

**John Blondell Theatre Arts Department Westmont College Santa Barbara,  
*Dionysus Sleeps***

Angels weep. The muses grow silent. Dionysus sleeps. Jerzy Limon died today, and the world will never be the same. Jurek was not a force of nature; he was nature personified. There is simply no one else like him, and never will be again. A warm, generous, genius, loving giant of a man, no one bridged the professional and academic Shakespearean worlds like he did. He was a romantic hero, in the true senses of the words.

He performed the astonishing feat of creating a new Shakespeare theatre in Gdansk, built on the remains of the Fencing School (1610), modeled on London's Fortune Theatre (1600). He wrote books and dozens of articles, inspired what is known as Global Shakespeare before we uttered those words and wondered what they might mean.

Lit Moon performed its *Hamlet* at the Gdansk Shakespeare Festival in 2004. He visited Santa Barbara and taught master classes at Westmont in 2005. I taught at his Gdansk festival in 2005, and we performed *Richard II* at the festival in 2006.

Little of my life would be the same without him, and thousands of people will say the same. A different world entirely, a world with less people, less color, less humanity, less questing, less desires to accomplish the impossible.

He dreamed the biggest dreams, and inspired the most devoted of followers.

I adored him. And will miss him forever.

I am hollowed out today, set adrift on an ice floe. It'll be a while till I return.