



Federico Garduño

July 27, 1977 - April 18, 2022

Federico Garduño, father, husband, and a best friend to me and to pretty much everyone who met him, died last week in a tragic accident. He was visiting his family in his hometown of Annapolis.

My name is Dan, and I met Fed twenty years ago, in the spring of 2002 as part of a sketch writing group. His head was half-shaved in some sort of avant-garde attempt at a mohawk. He was wearing unsettlingly small sweatpants and a patterned sweater that looked to be from 1988. Also, way too small. He seemed to me like he might be a poorly thought-out villain in Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles comic. I was kind of afraid of him. And then we all read the sketch he brought to that first meeting, and I was instantly taken over. I knew then that Fed was the funniest person I had ever met and would probably ever know. That still holds true.

Fed was funniest and smartest person in any room he was in. He had an astonishing ability to come up with just the smartest, goofiest jokes on a dime and deliver them like they were nothing. Jokes that would make you laugh and leave you shaking your stupid head because, how did he do it? Again and again and again. I still remember a time when we were walking on 33rd Street and I had to stop because he'd just said something so absolutely, otherworldly funny. I actually asked him how he does it. And he replied with a "what are you talking about?" Because for him the joke was already gone into the ether and it was time to move onto the next. He had performed stand up for years, and wrote here and there for some online publications, but he really shined as an improviser. He performed all over the city, with his longest tenure at The Magnet Theater. He truly loved all of his fellow performers. They meant the world to him.

Fed was a teacher. He would hate to be defined and remembered for what he held down as a job. But he found his home off the stage at MS447 in Brooklyn. His interactions with the students brought him real happiness. We all have those special teachers that we remember into adulthood. Fed was one of those.

Above everything else, Fed loved his family so so much. He loved and admired his parents and his sisters. It was clear he came from an incredibly loving family (that was doused with a heavy dose of acerbic wit).

As for his wife Mindy, he had never fallen in love with someone until he met her. This is something he told me again and again. He was in a dark place when they met, and she turned everything around for him. He would call me just to tell me how happy he was with her in his life. And then he would ask me if that was normal, just to make sure he wasn't losing his mind. He knew how absolutely lucky he was to have Mindy as a wife and partner in life.

And then came his son Iggy. Before Iggy was born, Fed confided to me that he was scared. He couldn't see himself as being able to do the things a good dad does, that he couldn't see himself caring about toddler stuff and having to hang out with other parents at a playground. It's a pretty typical feeling. For once, Fed was completely wrong. He loved being a dad more than anything in the world and he was such an exceptional one. It's impossible to overstate how loving and caring and fun he was with his son.

Obviously, there was so much more to Fed than can be said here, he was such a good man. But I would like to mention a couple more things.

First his love of all animals and nature. Included in this were his beloved dog Nacho, his less beloved, but still very loved Noelle, BunBun, David Bowie, newcomer Buttercup. He even loved the demon spawned Mike.

Second: Fed lived in the moment—sometimes to the utter consternation of those around him. He would absolutely hate how we are dwelling on him and how earnest all this is. I can hear him saying, “Yeah, this is good, but maybe consider cutting... all of it?”

Fed would tell me he didn't see himself as someone who desperately needed to make a room full of people laugh. He much more enjoyed huddling up with one person to tell them jokes. In a bar. At a party. Watching TV. And, yes, hanging out at a playground. I was so blessed and lucky to be one of those people for 20 years. And I know that everyone else who got to be that person at some point feels the same. Oh, and there was a reason for that get-up and insane hairstyle he was wearing when we first met. Please ask me about it sometime and we can share our memories of Fed and have a laugh.

-Dan Milledge

Tribute Wall

SL

“ Fed was so effortlessly lovable and funny and as genuine as they come. The Laikowskis love you and take solace in how happy you made him.



Stan Laikowski - May 09 at 11:53 PM

JG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



June Garduno - May 06 at 11:25 AM

AD

“ Here are some retro photos from Mom and Dad. We miss him so much. He was always the most photogenic



Ann Garduño Daubert - May 05 at 10:26 PM

TG

“ This is just my first photo dump (fed would have chuckled at that). WTF life?! It's so amazing sometimes, and sometimes it just plain sucks. I'll keep looking through my archives and post more soon. Mindy, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think this was soon after Iggy was born and we got him a G train tee cause we all lived off the G, and cause Garduño, duh.



Tomás Garduño - May 05 at 07:38 PM

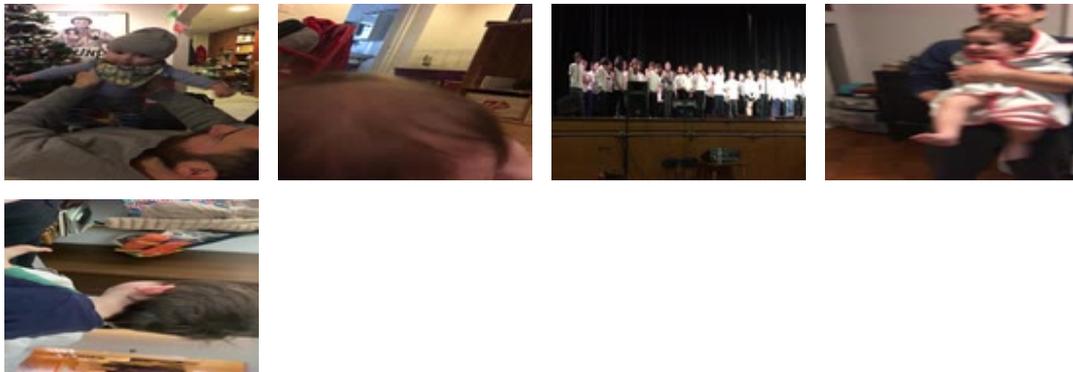
SH

“ June and Gil, with shock and deepest sadness we read of Feds passing! Our hearts are with you as you face the emptiness of his loss, knowing how much joy he brought to you and yours. May the best of memories be treasured, and sustain you at this tragic time, and always! With love and sympathy, Sue and Bruce

sue hood - May 01 at 09:34 AM

MI

“ Thank you dearly to everyone who has posted. Seriously - I love these - especially the retro shots. I found some recent videos to share.



mindy - April 27 at 07:59 PM

LG

“ I’ve always looked forward to seeing Fed. I first met he and Mindy right before moving to NYC at Doug and Peter’s Christmas party, then continued to see him through quarantine through a virtual trivia group we had. He and Mindy always had the best team names (‘You down with PPE?’, ‘Contagion & Juice’, ‘Droplet Like it’s Hot’, ‘Smells Like Quarantine Spirit’). Of course, he and Mindy would win 90% of the time. Then we all started hanging out at Doug and Peter’s patio in Brooklyn - Fed and Mindy would show up right on time with their bikes ready to get down with the few hours they had with Iggy’s babysitter. Most of all, I will always love and cherish how wonderful of friends they were to myself and Eli when Erika passed. They would regularly drop in and bring sweet gifts, cook dinner for us (the Impossible sheet pan nachos were AMAZING), and bring wine, lots of wine. He always made us feel loved, included, and effortlessly at ease with his lightness and sense of humor. I am so heartbroken by this loss, and I send my deepest condolences to Mindy, Iggy, and his family. I will always miss him.



Lynnette Greber - April 27 at 10:27 AM

KG

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Kandi Greller - April 27 at 06:52 AM

CO

“ Taking a moment to study the sea life during a gorgeous day at the Jersey Shore with Mindy, Fed & Iggy.



Colin - April 26 at 09:26 PM

JR

“ Here’s us enjoying one of Fed’s amazing dinners and pics of him making the kids laugh, as usual. I really appreciated how Fed used Halloween as a time to experiment with eyeliner. Grateful for all the time we spent together, especially these past few years. Love you Mindy & Iggy. 💕



Julia, Nick & Rhea - April 26 at 09:16 PM

RO

“ Hey Fed, its Ron George. We hadn't talked in what seems in a life time, but there isn't a beginning of the summer that doesn't go by that I don't remember going to our first Grateful Dead show together at RFK. We always talked music and we always laughed.

May God give peace and look after your wife and little guy,

And please say hello to Mikey for us.

Ron - April 26 at 07:35 PM

KA

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



kate - April 26 at 06:36 PM

KA

“ 5 files added to the album tux, fat baby, white sands



kate - April 26 at 06:21 PM

JS

“ I met Mindy before I met Fed... she and Jenni were taking level 1 improv at the UCB at the same time I was, but on a different night. I subbed into their class once.

Later that year, I would work with a bunch of people on a show where we improvised documentaries, and that's when I met Fed. No one was funnier deadpanning into a make-believe camera than he was.

This picture was taken the night we wrote and performed our own sketch show. I was really proud of that night.

Fed has brought me so much laughter over the years, doing improv with him, watching his standup, but most often just riffing with him about things that cracked us up or pissed us off. I loved his gentle soul covered in layers of sarcasm. Fed was the best kind of person, and I'm going to miss him a lot.



Jeff Scherer - April 26 at 04:37 PM

AD

“ Kasha- Katuwe Tent Rocks in New Mexico



Ann Garduño Daubert - April 26 at 12:57 PM

AN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ann - April 26 at 12:49 PM

AN

“ There are two many memories, but let me start here.



Ann - April 26 at 12:21 PM

AN

Too many memories

Ann - April 26 at 12:50 PM

JE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



jenni - April 26 at 12:06 PM

JE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



jenni - April 26 at 12:05 PM

KK

“ You two hosted some rockin Trivia Nights all around Brooklyn way back when! You clearly had a ball together.

Kris King - April 26 at 11:59 AM

MR

“ Dear Mindy & Iggy,
We are deeply saddened beyond words hearing of Fed's passing. Please know we have you in our thoughts & prayers always.. We send our love & heartfelt sympathy.

Michael & Marlene Runkel, Weirton, WV

Michael & Marlene Runkel - April 25 at 06:06 PM

JS

“ Our sincerest condolences on the loss of your son. 🙏🙏

Wayne and Jeanne Shaw, Amberley

Jeanne Shaw - April 25 at 02:09 PM

MF

“ If you have any photos or memories to share, please do. It would mean a lot to Iggy and me.



mindy Fought - April 25 at 01:16 PM