

began in 1987, when, equipped with a bachelor's degree, Hans moved to New York City and began to study dance more seriously at Steps on Broadway. From 1988-1995, after performing in some non-Equity shows, Hans began touring nationally with a number of popular musicals starting with **West Side Story**, and followed by **Me & My Girl**, **Cats**, **A Chorus Line**, and **Jesus Christ Superstar**. Well on his way towards a successful Broadway career, Hans obtained a Broadway role as Alonzo in **Cats** in 1995.

It was during his four years in **Cats** that Hans began evaluating his need for a career change. He told CTFD that "I hit my early Thirties and realized that there's a finite life span to dancing."

While examining opportunities in other careers in theater, Hans decided, "rather than starting over from square one, in an aspect of performing that wasn't necessarily something I was 'dying' to do, I decided to retire and quit while I was ahead." With the help of Suzie Jary, CTFD counselor, Hans was able to take the next step towards finding something new. "It is an absolutely priceless resource to have 1-on-1 attention focused on you and your priorities...through the process of identifying what your strengths and interests are, and what you need to do to get where you want to be."

Hans was encouraged to apply for internships and to take advantage of his previous experience as an actor's union representative during contract negotiations with Actors' Equity Association. Recalling his experience as a committee member at Actors' Equity, Hans remembers being impressed by the knowledge and communication skills of the lawyers on staff. He recalls how these individuals not only had some passion about the subject of contract negotiations, but also the hard facts and skills to back it up. As he continued to work more closely with lawyers through various internships, Hans realized how much this work appealed to him and was ready to pursue a career in law for himself.

At Columbia Law School, Hans quickly learned the benefits of having an established professional career already under his belt. His previous career as a dancer left him equipped with a level of professionalism and a more "sophisticated view of the world," which his professors and colleagues

seemed to appreciate. And as he began working for law firms in New York City, he witnessed that his co-workers appreciated his real world experience. Now, as a corporate finance lawyer at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, Hans has discovered how useful his discipline as a dancer is towards his career in law.

"It's the attitude of how you approach work that is consistent: putting your best foot forward and having no fear of failure. I was conditioned to accept challenges, do my best and rely on that to get me through."

This basic philosophy has helped Hans establish a successful career in law, and has availed some wonderful opportunities. Most recently, Hans' newfound career allowed him to spend two years in Europe as he worked from the firm's office in Frankfurt, Germany.

When asked about the challenges and some of the fears he faced during this period of redefining his professional self, Hans states: "the difficult thing with any transition in life is that there's such uncertainty...my fear was that I wouldn't be equally passionate about whatever other work I found...however, I think you have to realize that your next field may not be your first love — the way theatre was my first love." During this period of self reflection, Hans seemed conflicted between his true passion and his innate sense of pragmatism. Although, he understood the need to transition and pursue a career outside of dance, his devotion and love for the art remained.

"There are few things I would love as much as I loved dancing and musical theatre... it's a passion that I don't think ever completely goes away."

With CTFD's help, Hans was able to find a new area of interest, and eventually a new niche after coming to the realization that "you can't dance in a show forever" — a truism which made his pursuit of a career outside of dance even more attainable.

Sanford (Bud) I. Wolff In memoriam

Sanford I. (Bud) Wolff passed away in New Canaan, Connecticut on April 14, the day after his 92nd birthday and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on June 14, 2007. Born in Chicago where he attended public schools, Bud Wolff was a graduate of Knox College, the University of Chicago, and The John Marshall School of Law. Soon after being admitted to the Illinois bar, Mr. Wolff enlisted as a private in the Army, and during World War II saw service as an Infantry Officer in New Guinea, the Central Pacific, the Philippines and Japan. His citations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, The Purple Heart, The Bronze Star and The Silver Star. At the time of his separation from the service in 1946, he had achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, commanding the 3rd Battalion of the 123rd Infantry.

Following the War, he resumed his legal career with a Chicago labor law firm, becoming a partner within two years. By the early 1950s Mr. Wolff had his own law firm in Chicago, representing many performers in broadcast-

ing, as well as the Chicago Local of AFTRA, the Central Region of AFTRA, the Directors' Guild, American Guild of Musical Artists, Screen Actors Guild in the Central Region and United Scenic Artists. In 1968 Mr. Wolff began a 17-year relationship with AFTRA, the 70,000-member union of professional performers, broadcasters and recording artists, as its National Executive Secretary. In 1978, he was honored by State of Israel Bonds which, presenting him with the coveted "Israel Award," cited his long commitment to the members of the performer's union and his parallel concern for the survival of the State of Israel. Mr. Wolff received AFTRA's highest honor, the George Heller Memorial Gold Card, in 1984 for his outstanding service to the union and its members. He resigned from AFTRA in 1985 to resume the practice of law.

In 1988, Mr. Wolff became the National Executive Secretary of the American Guild of Musical Artists and counsel to Career Transition For Dancers, which was incorporated that year.

He retired from AGMA in 1993 to become Of Counsel to the law firm of Becker and London until its dissolution. In 2006, Mr. Wolff received the Career Transition For Dancers Award for Outstanding Contributions to the World of Dance.

During his career, Mr. Wolff also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees and Chairman of its Arts, Entertainment and Media Industry Committee; as Executive Secretary of the Associated Actors and Artistes of America, and a member of the Archive Advisory Board of the Jewish Museum in New York.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Ann Barry, his sons Paul and David Wolff and his daughter, Laura Brant.

Modified and reprinted with permission from AFTRA magazine.
