



Steven Bach was born in 1938 in Pocatello, Idaho, where he saw his first movie, *Dumbo*, as a reward for sitting through his first haircut. He grew up in Boise, attended Northwestern University where he received a BA in literature and an MA in teaching, and subsequently taught at New Trier High School in Chicago for several years. He left the midwest for the film business of New York City and Los Angeles, eventually becoming head of production at United Artists. He was the producer for such films as *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Raging Bull*, and *Manhattan*, and also for the doomed *Heaven's Gate*, in 1980 the most expensive movie ever made. In the aftermath, he left Hollywood but found his next career as a writer; *Final Cut*, his best-selling book about “art, money and ego,” has become the indispensable film industry insider’s story. His biographies *Marlene Dietrich: Life and Legend* and *Dazzler: The Life and Times of Moss Hart*, are exhaustively researched, gracefully written, and offer both the warm hand of human sympathy and the cooler eye of cultural judgment. With *Leni: The Life and Work of Leni Riefenstahl*, he undertook the even more difficult task of writing a biography that was also an exposé of Riefenstahl’s lifetime of lying about her attachment to Hitler and Nazi ideology. It has been called “fascinating,” “excellent,” “meticulous,” “riveting,” and “first-rate”—in this case, reviewer adjectives that scarcely do the book justice—and Cynthia Ozick memorably wrote: “If you haven’t thought of ‘Nazi artist’ as a noxious and corrupting oxymoron, Bach’s scrupulous account of a zealously masked life may persuade you otherwise.”

From 1999 until his death in March 2009, at Bennington College he was our beloved teacher, colleague, and friend.

REMEMBERING
Steven Bach

MAY 17, 2009

Memorial Program

WELCOME

Elizabeth Coleman

READING

David Anderegg

“Kennst du das Land” by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
from *Psalms*

MUSIC

Vocal Chamber Ensemble

“Cantique de Jean Racine” by Gabriel Fauré

READING

Elizabeth Sherman

from *Final Cut* by Steven Bach

READING

Marguerite Feitlowitz

from *Leni* by Steven Bach

“Amor contstante más allá de la muerte” by Francisco de Quevedo

(CONTINUED)

MUSIC

Tom Bogdan (vocal) and Allen Shawn (piano)
“What’ll I Do” by Irving Berlin

READING

April Bernard

from “Falling in Love Again” by Steven Bach
from *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

READING

Annabel Davis-Goff

from *Ecclesiastes*

MUSIC

Allen Shawn

“Chorale” 1918 (in memory of Claude Debussy) by Igor Stravinsky