me personally he was a reliable source of accurate and acute criticism, helpful advice and encouragement, and wit and humor. There was never the slightest stain on his integrity and honesty in all of his conduct with me, and so far as I am aware, with the many others whose lives and careers were impacted by him. He was a man of many talents and interests and he pursued all of them with the intensity, excellence, and joyful enthusiasm of a true modern day Renaissance man.

Linda and I offer our deepest condolences to the entire Hughes family.

Mike and Linda Costa

**Michael J. Costa** - January 18, 2013 at 10:22 AM

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“ I knew RIG through the philosophy of physics and met him at conferences, seminars and, one time, co-examing a Cambridge PhD thesis. He really was a wonderful guy and an outstanding philosopher. His work on models and representations continues to be cited and his book *The Structure and Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics* remains a classic. His recent collection *The Theoretical Practice of Physics* hints at his other interests but I had no idea he was so heavily involved in acting and performing in general. RIG's death is sad news but his life was amazing!

Steven French

**steven french** - January 18, 2013 at 09:40 AM

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“ I was so fortunate to have been a student in RIG's class over 20 years ago, and then to have had the opportunity to reconnect with him in recent years. What a gentle soul, and a staggering intellect. Sending my thoughts to Barbara and the family.

**Charley Adams** - January 18, 2013 at 08:40 AM

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“ I send my sympathy to Barbara and the rest of the family. You are in my thoughts, and RIG is in my memories.

**Sarah Graham** - January 17, 2013 at 02:43 PM

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“ So sorry to hear that Dr. Hughes has died. We were neighbors at one time, and he was always very kind. I always wanted to know him better than I did.

**Duna Miller** - January 17, 2013 at 12:14 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of RIG's passing. He was one of the sweetest, gentlest, most intelligent people I have ever met. I was lucky to perform with him in Othello at the SC Shakespeare Company many years ago and he was just so lovely on stage and off. Sending much love to Barbara and the rest of the family.

**Kim Harne** - January 17, 2013 at 11:53 AM

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“ I have such fond memories of "pub philosophy" sessions with Dr. Hughes and fellow graduate students. He was quite the character, and always open and engaging. We will miss you greatly, RIG.

**Donna J. Hughes** - January 17, 2013 at 11:26 AM

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“ One of my best memories of RIG was his late night at Trustus Theatre. He played the guitar and sang some wonderful English pub songs. His wit was incomparable and his eagerness to engage in conversation was what I will remember about RIG. My prayers go out to Barbara and his family. Such a wonderful, gentle man.

**Jocelyn A. Sanders** - January 16, 2013 at 09:27 PM



“ I had the joy of sharing a house with RIG the year he taught at Princeton. What a merry, kindly soul he was, full of wit and comedic invention, a gifted musician and philosopher, a truthful teller of tall tales, a polymath with a passion for clarity, a generous and exacting egalitarian, a man of the Sixties. I never heard him say an unjust, unmeasured or foolish thing.

Amelie Rorty , January 26, 2013

**Amelie Rorty** - January 26, 2013 at 09:44 AM