

2014 Inductees into the Pleasant Valley School District Hall of Fame

Mr. Mark E. Allison



Mark received his Bachelors of Science degree and his Master's Degree from Penn State University. Mark was a teacher @ Pleasant Valley upon retirement in 2012. He coach boys basketball @ Pleasant Valley for 17 years, of which 9 years was the head coach. He is currently head coach @ Pleasant Valley for boys and girls tennis.

Honors Received

Mark graduated from Altoona High School in 1975. He was a 4 year letter winner in basketball. He was named in the All Area in Skyline Athletic Conference in Basketball, 1st Team All Tournament in Basketball. He was also a member of the National Honor Society.

@ Pleasant Valley High School, the Girls' Tennis Team for 2013 won the MVC Tennis Tournament. They also qualified for the team district tournament for the first time as the seventh seed.

Community Service

Mark started up the 5th and 6th grade basketball programs, basketball camps for kids of all ages and also started up a recreational summer league for high school students and adults.

He currently resides in Stroudsburg, PA with his wife Michelle of 25 years. He also has 3 children.



Dr. Burrus graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 1984. Dr. Burrus attended Pennsylvania State University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Horticulture in 1988. Afterwards Dr. Burrus attended East Stroudsburg University where he attained his Master of Science in Education Leadership in 1999. He received his Doctor of Education in Administration and Leadership Studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2011.

Honors Received

While at Pleasant Valley Dr. Burrus was a 3 year letter winner in track and field and a 2 year letter in golf. He participated in band. MVP in track and field in 1984. He was also a member of the National Honor Society.

Academic Accomplishment

Professional Organizations: Dr. Burrus is also currently on the Member of the Pennsylvania and Secondary Principal Association; Member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials; past member of the Safety Committee; Member of the East Stroudsburg University Professional Development School Coordinating Council.

Community Organizations: Stroudsburg Region Open Space Committee; Commission Member; Free and Accepted Masons – J. Africa Simpson Lodge; United Way Coordinator for East Stroudsburg Area School District; West End Fire Company Life Member and current treasurer

He currently resides in Saylorsburg.



Tom graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 1973. Tom attended East Stroudsburg University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Biology. He was a Suma Cum Laude Graduate in 1977. Afterwards Tom attended Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, graduated 1st in class of 1979. Tom received his funeral director license in 1981. He is owner/supervisor of William H. Kresge Funeral Home.

Honors Received

While at Pleasant Valley Tom was a 2 year letter winner in basketball. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and Who's Who.

Rotarian of the Year, twice 1991 and 1996; Paul Harris Fellowship Award; Lions Club Citizen of the year 2000; Perryman-Keglovitz Spirit of Basketball Award 2008.

Academic Accomplishment

Community Organizations: Jaycees; Charter Member of the West End Rotary and the Western Pocono Lions Club.

He currently resides in Saylorsburg with his wife Laura of 29 years. He has 2 children.



DJ graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 1984.

Honors Received

D.J. was a 4 year winner in baseball and football. He wrestled for Pleasant Valley for 2 years. He was Editor of School Newspaper; Photography Editor of Yearbook and performed in Drama Club Productions: *The Odd Couple* and *Dracula*, under the direction of Priscilla Marinello.

Academic Accomplishment

D.J. Mendel is an actor, director and writer and filmmaker who has worked extensively with avant-garde theater makers like Richard Foreman, (*The Universe, Permanent Brain Damage and Panic!*), Karen Coonrod (*Christmas at the Ivanov's/ CSC*), and Robert Cacuzza, who's recent *Cattywampus* (which premiered at the Redcat Now Festival in L.A.) just finished here in New York where it was noted: "*the production derives its lifeblood from DJ Mendel's tour de force turn as the gritty blue-collar worker*" (*Backstage*). Mendel has also worked with emerging new writers, directors, and groups such as the Keen Company and 31 Down. His own one man show, *Dick Done Broke*, was presented at the Bushwick Starr Theater in Brooklyn in November 2011. He most recently starred in the European Premiere of *Elizabeth ou l'equity*, which played at the prestigious Theatre du Rond Point in Paris.

Mendel recently starred in Hal Hartley's latest feature film, *meanwhile*, which premiered at IFC in NY in October. His collaborations with Hartley began in 1997 when he played a supporting role in *The Book of Life* opposite Martin Donovan and PJ Harvey. The following year he performed in Hartley's play, *soon*, commissioned by and performed at the Salzburger Festspiele in Austria and the de Singel Theater in Antwerp. Since 2000, Mendel has played roles in Hartley's feature films *No Such Thing* (2001), *The Girl from Monday* (2004), and *Fay Grim* (2007). Other starring film roles include: Richard Sylvarnes' *The Cloud of Unknowing* (2004) and H.C.E (2007), both debuting at the Tribeca Film festival, and the title role in Salvatore Interlandi's critically acclaimed *Charlie* (2006).

His own plays, *Tom, Dick & Harry*, *Dick Done Broke*, and *Museum of Unnatural Seriousness*, were all presented at The Ontological-Hysteric Theater in New York and his play *Exhaust Pipes and Manifolds* was produced and presented by the Ground Floor Theater Lab.

As a director, Mr. Mendel has most recently directed Cynthia Hopkins' *This Clement World*, which premiered in New York and has been touring the U.S this past year. Other recent credits include: Daniel Bernard Roumain's *Symphony for the Dance Floor* which had its New York premiere in October 2011 at BAM's Next Wave festival, Cynthia Hopkins' musical theater play, *The Truth: A Tragedy*, which premiered at Soho Rep in May 2010 and toured the U.S. and Europe later that year. Previous work with Ms. Hopkins includes directing her

shows *Accidental Nostalgia*, *Must Don't Whip 'Um* and *The Success of Failure (or, The Failure of Success)*—all of which were presented at St. Ann's Warehouse in New York as well as throughout the US and Europe. He has directed two feature films: *Make Pretend* (which he also wrote) and *Planet Earth: Dreams*, penned by Richard Foreman. D.J. also works with singer Rosanne Cash, video designing and directing her last two tours: *Black Cadillac: In Concert* and *The List: In Concert*, as well as directing several Music Videos for Ms. Cash. He is also currently a professor at NYU's Tisch School for the Arts where he teaches advanced acting at the Playwrights Horizon's Theater School.