



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

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Media Release

Exceptional Calgary Artist Honoured with the Annual Award for Sustained and Significant Contribution to Theatre

Calgary, AB – Patricia Benedict was announced as this year’s recipient of the Harry and Martha Cohen Award. A tribute was paid to Patricia Benedict in a special ceremony following Saturday’s opening night performance of *Tyland* by Greg MacArthur, as part of the 24th Annual Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays.

The award is given out annually during the Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays and recognizes those members of our community who have demonstrated a significant and sustained contribution to theatre in Calgary. The award nominations are open to on stage and backstage nominees, including but not limited to, actors, directors, administrators, designers, philanthropists, playwrights, dramaturgs, stage managers, teachers, technicians and volunteers. The award consists of a cash prize, a framed certificate, and the addition of the recipient’s name to a scroll that hangs in the Martha Cohen Theatre Lobby.

“I was absolutely delighted and thrilled,” said Patricia Benedict, as she accepted the award and thanked the theatre community for their support and belief in her work. She expressed her gratitude to the many people that she has both worked with and taught over the years, and encouraged theatre goers to continue their personal support of theatre arts, just as she “continue[s] to haunt theatre foyers to this day.”

The award was established by Philip, Cheryl, Faye, and David Cohen in honour of their parents, Dr. Martha Cohen, and the late Dr. Harry Cohen, and the first award was created on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary in December 1985. The award is administered on behalf of the Cohen family and Alberta Theatre Projects. An independent and anonymous jury with various backgrounds and connections to the Calgary theatre community selects the award recipient each year.

This year’s winner was nominated by Clarice Evans Siebens and Grant Reddick, who are both past recipients of the award.

“Pat is passionate about the arts and has devoted her life to artistic endeavours,” said Clarice Evans Siebens in her nomination letter. “Pat gives her total commitment and support to the theatre project in which she is involved. I know that our theatre community would be very happy to see [her] recognized for her ongoing commitment to theatre in Calgary.”

Patricia Benedict was a teacher, has directed plays at the university, and also directed students in contemporary plays. After retiring from the university, she has remained active in theatre and has even performed with actors who had previously been her students. Ms. Benedict appeared in the Alberta Theatre Projects’ production of *Wit* in the 1999/2000 season.

“Everyone knows Pat Benedict. She is a respected figure in Calgary’s theatre world, and I think, deserving of the Harry and Martha Cohen Award,” said Grant Reddick.

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Media Inquiries

Aldona Barutowicz

Publicist

Alberta Theatre Projects

(403) 294-7433 ext. 1118

www.ATPlive.com