

Remembering an Entertaining Legend: Sibel Thrasher



Image description: Sibel Thrasher holding a microphone and reaching out into the audience while smiling

In April 2020, we lost one of Vancouver's immensely talented entertainers. Sibel Thrasher, whom you may remember as an unforgettable and powerful vocalist and actor, performed at the Arts Club and several other venues in Vancouver. Many of us were touched by her amazing spirit and beautiful energy and we offer our sincerest condolences to her family, friends and loved ones.

We recently spent some time with Bill Millerd, Arts Club Artistic Director Emeritus and Sibel's brother-in-law, Terry Wolfe, film director and producer to learn more about Sibel and her legacy.

Terry Wolfe and his wife Marlene Dixon met Sibel during the Arts Club musical *Ain't Misbehavin* in 1985. At that time, Marlene was the Public Relations Manager at the Arts Club and became fast friends with Sibel. The show was an immense success and went on to play for two years. Terry describes Sibel as "having an incredible presence both on stage and off."

In the late 80s, Terry and Marlene attended an event for the Arts Club at the Vancouver Art Gallery with Terry's brother Michael. He had just moved back from California. Sibel and Michael were introduced and it was instant chemistry. They were partners for twenty years and planning their marriage when sadly Michael passed on. Sibel passed a year later.

Originally from Cincinnati, Sibel began singing at the age of six. In the late 70s, she worked with jazz icon Roy Ayers and L.A. doo-wop group, the Platters. While performing with the Platters in 1981, Sibel visited British Columbia, fell in love with the city and made it her home.

Terry recalls a time when Sibel was singing in the River Rock Casino Resort lounge. James Brown was entertaining in the Casino's show theatre and after his performance, he and his entourage came into the lounge. Brown gave Sibel the best compliment, "what are you doing in the lounge, you should be in the big show theatre!"

In 2004, she was absolutely thrilled to be inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame. "She felt the love and recognition of all her fans in BC" Terry shared.

"Sibel valued her time on the stage, she lit up! She had a great connection with the audience. When entertaining at a night club or stage venue, Sibel's signature was that she had a special way of interacting with her audience, an inner magic that was relatable to everyone. If we were gifted with one more day in her presence, we would want to spend that time listening to her sing" share Marlene and Terry.



Image description: Sibel Thrasher holding a microphone, singing passionately, and reaching her arm in the air



Image description: Sibel Thrasher and other actors on stage, smiling and dancing

Artistic Director Emeritus, Bill Millerd met Sibel when he was working with Dean Regan, director of *Ain't Misbehavin'* on casting roles for the show. Dean and Bill went to hear Sibel sing in a Gastown venue and were blown away, "Sibel had amazing stage sense and vibrancy!" She was cast! "She was always keen to learn and took acting lessons to improve her theatre work" Bill shared. In 1990 she went on to act in the Arts Club's *Blues in the Night*. Sibel was a vibrant and cherished member of our local community and a dear member of the Arts Club family.

There will be celebration of life of her life at the BMO Theatre Centre in the upcoming months. A date is to be determined.

The Arts Club Remembers Ian Waddell



Image description: Ian Waddell and Bill Millerd smiling

Ian loved the Arts Club! He was on the Arts Club board in the late 1970s leading to the opening of the Granville Island Stage in 1979. He resigned from the Board when he became an MP in the same year. When spending more time in Ottawa, Ian welcomed Vancouver theatre artists when they came to Ottawa and was a champion of the West Coast cultural scene.

In the 1990s, Ian returned to assist with the Stanley Theatre capital campaign, serving on the committee and helping the company secure government funds. From his years as an MP, his knowledge and enthusiasm were integral to the acquisition and opening of the Stanley in 1998.

After his 14-year career as an MLA, Ian joined the Artistic Director's Circle (ADC) and started attending opening nights. His support continued as he joined the Arts Club Council of Governors in 2002. Ian was never shy about promoting ideas of what we could do to improve the Arts Club. Bill shared, "Ian would give me suggestions for plays or musicals he had seen. He was a fountain of ideas and tireless in promoting the Arts Club. I will miss him at ADC receptions where he would make a beeline to tell me his latest idea."

Thank you Ian for your generous support, we miss you!

Find your Inner Thespian – Theatre Classes for Adults

Theatre education isn't only for youth! Arts Club's *adult courses* invite community members to learn the craft of theatre making in a friendly, supportive environment. Our courses for adults (18+) are aimed at those who are interested in learning about theatre, creating theatre, and being part of a warm, vibrant community. No experience required. Visit <https://artsclub.com/education/adult-courses> for course dates. Read on to learn more about the adult courses we offered recently.



Image description: A Zoom screen of students with the text "ACTING 102 WINTER COHORT!"

Playwriting 101

During this 8-week course, students learned the fundamentals of playwriting, from character development and dialogue to conflict and scene structure. Instructed by LEAP alumni Sydney Marino, our most recent cohort included theatre educators, beginners, and enthusiasts. There were 12 students in attendance for its inaugural session.

"I'd like to thank the Arts Club for offering adult courses. This was my first experience with an Arts Club course and it has been very positive. Kudos to Sydney, Hila and Kevan."

–Playwriting 101 student



Image description: A Zoom screen of students with the text "ACTING 101 WINTER COHORT!"

Acting 101

During this 9-week course, 13 students learned the foundations of acting: character creation, scene work, improvisation, physical theatre, storytelling, and created original scenes that they shared in a special final class. This class was instructed by Hila Graf, our Education & Community Engagement Manager. This was the third time we've offered this course, but the first time it was offered in person.

"It's a fun, creative, expressive course in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere. For anyone interested in acting and new to it, it's a terrific way to explore, experiment and learn."

–Acting 101 student

Community Creates

This devised theatre program invites adult community members to come together and create a show. Students will explore acting, writing, and movement while working as an ensemble on an original performance that will be staged and performed on the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre on April 25. **Join us for this performance to learn more about the course experience.**

"Loved the collaborative process. Everyone is involved and contributes to the experience. Everyone is able to move safely within their comfort zone and expand it. Everyone has opportunity to grow creatively regardless of previous knowledge and experience." –Community Creates student

Frequently Asked Questions about Leaving a Gift in Your Will Legal Advice from Richard Bell, Partner, Bell Alliance LLP

Richard has over thirty years' experience in estate planning. It is important to give your Will planning some thought. The questions and answers below may help you through the planning process.

"As a legacy member of the Arts Club, I can tell you that it is a wonderful feeling to know your legacy gift will make a difference to future theatre generations." –Richard Bell

1. How do I decide how much to leave to charity in my Will, and still make sure there is enough left to take care of loved ones?

This is a very important and personal decision. We are very fortunate to be living in Canada and having the ability to support causes that are important to us and our community. The amount you decide to give will depend on a number of factors: the size of your estate, any outstanding financial obligations, and how much you want to leave to your loved ones. You will also need to decide if you are giving to multiple charities, and if you are giving a percentage of your estate or a dollar amount.

Many people give a percentage of their estate, as they cannot be sure of the future value of their estate due to the potential significant cost of care as they age. Large estates have greater flexibility and can give large dollar amounts, but even then, most give percentages. When planning your charitable giving it is best to talk to your professional financial advisors. It is also a good idea to let your chosen charities know you are leaving a legacy as they would like to say "thank-you".

2. What steps do I need to take to add a charitable gift to my Will?

Adding a charitable gift in your Will is a simple process. Contact your legal advisor and let them know which charities you wish to support and whether you wish to give a fixed amount or percentage of your estate. You'll need to indicate if the amount or percentage will be shared equally among charities, or if you'll give a different amount or percentage for each individual charity. Your legal advisor will ensure a charity is registered with Canada Revenue Agency and include the correct legal name and registration number in the charitable gift clause in your Will.

When giving to charity you can specify in your Will that your gift be used for specific services or activities, held in an endowment fund, or disbursed at the discretion of the charity. Charities usually prefer having discretion as to the use of the funds as they have the best perspective on the areas of greatest need at that future moment. The impact of COVID is a perfect example of the benefits of giving an organization discretion.

3. What if I have already written my Will, how do I go back and add a charitable donation to my Will?

Amending an existing Will is also a simple process. The Will can be amended by what is known as a "Codicil". If there are multiple changes it often is better to create a new Will. Many people don't review their Wills for many years so when they consult with an experienced estate planning legal advisor, the advisor is likely to suggest some additional changes.

An experienced advisor may also provide information on legal structures that create tax advantages for you and your estate and avoid the time-consuming probate process.

4. When I pass away, how will my gift make it to my charity of choice?

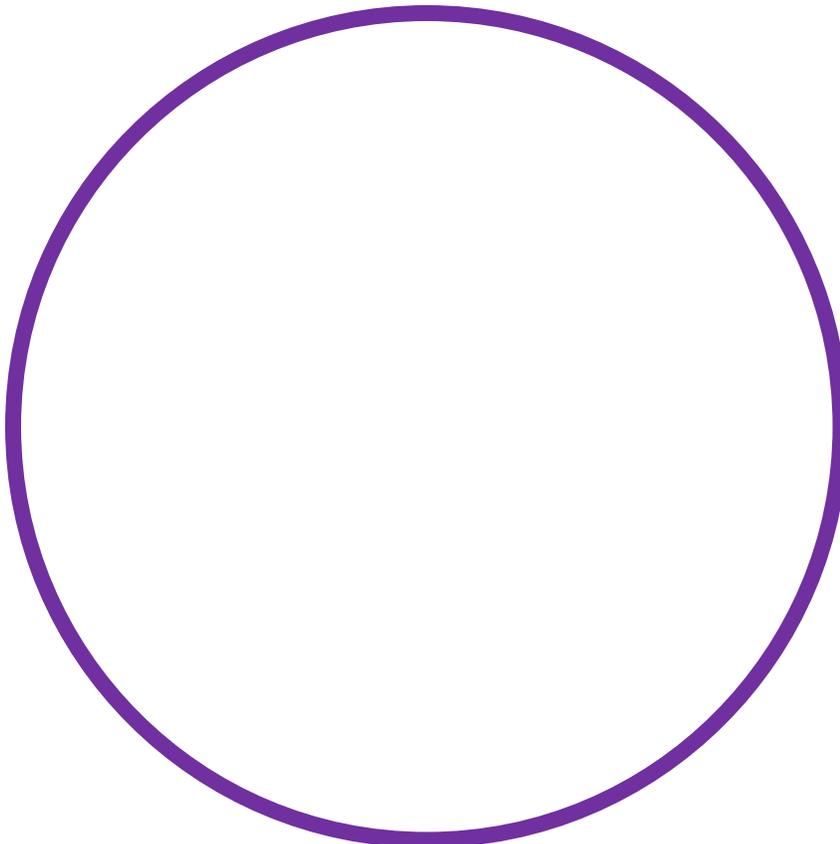
An executor is the person you appoint to manage your estate upon your death. The executor is responsible for giving notice to all the beneficiaries, gathering and securing all the assets, obtaining probate, paying debts, disposing of assets, filing tax returns and disbursing to beneficiaries. If your estate holds shares in public companies your executor will likely give public shares to a charity as opposed to selling the shares and giving cash to the charity. When an estate gives public shares to a charity the estate receives a full tax receipt for the value of the shares and there is no capital gain tax on any increase in value of the shares since acquisition as would normally be the case, resulting in a significant benefit to all beneficiaries.

Richard has offered to give a free Will planning workshop organized by the Arts Club over Zoom in the upcoming months. If you would like to receive the notification, please email us at cgautreau@artsclub.com.



Thank you to Richard Bell and Bell Alliance Lawyers & Notaries Public for their continued support and sponsorship of the Legacy Circle program. For assistance with planning for your future, visit the Bell Alliance website for more information.

Image description: Bell Alliance's logo that reads "BELL ALLIANCE a personal approach to law" with the text "Thank you Richard Bell and Bell Alliance Lawyers & Notaries Public for their continued support and sponsorship of the Legacy Circle program. For assistance with planning for your future, visit the Bell Alliance website for more information."



Are you interested in joining the ARTS CLUB LEGACY CIRCLE?

LEGACY

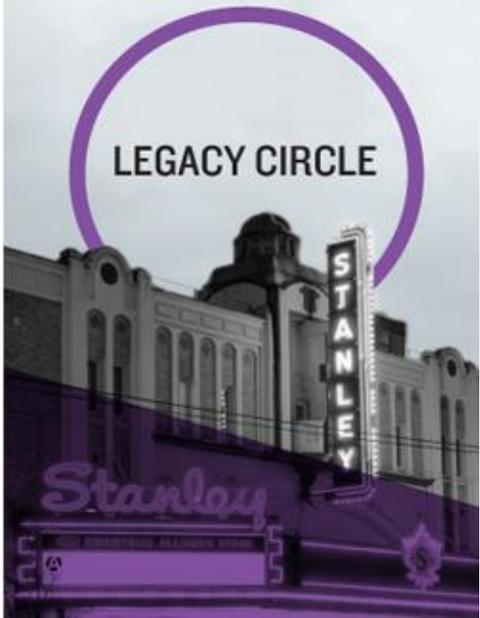


Image description: A black and white photo of the outside of the Stanley Theatre with the text "LEGACY" at the top and a purple circle with the text "LEGACY CIRCLE" inside it

Anyone who loves the Arts Club can make a legacy gift. Large or small, all gifts will ensure that theatre will thrive for generations to come.

Legacy gifts can also provide you with important reductions in estate and income taxes. When making a decision about leaving a legacy, we encourage you to speak with your legal and financial advisors.

Anyone who has left a legacy gift to the Arts Club will be welcomed into the Arts Club Legacy Circle—a group of likeminded individuals who share a love of the performing arts.

Legacy Circle members are recognized in each of our play programs and in our annual report. If you choose to remain anonymous, we assure you that your information is kept in strictest confidence.

If you have already included the Arts Club in your estate plans, please consider letting us know. We would welcome you into the Legacy Circle and ensure that your wishes are carried in the manner you have intended.

To join the Arts Club's Legacy Circle, please contact Catherine Gautreau, Associate Director of Fund Development, cgautreau@artsclub.com.