

James Tyler

1973-2021

A quietly superior backstage type turned booming egotistical actor... James was officially the worst of the worst and the best of the best.



Those who knew James will undoubtedly have countless tales to tell, including plenty of hilarity, ridiculousness and insults.

Definitely his better half; Katy recently shared the news we had been dreading but sadly expecting.



Katy Dumble

22 July at 14:29 · 🌐



I'm sorry* to tell everyone that [James](#) passed away yesterday at the hospice. He was socialising with his friends up until the last day and fell asleep while his family were there. He would want you to insult him now, put on a hat and have a beer or whisky.

*not that sorry he was getting quite annoying





Toads members can blame Katy for bringing James into our lives when he moved to be with her in 2008. James was from Droitwich, and they initially met at NODA Summer School during a stage management course.

When James first joined TOADS, he continued with backstage work as he had done previously for am-dram musicals.

During a TOADS production of Sylvia in 2009, he discovered the adrenaline rush of audience acknowledgement! In Sylvia, he had to go on stage to do a scene change dressed as a park ranger. It was a very impressive scene change and got a round of applause every night. The nightly applause went to James's head, and he started acting....on the stage as well as off! His first play as an actor was Gut Girls, a tadpoles production, with some more mature members (such as James) alongside younger, more talented members.

James was also responsible for building some impressive sets at Toads. One of the set builds he was most proud of was for Ghost Train in 2011, which is quite ironic as he tried to avoid being alone at the theatre in the dark as he feared a possible theatre ghost!





James also gave up his time to help run the theatre as a member of the committee. He did, however, sometimes mix up meetings with performances such as the time James and Hannah (Heard nee Samuel) turned up to a committee meeting dressed as twins - wearing jeans, a checkered shirt and a hat...the only slight difference between them was about 2 foot!

When James first stood for election and gave his speech at the AGM, he sneakily included reference to one of his biggest obsessions – badgers! By the time he came to be re-elected, he decided that everyone already knew him and what he was about, so instead of a traditional election speech, he gave an entire speech about badgers!



James took a step back from theatre life (yes, that's why things became less badgery around the Little Theatre) to pursue a career change. After studying to gain the necessary entry requirements, James trained as a nurse, graduating in 2015.



James Tyler

5 March 2015 ·



Had an interview for a job in ITU this morning. Just had the call to say that I GOT IT!! Come September I'll be an ITU nurse (Terms & Conditions apply - that I pass the rest of my degree being the main one) .

For anyone who is able to attend, the funeral details are as follows and don't forget your hat so you can be as cool as Mack.



Katy Dumble

27 m ·



James funeral will be at St David's Church Exeter at 3pm on the 9th August. There will be drinks at the church afterwards. Bright colour clothes and hats preferred. Masks (as in COVID not masked ball) required. You will need to use city centre or station car parks. It would be helpful if you could comment below if you are coming to assist with numbers.



I suppose it is finally time to acknowledge what an amazing friend and fellow TOADS member James was. He will be missed much more than any of us would ever have admitted to him, but I'm sure I'm not alone in saying that to honour him and keep his memory alive, I will enjoy life, seek every opportunity for adventures, drink whisky, wear a hat and think of him every time I see anything badger related!

