



Michael J. Vitti

January 30, 1963 - April 20, 2009

We are saddened by the loss of Michael J. Vitti, 46, the founder of VittiPhoto Productions in New York City. Michael died suddenly April 20, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV, while attending the NAB Convention. Born in Hartford, the son of Benjamin Vitti and Pamela Scavo Amazeen, he was raised and schooled in West Hartford, moving to New York City 18 years ago. He was a graduate of Hall High School and the University of South Carolina. Michael was known to many as a kind, creative, and selfless person. He was a gifted photographer, videographer, editor, and producer. Many lives were brightened by Michael's spirit. Michael leaves his extended family; his mother Pamela and her husband Frank Amazeen of West Hartford, his father Benjamin Vitti and his wife Laura of Newington; his grandmother June Amazeen of Wakefield, MA, his sister Sharon Vitti and her husband Steven Cadrain of Newton, MA, and his brother Christopher and his wife Eileen Kuhn Vitti of Granby, his step siblings Eric Amazeen and his wife Nia of Tempe, AZ, and Sarah Amazeen of Philadelphia, PA. His nieces and nephews; Andrew, Estelle, Charlotte and Bryce Cadrain, Christian and Gabrielle Vitti, his uncles Joseph Vitti and his wife Susan of Chicago, IL, Mario Vitti of East Lyme, his aunts Frances and Sandra Vitti of West Hartford and Farmington. We are especially grateful to Michael's cousin Joseph Vitti for always being there for Michael. Michael's family and friends have been so comforted by hearing stories and thoughts about our beloved Michael. We hope everyone can join us in a celebration of Michael's life beginning on Sunday April 26th from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the

Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. We welcome everyone to attend mass Monday at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church 872 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. This will be followed by burial in Fairview Cemetery and a celebratory party for Michael. Throughout the celebration events, we are planning to create several opportunities for people to share memories of Michael with those that loved him. Donations in Michael's memory may be made to the American Heart Association 5 Brookside Dr. Wallingford, CT 06492. Online remembrances may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



ED

“ *My prayers and and deep condolences for a great colleague and friend! God rest your soul, Michael! My prayers for his family. You will be missed, my friend. May God Bless and Hold You! Dr Enrico and Angela D'Angelo*

ENRICO DAngelo - January 28 at 06:21 PM



“ *Mike and I were friends for thirty years, since the wild days at Carolina. I never heard Mike say a cross word about anyone and he was allways upbeat and in good humour. When my daughter and I came to NYC for a visit, Mike took three days off to show us the sights. Mike was a great friend and he will be missed by all his fellow Gamecocks!###imported-begin##Karl Repik##imported-end##*

May 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I knew Mike in the 70s, during our jr high and high school years in West Hartford. My younger brother and he were the same age and they became close and fast friends. Along with J.L. and A.A., that foursome was almost inseparable.

I remember Mike full of life, so friendly, giving and caring, ready with a laugh. One year, 1977 I think, his dad drove us to Mystic Seaport for an Oktoberfest. We were underage but with Mike there we had a great time with a little money we never went thirsty. The last time we saw Mike was in May of 1983 at his University of South Carolina campus dorm. Having moved to California, we lost touch over the years and the miles.

It's been over 30 years but I remember Mike in his early teens, his hair hanging over his ears like so many of us did back then. Watching the poignant FCPUG video tribute to him, it's clear he kept that great smile of his – maybe not all the hair, but definitely that smile.

My prayers of comfort and peace go to his family and friends.##imported-begin##Roy Tuason##imported-end##

May 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I knew Michael as a friend and fellow Final Cut Pro pioneer. He was a talented professional who loved his craft and he was a hell of a nice guy. Very saddened by his untimely death.##imported-begin##Fred Goss##imported-end##

May 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Ben and Family,
We were saddened to hear about your loss. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.
Bob and Sally Brignano###imported-begin##Bob Brignano###imported-end##*

May 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Vitti family and his friends,

Mike and I were classmates in high school. I have fond memories of hanging out with Mike and being in his always bright and friendly company. He was a truly happy person and always tried to bring joy and humor to everyone around him. Much too young to leave us. My most sincere condolences to Mike's family.###imported-begin##Pete McGuinness###imported-end##*

April 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *The character known as Michael Vitti was an inspiration, an enigma, a lunatic, and a generous man all wrapped into one. From his kindness of letting me crash on his couch when I was homeless upon moving back to NYC, to his flattery or insult I'm not sure which of using me as a model for a series of odd "character" portraits, Mikey simply made life more interesting to those around him. Cheers to the man who once responded to why he wasn't being bitten by mosquitoes with the totally deadpan line, "It's because I've smeared myself with rancid bear fat." We'll miss ya, Mik.###imported-begin##Orf###imported-end##*

April 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Michael's family:

I knew Michael from the west 17th days, when we had both landed in New York in the early 90's. Though I had not seen Michael in a long while, the world will be a less interesting place without this gifted, creative soul.

I loved his photography, and his enthusiasm about everything, I remember the show on west 17th street, being a temporary roommate of his, hearing about the vineyard, his friends and beloved family and just hanging out at party central.

I will always treasure the fact that I walked down the aisle with Mike at Wayne and Abby's wedding, that he took a beloved photograph of my then boyfriend Jason now husband that night. Mike was always such a good sport, always willing to go out with my girl friends who had just moved back to New York--

--Ultimate, frisbee, ultimate photographer, ultimate gentle-man, ultimate friend.

My deepest condolences to your family and to all the people who he touched. We will miss you Michael.###imported-begin##Mary Lapidess###imported-end##

April 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Mike's family and friends:

The e-mail bearing the sad news hit like a thunderbolt -- I'm still stunned. Just the week before I had been out with Mikey for drinks, dinner and laughs in the East Village, to catch up. Mike was in good spirits, upbeat really, despite the media meltdown that's affecting so many in his realm. He still believed in content, and was looking forward to the trade show in Las Vegas...

I'm truly sorry that Kathryn and I could not make it to the celebration of Mike. I'm sure it was a cathartic gathering, something I could use right now, too, as I think of him. Our sincerest condolences to the family.

Those of us who knew and visited Planet Mikey were the fortunate ones. His was a visual, creative, humorous and antic world, grounded in kindness. I count myself lucky to have been able both to work and play with Mikey over the years, starting as friends of friends back in South Carolina, to growing and evolving in NYC over two decades -- without ever really losing touch. On my 30th birthday, Mike gave me a fabulous photograph -- "Oak Bluff Fireworks" -- that he had framed beautifully himself, a first for him at the time. It has always been a prized possession, but now it is invaluable. I will see it every morning and think of him, his copious talent and our great loss.

With sadness,

*Chris Matthews##imported-begin##Christopher
Matthews##imported-end##*

April 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. I have known Michael professionally over the past ten year, and have always regarded him as one of the nicest, most capable, most professional people that I deal with in this industry.

I was speaking with him on Sunday afternoon, and we were talking about all of the things that we might be able to do together this year in New York.

All of us at AJA are deeply saddened by your loss. I am proud to say that I was a friend of Michael, and we at AJA will always consider him a friend of the company.##imported-begin##Paul Weiser##imported-end##

April 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the entire Vitti family. I always remember fondly the summers om Masons Island, which Michael was always a wonderful part of. May he rest in peace.##imported-begin##Vincent P. Flaherty##imported-end##

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts are with the entire Vitti family. God bless you all.##imported-begin##Robert Qua##imported-end##

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I cannot remember Mike ever calling me anything but Mango. Made him laugh. He was my roommate during the 90's at the now famous loft on 17th street.

He spoke lovingly of all you, friends and family, referring to you by your first name only. It took a little while, but I soon sorted out the ones from the Vineyard, Univ of So. Carolina, Australia, CT, etc.

His mind and hands were always busy. With gusto, he spoke of photography, marine biology, Macs, cooking, his own childhood adventures or dumb practical jokes. With great facility, he was an electrician, carpenter, ultimate frisbee player and artist.

I don't need a GPS or a medium to let you all know that Mike is surely now waiting for you all on an Australian beach, rigging lights in the brush, mixing bloody marys and listening to a bootleg of a Phish concert.

I'll miss you Mike.

Mango###imported-begin###wayne shulmister###imported-end###

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

With deepest sympathy,###imported-begin###Bill and Carolyn Brignano Constantine###imported-end###

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deep condolences to the Vitti Family on the sudden passing of Michael. Our prayers are with you
Sincerely,
The DeMichele Family##imported-begin##Maria Demichele Connors##imported-end##

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Michael was a brilliant, helpful and humorous person. He is sadly missed but will always be fondly remembered for his efforts in helping others.##imported-begin##Roland Kahlenberg##imported-end##

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Michael through a rather obscure part of the video-making community, Media 100 844/X editors. Even though it was great to geek out with him on technical matters, --and no one could do it like him, it became clear very quickly that Michael was just as interested in the broad strokes of the art and craft of moving image storytelling, no matter what the tool.

Then soon the warmth and generosity of Michael's personality also made it easy to become friends, breaking down the barriers of a limiting professional relationship.

I've never met anyone so well versed in the deeper intricacies of technical matters having to do with digital video, and at the same time a tremendous and extremely supportive networker who was truly interested in people and what they could share together on a personal level. The New York video-making community will never be the same, and I am so sorry to have lost such a friend.##imported-begin##Jessica Glass##imported-end##

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mikey:

Though I cannot be there today and tomorrow to say goodbye and celebrate your life, you know that I am with you, your family and friends in spirit. My life was so enriched by having you in it. My deep condolences to your family and all the friends you have gathered through the years. I already miss you so very much. We will see again when I leave this world. Whatever is out there beyond this life will be a much better place now that Michael Vitti is there. Until that future day...

David "Mateo" Talon##imported-begin##David M. Talon##imported-end##

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike, Was a great artist and a great person.

He loved photography and I enjoy his talents every day he did my wedding photos!. The time spent at 17th street as decepid as it was were fun. It is with love we bid farewell;to meet again in the next worldhopefully in better digs.##imported-begin##Mike Pollack##imported-end##

April 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mikey,
Your place in our lives was placed there by your zest for life, and
your place in our lives is cemented there by your kindness. Gods
speed on your journey.
Mike will always be remembered for his Martha's Vineyard shots,
His retro pictures, and his timeless Automobila pics which hang in
the Canton Auto Exchange Hall of Fame.
NYC won't be the same without you there, But is a better place for
you having been there.##imported-begin##Matthew
Kriedel##imported-end##*

April 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael was a wonderful and always friendly person to work with.
He will be greatly missed. What a terrible shock.*

*I offer my utmost and deepest condolences to Michael's family and
friends.##imported-begin##Nick Rashby##imported-end##*

April 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike*

*You will be missed.
Someone said it much better than I could - you had a gift fro making
everyone feel included. Your enthusiasm was infectious.
I am proud to say that I knew you.
It was always a pleasure to work with you.*

You will be missed.

Jay##imported-begin##Jay Ignaszewski##imported-end##

April 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Hard to believe this world is without Michael Vitti. We had some fun times together down on 17th Street, you were very talented and a funny person. You will be missed! Condolences to the family##imported-begin##John Rapaport##imported-end##*

April 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *It was a pleasure to work with Michael on his events...he was a true force and will be misses*

Bill Sobel

Founder

NY:MIEG##imported-begin##Bill Sobel##imported-end##

April 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest and sincerest sympathies to the family. Mike was a dear friend and a truly special person. He will be missed by all and never forgotten by anyone who knew him.##imported-begin##Rob Birnholz##imported-end##*

April 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ben and family,
We are saddened to hear of your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Hank and Donna Daignault##imported-begin##Hank

Daignault##imported-end##

April 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Michael only recently helped me by providing necessary info through emailing. We were corresponding the week before his passing. I am deeply saddened by this incredible loss. But the spirit of Michael's cooperative efforts will never be lost.##imported-begin##Lou Wirth##imported-end##

April 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike Vitti, you were one of the good people on earth who touched so many lives and never asked for anything in return. You gave from the heart and showed kindness to all who knew you.

Thank you for your kind words when I was self deprecating after my public speaking debut in NYC. Thank you for encouraging me when I was sad during my divorce. Thank you for reinforcing the thought that life is good. You had a good life - one worth emulating and reflecting upon. Thank you, Mik, for being my friend.

I would like to express my deepest sympathies to Mike's family. He will be missed by so many people.##imported-begin##Jeff Handy##imported-end##

April 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ In loving memory of Michael who brought sunshine wherever he went! He will be deeply missed.##imported-begin##Patti and Ed##imported-end##

April 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I was very saddened to hear of Michael's death. He was a good friend and he will be missed.##imported-begin##Ethan Gussow##imported-end##

April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

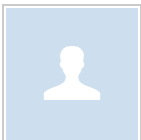


“ Michael, what a terrible shock of news, not a call I needed to receive.....Now, who's gonna open up the Vineyard house every spring, where do we stay when we're in the city? Not very considerate Mickey! YOU'LL always be one of the most talented photo artist the world will know....Its such an honor to have framed your work over the years. And you know that photo shoot you did of Kai and I meant so much to be in print with you. Michael, your work will forever live on---I stare at the TIME SQUARE PIECE everyday, Its been hanging in my living room for nearly 20 years. MICKEY this is not goodbye because you're the man thats the life of party!!!!

LOVE YOU MICHAEL

duane patricio##imported-begin##Duane Patricio##imported-end##

April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Chistopher, Eileen and all the Vitti family. Our sincerest sympathy on the sudden passing of your brother Michael, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Aunt Mary and Uncle Joe Matheson

17 Rosewood Ave.

Glace Bay

Nova Scotia

Canada##imported-begin##Mary & Joseph Matheson

Sr.##imported-end##

April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Mike’s family,
I was an early childhood friend of Mike’s. My earliest memories of Mike were playing in the sandbox in my yard or under the tree in his front yard. We would drag our Tonka trucks around and build roads, or take our army men and have battles. Many summer days were spent racing and crashing bikes, building forts, or horsing around on the block. We did each other’s paper routes, and Pam made many a fabulous spaghetti meal, the gold standard for all future Italian cuisine. Later, Mike and I went to elementary, middle and high school together. We drifted apart as we grew older, but I reminisce about the fun we had as kids to this day. Just this week, I relayed the story to my students about our get rich scheme of stripping copper wire for Mike’s Dad, Benjamin. I will miss you Mike, and wish your family strength and courage.##imported-begin##Andrew Angle##imported-end##

April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To our dear minkey
we have and will always love you more than you can ever imagine. You have added such spice to my life as your little sister and poured yourself into to my whole family. It is inconceivable to us that we wont be able to play with you any more. You have enriched our lives in so many ways...your spirit and genuine character are part of our being now and will be sustained as long as we live. THANK YOU for being in our lives. Love you, miss you!##imported-begin##sharon, steve, estelle, bryce, charlotte and andrew##imported-end##

April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *To one of the best people I have ever come to know: I can't accept that you are gone. You leave behind a troupe of friends from all over the world who loved and admired you Michael. You were such an inspirational, fun, and genuinely good soul. I'll not be the same, nor will our industry brotherhood. Peace my friend. And thank you.*

-Keith##imported-begin##Keith Larsen##imported-end##

April 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM