

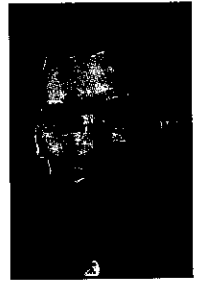
## OBITUARIES

1-11-2012

**Joseph Wilgenbusch, 29**

A Mass of Resurrection for Joseph "Joey" Wilgenbusch, 29, of New York City, was held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012, at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Victor. Joseph died Monday, Dec. 26, 2011, at his home.

Father Brian Shepley officiated at the service. The Smith Funeral Home in Victor was in charge of the arrangements. Burial will be held at a later time. Plans are underway for a memorial service to be held in New York City in the coming weeks.



Joseph was born in Marengo on Oct. 9, 1982. He was the fourth child of Dr. Lorás "Duke" Wilgenbusch and Susan (Murphy) Wilgenbusch of Victor. He grew up in rural Victor, and graduated from HLV High School in 2001.

An outgoing and loving child, Joseph's natural gifts for performance were quickly apparent. He sang, danced and acted, and played several musical instruments. He particularly enjoyed high school theater and athletics. He played basketball in high school and volleyball throughout his adult life.

He graduated from Iowa State University, as had both of his parents and all of his siblings, in 2005. During his college years, he performed in many university and community productions in the Ames area. He received a degree in vocal performance, and upon graduation, moved to New York for further study and to begin his professional career. He received his Master's Degree in vocal performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, in 2009.

Upon graduating from Eastman, Joseph moved to New York City, where he resided until his untimely death. He was a resident performer at Quisisana Resort in Maine in 2008 and 2009. As a 2010 finalist in the Lotte Lenya Competition, Joseph showcased both his acting and singing talents across a wide stylistic range. He toured with the ArtsPower children's theater company in 2010, and in the summer of 2011, was a resident artist with the Ohio Light Opera in Wooster, Ohio. He also performed in various church choirs and performance groups in New York City.

He was the founder and artistic director of the Wadsworth Repertoire Theatre, which specialized in new theatrical and musical works. Prior to his death, he was organizing a touring theater company to perform for the elderly. While Joseph's professional career was brief, he was quick to earn the respect and admiration of his fellow performers.

Joseph was born with a congenital heart defect which required two heart surgeries while he was a child. This defect led to the unforeseen heart attack that took his life.

Throughout his life, Joseph quickly made friends wherever he went. Joseph will be remembered for his warm and caring demeanor, his generosity, his quick wit, and his love for family and friends.

Wilgenbusch is survived by his parents; brother, Ryan (Melanie) Wilgenbusch of Glenwood; sister, Laura (Marty) Helle of Austin, Minn.; sister, Nicole Wilgenbusch of Fort Collins, Colo.; grandmother, Mabel Wilgenbusch of Dubuque; nieces, Danica, Jordyn, and Jadyn; best friend, Catherine Compton; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by grandparents, Ralph Wilgenbusch, Dan B. Murphy, and Evelyn Murphy; and by uncles, Jim Wilgenbusch and Bob Murphy.