

2009 Leonard McHardy And John Harvey Award Winner: Naomi Campbell

Toronto, June 3, 2009 – The Leonard McHardy and John Harvey Award (LMJH Award) was inaugurated in 2008 and recognizes the important work of theatre, dance and opera administrators. Recipients of the LMJH Award have at least 10 years of demonstrated commitment to the performing arts, in addition to having made an impact on the industry in Toronto. The Award is named after Leonard McHardy and John Harvey, the celebrated owners of Toronto's Theatrebooks that they co-founded in 1975, and now stands as one of the longest surviving independent bookstores in the country.

This year's recipient is Naomi Campbell, an enormously talented and resourceful theatre producer who, for over twenty years, has devoted her career to creating, managing, strengthening and leading non-profit arts organizations in Toronto. Her efforts have made a significant and long-standing impact on the health of the arts in Toronto and Canada. The commitment and leadership she demonstrates is unparalleled. She has broken new ground as the driving force behind some of the most creative work in the country.

Naomi Campbell has worked tirelessly to support theatre and theatre artists – mostly as a producer, but also as a teacher, writer, director, designer and stage manager. Campbell has produced over sixty new Canadian works, most recently the much acclaimed City of Wine festival for Nightswimming. She is currently the producer for Nightswimming and DVxT Theatre, and the former producer for Mammalian Diving Reflex. She is also the Industry Series Producer and Touring Liaison for the Magnetic North Theatre Festival.

She coordinated Obsidian Theatre's Apprenticeship Program from 2003-2008 and has worked with VideoCabaret, Crow's Theatre, b current, Aluna Theatre and Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland, as well as providing ad hoc assistance to dozens of theatre practitioners across the country. She has produced tours to the UK, Denmark, the U.S. and across Canada. She was also the producer for the late Paul Bettis' Civilized Theatre from 1991 until 2005 and she is currently leading an archival project to preserve his legacy and the work of Theatre Second Floor and Civilized Theatre.

She has made an indelible impact locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. Her service as Chair of the 12 Alexander Street Board of Directors, contributions as mentor, instructor and manager with countless small and mid-size

arts organizations, participation in the important arts advocacy work of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatre and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts, political leadership as a founder of the Department of Culture, and her personal commitment to seeking equity for women in the arts and cultural diversity in the workplace, has been remarkable and all encompassing. She has developed new models for producing theatre and is an inspiring role model for a younger generation of arts managers.

The previous winner of the LMJH Award is Jim LeFrancois. The LMJH Award is administered by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). LMJH Award potential recipients are nominated by TAPA members and then reviewed by a committee. Chaired by Sandy Tulloch, the LMJH Selection Committee is Derrick Chua, John Harvey, Jacoba Knaapen and Gayle Matthews. The award winner receives a plaque and a cheque for \$1,000 through the generous sponsorship of Elizabeth Comper.

TAPA is an arts service organization that represents nearly 200 professional theatre, dance and opera companies in the City of Toronto, and works to create an environment in which the performing arts may flourish. In addition to the Dora Mavor Moore Awards, programs and services offered by TAPA include: T.O. TIX – Toronto's One-Stop Ticket Shop at Yonge-Dundas Square, the Go Live Toronto marketing campaign and the Commercial Theatre Development Fund. For more information visit www.tapa.ca.