

In 1974, Ray Roderick began his career at LI-High. He was Freshman Class President, and over his four years at U-High, he was in track, orchestra, band (playing two different instruments), jazz band, speech team, NFL (National Forensic League), Spanish Club, Madrigals, Harlequins, Thespians, and a National Honor Society member. In addition, he was in numerous plays, including: "Pure as the Driven Snow," "Half a Sixpence," "Look Homeward," "Angle," and "South Pacific." In his junior year, Ray and others took third place in the State with the play "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," after capturing District and Sectional honors.



In Ray's senior year as President of Student Senate, he led the students in forming the S.O.S. (Save Our Schools) committees created by the Senate to help fight the I.O.E.'s (Illinois Office of Education) decision to close Lab schools. These committees included publicity, letter writing, budget, legal, petitions, and media. They printed T-shirts, which stated "Endangered Species: U-High Students." Ray spoke before the ISU Student Senate, the Deans of the University, and the President of ISU. He helped organize a student press conference with TV and other media where students discussed why the Lab schools should not be closed. All this in the last three months of the school year.

Ray remembers his teachers Bob Neuleib, Carol Brandt, and Evelyn Young who helped him so much. And Erin Moore, who taught him acrobatics to help him get a job at Great America. Ray had summer jobs at Great America and Opryland.

Ray is Assistant Director of the upcoming Broadway revival of "The Music Man," directed by Susan Stroman. Ray is also Associate Director to Mike Ockrent for "A Christmas Carol" at Madison Square Garden. He directed and co-wrote "I Love New York" at Rainbow & Stars, for which he won the Bistro Award for Most Outstanding Musical Revue of 1999. Off Broadway, he directed "The Story Goes On," "The Music of Maltby and Shire" starring Loni Ackerman with David Shire at the piano, and "L'Amour, The Merrier" starring Steve Ross and Karen Murphy.

Mr. Roderick was the founding Artistic Director of the Tri-State Center for the Arts, where he directed and choreographed many shows including "Annie Get Your Gun," "Barnum," "Oklahoma!," "The Sound of Music," and "Gypsy," along with two shows he co-wrote, "I Love a Piano, the Music of Irving Berlin," and "Rip Van Winkle." Ray eventually directed and choreographed a successful three month run at the Ordway

Music Theatre in St. Paul for producer Kevin McCollum ("Rent"). Ray worked with Blake Edwards staging stunts for the Broadway production of "Victor, Victoria!" He more recently wrote and directed a new musical version of "The Prince and the Pauper" at Queens Theatre in the Park. He has written and directed a new musical revue "A Christmas Survival Guide," which will soon be released for Christmas as a CD and a book. He was assistant choreographer for the new Sony picture "Stewart Little."

As a Broadway actor, Ray has been seen in "Barnum," "Cats," "Grind," "Wind in the Willows," "Crazy for You," and the recent hit revival of "A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum." He played Danny Walsh in the film "The Flamingo Kid," and has been in numerous television commercials.

He is the proud father of Jamie Roderick, and is married to actress Karyn Quackenbush.