



Robert Kaliban

An outspoken and passionate Garden City champion and preservationist

A Garden City resident for nearly 50 years, Bob Kaliban hails from Prairiebury, Iowa. He acknowledges he had an “Andy Hardy upbringing.” As a youngster, he began entertaining customers in his father’s grocery store in Lisbon, Iowa, a town of 900 people. Everyone wanted “Bobby” to deliver their groceries because he had a way of making people smile and laugh.

Bob attended Loras College, in the bustling metropolis of Dubuque, where an observant and perspicuous priest-professor changed his destiny by insisting he join the school theater group. Once there, Bob appeared in every production from Hamlet to Finian’s Rainbow. Upon graduation, thanks to the urging of his ecclesiastic mentor, he caught a train to New York City to audition for The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, beating out actors from Yale, Harvard and Columbia for a scholarship to the London based school.

Bob married the love of his life, Pat, a.k.a Pepper, and they moved to Garden City to raise their three children, while he pursued his career on Broadway, where he had starred in roles in “How To Success In Business Without Really Trying,” “Ben Franklin in Paris,” and “The Conquering Hero.” Bob’s films include “Brighton Beach Memoirs,” “Lovers and Other Strangers,” and “Schoolhouse Rock.” His television credits include appearances on hits like “The Ed Sullivan Show,” “Tracy Ullman,” and “Law and Order.” While he appeared in thousands of TV commercials and radio spots, he is perhaps best known for his long run as the “Ty-D-Bol Man,” that company’s nattily attired, nautical TV spokesman.

In the true spirit of giving back, Bob has devoted many years of service to SAG-AFTRA, serving as President of the New York chapter and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pension and Health Plans for more than 40 years.

Bob and Pat supported the saving of the clock tower at St. Paul’s School when it was in danger of collapsing, and supplied the funds some five years ago that enabled Vinny Muldoon of Old World Quality to repair and stabilize the tower.

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