

Special Feature – CITT/ICTS 2006 AWARD RECIPIENT

On August 12 2006, Toronto hosted the 9th Annual CITT/ICTS Award Banquet in recognition of individuals and companies that excel in their field of live performance in Canada. Every month, StageWorks will feature a portrait of this year's CITT/ICTS Annual Awards Recipients.

This month we feature the CITT/ICTS Education Achievement Award recipient. The CITT/ICTS Education Achievement Award is awarded to an individual, in recognition of longstanding career achievement as an educator. This individual engages in the teaching of a technical or related discipline, while preparing students for work within the Canadian live performance industry. **This years recipient is Norberts J. Muncs.**



Norberts Muncs (right) receiving his award from Graham Frampton / Norberts J. Muncs (à gauche) recevant son prix de la part de Graham Frampton

Norbert J. Muncs

A 1982 graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Norberts J. Muncs has worked and continues to work as a Production Manager, Technical Director, Tour Manager, and Lighting Designer. Since 1990, he has been the Production Manager/Technical Director for Ballet Ouest (Montreal), and in 2004, Norberts J. Muncs was elected President of the Quebec centre of the CITT/ICTS: CQICTS. Over the years he has lit the stages of many Montreal theatres including the Saidye Bronfman Centre and Centaur Theatre. His current full-time position at the National Theatre School of Canada (NTS) has helped him to create made to measure programs of study such as the technical Production program. The program's goal is to form creative leaders in the technical and managerial fields of theatre. Graduates of this program go on to active careers in production management, technical direction, stage management, and sound or lighting design. Norberts is also a mentor to many fellow colleagues in the workplace. His ability to transmit his passion for the performing arts transcend into other related milieu, such as the presidency of CQICTS that he overtook in 2004. He has since lead the organization to a higher level of recognition within Québec that will serve future generations of theatre professionals. Norberts is more than a teacher. He is a great human being.

CITT/ICTS Education Achievement Award Acceptance Speech

Fellow members, Guests, friends,

When I was informed that the CITT/ICTS had chosen me to receive the "Educator of the Year Award", I was deeply moved and quite overwhelmed. I would like to thank the CITT/ICTS and its members for honouring me in this fashion.

From my earliest steps onto the stage, then as a student, now during my ongoing career as a production manager, lighting designer, technical director, educator and most importantly as a husband, father and a human being, I have tried to make a difference.

To be recognized by one's peers for outstanding achievement in any endeavour or field of work, in my perception, means that you have made a difference.

As a student, I was amazed and inspired by many individuals. However, three stand out; Freddie Grimwood, Francis Reid and Chris Brown. I would like to thank them for their ever present support and guidance.

To Perry Schneiderman, thank you for showing me how important it is just to listen and to keep your sense of humour.

During my career, I have met an incredible number of theatre people, who have all permitted me to learn from their experiences, share their ideas and watch how they make a difference. I would like to thank all of them, many of whom are present tonight, for giving me those opportunities and insights.

To my family, Maureen, Sara, Emily, Julia and of course my parents, a great big hug and thank you for putting up with production weeks, late phone calls, all manner of emergencies and most importantly for providing me with a home where I can recharge myself. Oh yeah... I didn't forget girls... thank you to Amber our dog and Spice our cat... and the fish.

To all the students whom I have been lucky enough to meet, who have trusted me with their hopes, dreams, tears and laughter. Who have truly inspired me with their hard work, confidence and vision. Who continue to be unafraid to fall, determined not to fail and allow themselves to be picked up and thrown into the forge again and again. Thank you for forging me into an "Educator of the Year".

Learning is a "two way street". You need a willing student and a willing teacher. Both need to learn from each other in order to fulfil the mandate of growth and exchange of knowledge. Patience is required, because you need to take the time to explain what is new, learn things correctly and allow the new information to simmer. We all live the refrain, "if we only had a little more time".

Repetition is essential, in order to provide opportunities to make mistakes and then take the time to correct them. Rehearsal in French is *répétition*.

Inspiration is a constant need, for without it both sides can fall into complacency and boredom. Inspiration is the reflection of art.

Learning is truly a team effort. Just as any live performance venture. We all share in the responsibility to put on quality productions and events. We all share in the responsibility to provide quality education.

We all here and across the country, professional, non-professional, for profit, not for profit, artist, builder, corporate, free lance, all of us have been and continue to be, students who are learning their craft. We need to continue to find new ways to share our knowledge, resources and inspiration, to help all students young and old to build that "two way street". These actions will be a benefit to all and we, as a team, will be able to make an even bigger difference, not only in our industry, but also in our lives and in the world.

I will leave you with some inspirational thoughts and words that have served me well over the years. Whenever I was faced with, what I thought was an insurmountable problem, Freddie Grimwood would tell me to "DEAL WITH IT!" Chris Brown lives and breathes Yoda's maxim "There is no try...there is do or do not!" Perry Schneiderman would quote me The Marx Brothers' Chico Marx,... "Why a Duck?"... My own, "There are no problems, only questions waiting for solutions."

But the most important one to remember, I believe, comes from Francis Reid; "Theatre is a People Industry!" Everyone repeat together now... THEATRE IS A PEOPLE INDUSTRY!

Thank you and Live Long and Prosper

Norberts J. Muncs
August 12, 2006