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A Heads Up with Jason Salvin

With Covid-19 lockdowns worldwide and health authorities urging people to self-isolate and practice social distancing on a massive scale as part of an enormous effort to #FlattenTheCurve of this global pandemic ... we are reaching out to industry friends, colleagues, associates, partners, etc., and asking them to share their #StayAtHome and #QuarantineAndChill activities with us during this extraordinary time.

The late Jason Salvin was an award-winning lighting designer who worked on a range of theatre productions, creative brand experiences and live music events by night and was director at Production Light & Sound Ltd - a busy production company based in Leeds, West Yorkshire - by day.

The company supplies equipment hire and imaginative solutions to productions and events across the UK and Europe.

Jason completed our Heads Up interview in June this year and sadly passed away on November 4th 2020 after battling cancer for two years.

He will be greatly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him, and is survived by his wife Sarah Buckmaster and their two young children, Rosie and Harry.

Robe: Where are you right now?

Jason: Sitting at the kitchen table overlooking our terrace and sunny garden in Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Robe: What are you doing to fill the time whilst isolating / on lockdown?

Jason: It's hard to think I had time to work before lockdown as my two children are keeping me very busy. But also trying to get through the ever-expanding 'to do' list of DIY jobs.

Robe: What's the most creative thing you're able to do in isolation?

Jason: Apart from making puppets, drawing and sticking things with Rosie, who's nearly 3, I'm working on two productions which - fingers-crossed - will open at Christmas. Having this unexpected time now has given me the opportunity to look at the design in more detail, exploring ideas and concepts which otherwise would have been pushed aside due to time scales and other work commitments.

Robe: Are you looking after anyone else during the Covid-19 crisis?

Jason: Well I have two children, Rosie (nearly 3) and Harry (3 months), but I think the biggest thanks should go to my wife who is looking after us all.

Robe: Has anyone inspired you since this started?

Jason: My wife and children inspire me every day to get up and get on with life!

Of course, there are lots of people doing amazing things, too many to mention but I'm always inspired by the kind and generous people out there helping others who need help more than ever during these difficult times.

Robe: Favourite book / movie / Netflix series / viral video

Jason: Anyone who knows me knows I'm a big Star Wars fan, so the new Mandalorian series has been high on the watch list and as such we've revisited the rest of the franchise too.

Robe: What's the first thing you'd like to do when we are through it?

Jason: Go to the seaside! Rosie has been asking for weeks now 'when can we go', so sand and sea are in order, along with fish and chips and maybe a seaside show to finish!

Robe: Own question / answer / message of solidarity or something you'd like to say?

Jason: Although our industry has been hit hard and first with the COVID-19 virus, this is a worldwide pandemic and certainly a financial crisis as well, and ... together though we can get through!

It might be some time before things get back to how we remembered, but all those amazing and wonderful experiences will be enjoyed again.

Our industry and those working in it are resourceful and we'll find a way - together we are stronger!

