



A LEGACY OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

THE RANDY SMITH SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION

The Randy Smith Scholarship Fund was established at the Victoria Foundation in 2008 to honour Randy and recognize his many contributions to the cultural life of Victoria and Vancouver. This Fund, established by his friends and family, provides a scholarship to a graduating student from Victoria High who intends to pursue a career in theatre or performing arts.

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

2011 SYLVIA FARR	2015 OWEN ERICKSON
2012 KATHRYN TADDEI	2016 BENJAMIN ALTO-BOND
2013 MOHAMMED RASHEAD	2017 ASHLEY RICHTER
2014 BRENNA METZMEIER	2018 CHRISTOPHER STEWART

RANDY'S STORY

"Randy wanted a career in theatre and recognized how tough it was; he found ways of making opportunities possible. It was evident he had a vision of what he wanted to do."

Jim Harding, Playwright

EARLY YEARS

Randy was born and raised in Victoria and graduated from Victoria High School, where he had his first taste of theatre. That first brush with the stage led him to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Theatre at the University of Victoria.

In 1986, when Randy heard that legendary opera director Robert Wilson was going to be in Vancouver for Expo '86, he contacted Wilson directly and talked himself into an apprenticeship with him. This apprenticeship took him to Stuttgart and La Scala in Milan, where he experienced firsthand how operas were created.

FOUNDING OF INTREPID THEATRE

Returning to Victoria, Randy wanted to carve out a career in theatre, but realized such opportunities were few and far between. He was eager to widen the pool of opportunities for new theatre graduates which led him to help found Intrepid Theatre and become its first Artistic Director. He extended his vision with Intrepid to produce the first Victoria Fringe Festival in 1987, a collaboration that continues to this day. The Festival has achieved an important place in the cultural life of Victoria.

OPERA YEARS

Randy left Intrepid Theatre in 1992 to work with Pacific Opera Victoria where he produced *con'temp'aria*, a national festival of new opera. He was hired in 1995 as General Manager of Vancouver New Music, where he learned about contemporary music and honed his skills as an arts administrator. His passion for his work increased when he joined Vancouver Opera as the Director of Artistic Administration. He was in his element: his strengths as an administrator, negotiator and diplomat made him an integral member of the company.

During his time at Vancouver Opera, Randy was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was determined to beat the disease and tried numerous treatments over the next five and a half years, while maintaining a full, active life. Despite his best attempts, he did not win his fight against cancer, and he passed away in September 2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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