



A. MAX WEITZENHOFFER, JR. Biography

Max Weitzenhoffer is a highly-acclaimed, independent producer of New York and London theatre productions and currently owns five theatres in the West End in London. He has been nominated numerous times for Tony Awards and has won for *The Will Rogers Follies* and *Dracula* on Broadway. Additionally, he has won Drama Critics Awards as well as an Olivier (Britain's equivalent of a Tony Award). He is routinely named among the Top 10 most important individuals in British theatre by *The Stage* newspaper.

Max is very proud of his roots in Oklahoma. His family has ties to Oklahoma pre-dating statehood. He attended Edgemere Elementary, graduated from Casady High School and went on to the University of Oklahoma. While at the University, he became interested in theatre, participated in everything from acting to designing and building sets. He then served as company manager at the La Jolla Play House, also directing children's theatre and getting his equity card. It looked like he might go into the movie business, but he came back to Oklahoma when he had the opportunity to work with Marty Gottlieb at OU, who he says knew more about the theatre than anyone. He has observed "To produce well you have to know what everybody else does. I got to do everything at OU; it was a great foundation."

After many years of producing on Broadway, Mr. Weitzenhoffer's professional focus shifted to London as the cost of producing plays in New York escalated. He also found the UK audiences to be more receptive to the kinds of work that interest him. A few of his shows in London are *A Moon For The Misbegotten* with Kevin Spacey, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and *Swimming with Sharks*, both starring Christian Slater and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf* with Kathleen Turner. He still participates in Broadway shows occasionally, most recently as a producer for *A Little Night Music* with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angela Lansbury.

During the 1990s, Mr. Weitzenhoffer decided to return to Oklahoma to reside and raise his family. In 1994 he was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and has received many awards from the University of Oklahoma, including the Regents' Alumni Award, the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Citation and an Honorary Doctorate.

Mr. Weitzenhoffer has served on the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma, Cameron University and Rogers State University from 2003 to date, having served last year as Board Chair. He has provided major support for the Athletic Department, the College of Fine Arts, Schools of Drama and Art and created the Department of Musical Theatre which bears his name. The Fred Jones Art Museum is the benefactor of his family's prestigious Impressionistic art collection, which he donated to the University following his mother's death.

He and his wife, Ayako Takahashi Weitzenhoffer, have two children, Nikki Weitzenhoffer and Owen Weitzenhoffer, who attend Casady School in Oklahoma City for which Mr. Weitzenhoffer serves on the Board of Trustees. Clearly, he could live anywhere in the world, but he and his wife chose to live in Oklahoma and raise their two children here. That fact alone speaks to his continuing dedication to his home state, Oklahoma.