



## Bernard Thane Wilson

February 11, 1960 - December 19, 2006

Thane Wilson, who grew up in Bolivar, Missouri and later devoted all his working life to show business, died last week (December 19, 2006) at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. He was 46. The cause was failure of liver and kidneys, traceable to a case of childhood hepatitis suffered when he was in second grade at Mitchell Elementary School.

At the time of his death Wilson was Senior Corporate Director of Live Entertainment for the 35 parks in the Six Flags chain. He had worked for Six Flags since 1999. He kept a home in Jackson, N.J. and had offices in New York and at the entertainment company's premier park, also in Jackson.

At age 13, the year before he entered Bolivar High School, Wilson talked his parents into letting him work as a food vendor and do odd jobs at the Ozarks Empire Fair in Springfield. Since he was not old enough to drive, his mother, Jessie, also took a job at the fair in order to drive him to and from work. The two of them then began several years of fair work in food trailers in Springfield and at fairs in Sedalia, Oklahoma, Nebraska and other locales. After this taste of show biz, young Wilson was hooked for life.

He was musically inclined from an early age and quickly learned to play piano, organ, keyboard, harp and drums.

While taking a degree in business at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Wilson played drums in the Marching Mizzou band two years and then served two years as drum major.

School behind him, Wilson struck off for Orlando and Disney World, then a relatively new and, for him, an exciting part of show business. At Disney he became a dancer and, at times, also played the costume characters of Goofy, Pluto and the Mad Hatter. In the daily parades in costume he often saw people he knew from Bolivar but was never permitted to speak to anyone along the parade route.

It was in Orlando that Wilson also discovered that show biz is an ephemeral, fast-changing world and during his life there he also worked for the Universal Studios theme park, became entertainment manager at a night club and each year did four stints as producer of live entertainment aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines ships sailing out of Ft. Lauderdale.

Then in 1998 Wilson, unemployed at the time, took a freelance assignment from a small entertainment-services company in Orlando and agreed to acquaint himself with amusement-park construction, about which he knew nothing. He had always been on stage or directing those who were. The company gave him several months of schooling.

His first professional assignment in this new-to-him field was construction of a Batman pavilion at Six Flags in Denver. Thane Wilson, a friendly, ebullient person, always gave his whole heart to any job he attempted, and when Batman construction ran afoul of the city's red tape his cleverness in getting the pavilion finished on time so impressed Six Flags executives that on the spot they hired him away from the Orlando company.

His life at Six Flags immediately became a whirlwind of travel as he

auditioned, rehearsed and directed the live shows at the parks. Wilson regularly visited each of the parks in this country and once spent seven months building a Batman pavilion at the park in Mexico City were, he later observed, work goes more slowly than in the States. He also visited parks in Europe.

Bernard Thane Wilson was the son of Charles Bernard Wilson and Jessie Alberta Martin Wilson. He was born on his mother's 33rd birthday, February 11, 1960. His father was a beef producer and also operated a commission business at the stockyards in Springfield. His father died in the 1980's. His mother later married Robert G. Beason, a retired writer and editor. The couple lives in Bolivar.

Wilson never married and sometimes observed, in reference to his constant travel, "If I had, I wouldn't be now."

A Memorial service is planned at the First Christian Church in Bolivar at 2:00pm on their joint birthday, February 11, 2007.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Butler Funeral Home. The family suggests contributions to the Music Department c/o Bolivar High School. Friends may sign the guest book or send private condolences at [www.butlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.butlerfuneralhome.com)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Bernard Thane Wilson*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Bernard Thane Wilson*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I was in Mini Mizzou with Thane. A great pianist and a talented baton twirler. And while most of the rest of us in the band were basically troglodytes, Thane always represented the group with grace and class. A fine man and a good classmate. I am sure he is missed. - Bob Gerchen*

**Bob Gerchen** - February 06, 2020 at 04:40 PM



“ *Happy Birthday to you in heaven. We all love you here on Earth and know you are smiling down upon us...*

**Julie Zimmerman** - February 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Happy birthday Thane  
I miss you  
All my love forever*

**Cheryl Muncie** - February 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ *Thane was a wonderful person who always brought a smile to anyone who was blessed to be near him. He was sincere and pleasant. God bless him - we will miss him.*

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**Erin McCarthy** - February 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *Jessie & Bob,*

*It is said that when you speak of a person no longer with us, you "immortalize" that person.*

*Thane will live forever! Forever in our hearts, minds and spirits because we will never stop speaking fondly of our memories with your son.*

*Thane's Love will shine Forever.*

*May God bless you and lift your hearts in this time of great sorrow.*

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**Susan Kroll** - February 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *I will always see Thane rushing down the hall in the Admit building with the "Blue Tooth" in his ear. No matter what he was doing or whoever he was talking to, he always had a smile and hello for you. I will never forget Thane, he was just a Wonderful person.*

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**Peggy Galluzzo** - January 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM

IH

“ *Thank you so much for just touching my life. I will really miss your Beautiful Smile. Rest in Peace Thane.*

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**Irene Haberstick** - January 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ Thane, you are the reason why I want to be in entertainment. You have taught not only me but several people about being a great role model, great boss, and great friend. I will always cherish the times I have spent with you working and just hanging out (Even though when you were not working you really were working no matter what time of day)I know that the show must go on and it will but it is going to be challenging not having you there doing what you always did, being a caring person that cared for all.

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**Nicholas Petrillo** - January 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Thane, you once told me that you liked my street characters better than my actual personality. It made me feel great because i knew that compliment.. disguised as an insult was your way of telling me that I was ok in your book. I think most of the people that worked for you just looked to you for approval. You were the most honest yet respectful person i've ever met. That's what made you so special. I will miss that.

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**Brad Howell** - January 28, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I would like to first send my deepest sympathies to Jessie and Bob. My heart is with you!

I have only known Thane for a couple of years, however the time I spent with him was a time that I will never forget as long as I live. Every second I spent with him I learned something. Even in our phone conversations I was consuming as much wisdom and I could. He was captivating. All he had to do was flash you that charming smile and you were hooked!

The people that worked with him loved it, not because of the tasks at hand, or the good dominoes pizza, but because they felt like they were in good hands. You trusted the work no matter what because you knew that if Thane believed in it then you should too!

I loved spending my days with this wonderful, entirely too humble of a man, who, even in his weakened state could always throw you a sarcastic comment that would just make you laugh till you cried!

There are countless memories I have with this amazing man, but my favorite is a quote he said to me one night. "The thing I love the most is when two awesome people get together." He loved when his friends found happiness! That just shows you how selfless Thane really was.

Our hearts will always be with Thane. I will forever remember and love him; my teacher, my boss, my patient, my mentor, and my dear friend!

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Jessica Berger - January 28, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AT

“There is no greater joy in life than that of making a new friend, except the joy that a new friend brings to your life”. I've only known Thane for a few years, but the impact he has had on my life will forever change the way I live. I had the awesome gift of living with Thane for 6 months. I have never met a person more giving of himself, for others, than Thane Wilson. I remember lots of late night conversations. When we would put another Duraflame log on the fire, in the middle of the summer with the a/c blasting, and just sit and talk about anything. The endless amounts of Dominoes pizza we ate, and the extra weight that Magic gained from the leftovers. The poker nights, the Margaritas, Crown and Cokes, and prime rib dinners. How many times his phone would ring at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, always with something work related, and he would get right on it no matter how tired he was. Thane was ALWAYS there! He would never say "NO", or "I'm too busy to help you". He would find a way to make it happen.

*I miss you greatly Thane, but I'm glad you're finally able to have time for yourself. I am truly blessed to be able to call you my friend. I'll miss the great times we had, and anxiously await the ones to come when we meet again. I Love You Bud !!!*

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**Andrew Torres** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RZ

“ *Jessie and Bob:*

*A day will not go by that we won't think of Thane and remember all of the wonderful times we were blessed to have shared with him. He touched our hearts in a way that words cannot ever describe.*

*Please know that we are so sorry for your loss and our loss and you too will always be in our thoughts and prayers. We love Magic with all of our hearts and we will take the best care of him. We promise you... God Bless you...We love you...*

*Jenna, Robbie and the kids who will miss their "Uncle Thane"....*

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**Robbie, Jenna, Kayley and Brandon Zumsteg** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *Jesse and Bob, your loss is felt by more people than you could ever imagine. Thane touched so many of us and changed all of us for the better, both personally and professionally. As his extended family, we will all be here for you. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be part of Thane's life.*

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**Dave and Jess Peranteau** - January 25, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ *Blessings on you as you grieve over Thane's death. He brought laughter and joy to many! That's a wonderful memory, one of many for which we know you're thankful.*

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**Hugh and Twila Smith** - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ We hadn't seen each other since high school (or perhaps a few times in college), but I will always remember Thane's generosity and kindness to me and his friends. Actually, we always called him Bernie, more for fun than anything...and he definitely enjoyed having a good laugh & good time. I've often wondered if Thane continued on in his entertainment career...and have enjoyed reading the other notes. Thanks to Thane's family for your many times of offering hospitality to us back in high school. May God bless you richly during this time.

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**Kirk Wakefield** - January 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NO

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your son Thane. When I met him at Six flags in Darien, NY in 2000-2004, I have to say he was the nicest, kindest and funniest man I have met. He always walked around with a smile on his face even though you knew he had a great deal on his mind. I feel very blessed to have been able to know him. I regret that I was not able to tell him goodbye.

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**Nancy Orr** - January 17, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ I can't ever reminisce about Marching Mizzou without thinking of Thane...

*My thoughts and prayers go out to all his family and friends....*

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**Jeff Zumsteg** - January 09, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Love to the Wilson Family

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**Sherry Ramsey** - January 07, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Thane will be missed so much! I had the pleasure of working with him over the last six years. He not only was a co-worker but was a great friend as well. His laugh was infectious and his ability to put a smile on your face was amazing. Thane is probably directing the choir in heaven or suggesting how they should "make it better". I love ya Thane!*

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**Jamie Hooper** - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *My condolences to the entire family. I worked with Thane in Orlando, and could always count on his impish grin and great sense of humor to lighten my day...*

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**Michelle Flug Cullen** - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *I was blessed to know and work with Thane since 1988 at Walt Disney World. Never have I met a harder worker, and more enjoyable person to be around. It has been a few years since I last saw Thane, and am extremely saddened that I did not make a stronger effort to get together since. I will never forget Thane, and my hope is that through all the hard work he had the chance to realize how much he was loved. He will be missed!!!*

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**Mark Selby** - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FA

“ *Thank you for the memories Thane*

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**Floyd Adams** - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *Thane was a beautiful person and a TRUE friend to all he encountered. He will truly be missed but his love and spirit lives on in us all.*

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**Angie Sellers** - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOUR FAMILY. I HAD THE PLEASURE TO WORK WITH HIM AT DISNEY! GOD BLESS*

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**BRADFORD MAYFIELD** - January 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *Thane's compassion for everyone he knew will be truly hard to match. We will all miss his dynamic personality, laugh, and unyielding devotion. I feel lucky to have known him, and to have spent the time there was as a friend.*

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**Brian Cousins** - January 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *I love you Thane forever and ever. You made a difference in my world. Memories of our love, our friendship, our laughter and our events together will run through my heart forever. Thane, you touched so many lives as you gave all your talents and integrity to the entertainment industry. What an incredible man - I'm so blessed to have had you in my life. May the angels hold you tight and God watch over you. I'll miss you Thane. Bye for now sweetheart.*  
*Love,*  
*Cheryl*

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**Cheryl Muncie** - January 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Tweedle! Thane, I will never forget those summers in ELP and what a brilliant light you were in all of our lives. God rest you and bless your family - now and always. Love, Toma xoxo

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**Toma Rusk** - January 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I had the pleasure of working with Thane while employed at Walt Disney World. I will always remember him as highly dedicated, a hard worker and a very caring and cheerful person. His experience, demeanor and attitude generally made those around you understand how it should be enjoyed!  
It has been years since I've seen Thane or talked... know that I will always remember him as Mad Hatter and him as a director he was great and gave his all when doing either. All my best to your Family and closest friends. It is a great lost to the industry and world.

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**Jesse Lirette Jr** - January 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ I am saddened to hear of Thane's passing. He was a friend and early supporter of my creative pursuits for which I am forever grateful. My prayers go out to his mother and family.

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**Glenn Mobley** - January 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Bernard Thane Wilson

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**Tom Aisthorpe** - December 28, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *Much of what I learned early on in my Entertainment career I witnessed in you Thane. Your perseverance, experience, demeanor and attitude generally made those around you understand how it should be done. While it's been years since I've seen you or talked... know that I will always remember your influence and presence. All my best to your Family and closest friends.*

*Chip Koch  
Orlando, FL*

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**Chip Koch** - December 28, 2006 at 12:00 AM

FV

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Thane side by side while employed at Universal Studios Orlando. I will always remember him as highly dedicated, a hard worker and a very caring and cheerful person. He will be missed!*

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**Felix Vega** - December 28, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *Thane Wilson played a crucial role in everything we do in our park. He will be greatly missed by Six Flags America Entertainment Department*

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**Sean Lassiter** - December 28, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ *Thane gave so much of himself to Six Flags, leaving each of us with strong memories of him.*

*He constantly came up with a variety of challenges and many demands for us in the Purchasing Department but always left us smiling and laughing.*

*God bless you, Thane, may you rest in peace. I'm sure you are stirring up things in Heaven. Anita and I will miss you!*

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**Linda Knight** - December 28, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *Our Friendship began in the Spring of 1989...and lasted non stop throughout the years. I will always remember Magic Games, OutBack takeout, decorating his apartment(s), NYC, his fog machine, candles that smelled like angel food cake, His big round brown bed, the caddy, Christmas lights, little Magic, You don't know Jack, football parties, bowling, batman, Mexico City, Limo's, and making deviled eggs for him when he came home for Christmas. Above all..I'll just miss those playful blue eyes and late night chats. He was my friend for so many years..I miss him so much already...and can't wait to see him again in Heaven...where no doubt he will have either front row tickets or back door passes waiting for all of us. My best buddy, my mentor, my dear friend. Rest In Peace Dear Thane..Until we meet again. I love you...Scotty*

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**Scotty Dollinger** - December 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Jessie and Bob,  
I was so saddened to hear the news of Thane's untimely passing. I was a good friend of Thane's from the days when we worked at Universal Studios together. Thane and I shared alot at Universal and became close friends. I will always remeber what a kind, and lving soul he was as well as one of the hardest workers I knew. He was always positive and upbeat and everyone loved his spirit. God Bless you at this time and may you find peace in that he lead a great life and is now in the best place of all. God Bless*

*Jeff Ross  
Orlando Fl*

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**Jeff Ross** - December 27, 2006 at 12:00 AM