

National Arts Centre names first group of David Leighton Arts Fellows to be honoured through its Leighton Talent Development Endowment

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日期 National Arts Centre
摘要 May 23, 2007, Ottawa (Canada) - The National Arts Centre has named the first group of David Leighton Arts Fellows to be honoured through its Leighton Talent Development Endowment, recently established as a legacy and tribute to former NAC Board Chair, Dr. David Leighton.

关键词 Leighton Talent Development Endowment



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In keeping with the intent of the endowment, which is to support and develop emerging talent in the performing arts world, this year's Leighton Fellows are actress Renée Bourque and Paula

Bourque, both recent graduates from the University of Alberta Department of Drama programme, and Richard Wilson of Galiano Island, BC, representing in technical theatre with urban risk Productions (Vancouver). (Please see attached biographies and photos.)

Each of these three young Aboriginal artists is benefiting tremendously from the opportunity to work with the centre Aboriginal artist, creative team and NAC Artists' Director Peter Hinton on Copper Thunderbird, an NAC English Theatre urban risk Productions coproduction. In addition, the honour and recognition associated with being named a Leighton Fellow is something they will each carry with them throughout their career.

Copper Thunderbird is an imaginative interpretation of the life of Canadian painter Norval Morrisseau. It is the final play in the 2006

07 English Theatre season, Peter Hinton's inaugural season as Artistic Director.

While the play runs 1997 as its point of departure, it is a creative interpretation by the playwright Marie Clements of Norval Morrisseau's possible thoughts about his past life. It is not a biography or in any way a complete story of the many complex aspects of the artist's thoughts and history. Rather it is a way of looking at what Morrisseau's work means to us as a country.

The Leighton Talent Development Endowment was established in honour of Dr. Leighton's career.

year term as Chair of the NAC Board of Trustees, during which time he helped lead the NAC into a time of unprecedented vitality and financial health. Dr. Leighton and his wife and partner Peggy Leighton were champions of the NAC's four artistic disciplines, and countless performances.

Under the leadership of Ralph Barford, 10 founding partners each committed \$50,000 to the Leighton Talent Development Endowment. Its endowed gift of \$500,000 will be used to establish the David Leighton Arts Fellowship for emerging artists and arts professionals.

The other nine founding partners are: Grant and Alice Burton, Purdy Crawford, Margaret and Jim Fleck, The George and Helen Gardner Foundation, Donald K. Johnson, F. Ross Johnson, Michael and Sonja Koenig, John and Nancy McArthur, Barbara Poole and the late John Poole.

David S.R. Leighton served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NAC from May 1999 to June 2006.

