



Celebrating DSM's 70th Anniversary  
presented by Park Place  
Motorcars Dallas

DSM Special Events and Announcements Media Contact:

Sharon Adams

Adams Communications Public Relations

214-343-4402

[Adamscomm1@aol.com](mailto:Adamscomm1@aol.com)

DSM Contact: Meredith Ford

Special Events & Outreach Manager

214-413-3959

[mford@dallassummermusicals.org](mailto:mford@dallassummermusicals.org)

## **Tom Hughes brings Dallas Summer Musicals to the theatre forefront 1961 - 1994**

***Join us for Curtain Call 2010 Celebrating DSM's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
presented by Park Place Motorcars Dallas  
on Saturday, May 1, 2010 benefiting Dallas Summer Musicals and their Outreach and  
Educational Programs***

In our journey to learn more about the 70-year history of Dallas Summer Musicals, an interesting fact was discovered. The musicals, throughout their history, have had only three "show" men lead the organization. Those three men were Charles R. Meeker, Jr. and his two assistants, Tom Hughes and Michael Jenkins.

Tom Hughes was the young house manager that stepped into the shoes of Meeker. A huge task considering one year after Meeker's departure the Summer Musicals would separate from the State Fair of Texas, becoming an autonomous civic organization and adopting its current name, Dallas Summer Musicals. Tom's artistic eye would guide the musicals for the next 30 plus years. Theater was a passion for Tom and he was quoted in a 1984 article saying, "From the time I was a youngster selling Cokes and cushions in the Band Shell, I wanted to be part of this profession."

Top name performers graced the stage in Dallas due to Mr. Hughes' efforts. The star line up included Katharine Hepburn, Yul Brynner, Ginger Rogers and Carol Burnett – to name just a few. Once the stage was set, the 70s and 80s had no problems booking memorable productions such as *Peter Pan* starring Sandy Duncan and *Hello Dolly* starring Carol Channing.

"Elegant is a word I think of for Tom," said Martha Gaylord, an actress and friend in 1952. Tommy Tune said, "He is the grand *seigneur* of musical theater in the country. Not just in Dallas and not just in Texas, but in the country." On a personal side, Dallas's legendary theater correspondent, Bobbie Wygant, recalled seeing Tom play pinball at a celebration party. Bobbie shared she had never seen pinball played with such determination, concentration and passion. The most endearing quote is obviously from his widow, Anné Hughes. She shared, "Tom lived and breathed the musicals, I know he

would be so proud of all those who continue to come and enjoy an evening at Fair Park. It was his home away from home, and the patrons and performers were his extended family."

A battle with chest cancer robbed Tom of his tenure with Dallas Summer Musicals. To the sadness of so many friends and theater lovers, he lost his cancer war in 1994. There are many memories of Tom that will always be a part of the history of DSM. Visuals like the flower in his lapel, the trademark cane he always walked with and his 3-piece suits are easily recalled for so many who knew him. But, in the opinion of many we spoke with, the history Tom would most like to be remembered for are his three children. Kenny, Ryan and Kyle, raised here in Dallas, are all talented in music and theater. The "apples" of his eyes did not fall far from the tall tree.

We hope you can join us at Curtain Call as we celebrate 70 years of musicals at Fair Park on May 1, 2010. For information contact Meredith Ford, Special Events & Outreach Manager at DSM, 214-413-3959, email at [mford@dallassummermusicals.org](mailto:mford@dallassummermusicals.org) or visit our website at [www.dallassummermusicals.org](http://www.dallassummermusicals.org)

**Sponsors:** Dallas Summer Musicals is presented by Comerica Bank. Season sponsors are American Airlines and WFAA Channel 8. Park Place Motorcars Dallas is Official Automotive Sponsor. Curtain Call 2010 is presented by Park Place Motorcars. Curtain Call 2010 media sponsors are Modern Luxury Dallas KLUV 989.7 FM and Park Cities News/The Waters Family.

Please see the attached fact sheet for a complete listing of performers and more Curtain Call 2010 details.



**Cutline for the photo:** Tom Hughes, DSM's managing director

1961 to 1994. **Photo courtesy** Dallas Morning News Archives. Hi res image available. ###