

Sometimes you meet someone who stops you in your tracks... who makes you pay attention in a way you've never done before... who makes you think in a different light. There is something magical in the way they touch your soul that creates a paradigm shift in your being – your thinking. You are changed forever.

Al Ramos was our “someone” .

He was our mentor, creative advisor and partner in this world of theatre we had all chosen. He always had the answer to the question, the solution to the problem, the idea that we needed. He was a core foundational presence for Creative Women New York Inc. for 12 years and a friend for 28. We were excitedly looking forward to years of future collaborations, projects and partnership...

Now we are left with a void...

What do we do with all the emotion, overwhelming sense of loss, the sudden finitude we now face?

Of course, Al had the answer.

Al touched the lives of so many people through his music, through Tribeca Lab Theatre, through his generosity and encouragement to innumerable artists and through his incredible selflessness in his work in immigration law. He literally created a family from all walks of life and thus provided for all of us left behind, an amazing family with whom to mourn and celebrate. Yes, *celebrate* his life and our joy for having been a part of it. We have been able to share in the expressions of love and gratitude that we all feel towards Al and through our individual friendships with him, we have found comfort and support in each other through this difficult time.

So what do we do?

We create with a renewed dedication and intensity to our art. We share our work with each other. We show up and support the work of each other. We make theatre and music.

Everything we have learned from Al still exists, still holds truth, still provides answers, still exudes love. Al continues to be a guiding light through the darkness, and that light leads us to more inspiration and creativity.

Al, we'll miss seeing you, miss watching you wade through a production, miss hearing you play your music and sing your songs but you will remain in our hearts forever, we will work harder than ever to make you proud and of course, love you forever.

