

WHY JACK AND LYRICA BRADSHAW HAVE CHOSEN TO LEAVE A LEGACY

(Written by Lyrica)

It was the summer of 2001. The play was *And Then There Were None*, and it was a much-needed breather after two years of fighting to climb out of depression and get back on my feet. Having worked as a freelance translator for 10 years, stuck between two languages for long hours seven days a week for months at a time, I was totally burnt out. That night at the Stanley Theatre turned my life around. It rekindled my lifelong passion for storytelling and writing. Live theatre became my biggest dream “retirement project.”

As my husband Jack and I attended more shows, I started to realize that the Arts Club was a lot more than plays on stage. The more I learned about what was involved in live theatre, the more I was drawn into it—to the point that I even started to make small donations to the Arts Club. Our theatre-going life got even better around 2012 when we were invited to join the Artistic Director’s Circle, which allows members to attend exclusive events like opening night receptions and behind-the-scenes tours. These invitations made it easy not to miss a show.

I love sinking into my seat as the lights go down. When the lights are up again, I find myself transported into the world of the story that’s about to be told onstage. The Arts Club’s plays are full of these emotionally rich moments. If I were to name just a few favourites, they would include *Avenue Q*, *Onegin*, *The Piano Teacher*, *The Shoplifters*, and *Bed & Breakfast*.

I also had the incredible fortune to sit in the rehearsal hall and watch Bill Millerd direct the musical *Once*. From the first day to the night of the dress rehearsal, I sat in the corner like a (well-behaved) theatre mouse and watched the play come to life right in front of my eyes. It was magic. I learned a lot about the complexity of the theatre arts and the kinds of resources required to put a play on stage. I was truly happy that my husband and I had named the Arts Club as the beneficiary of our wills.

We hadn’t discussed getting a will until we downsized to prepare for our inevitable old age with no children. Our main concerns were: What will happen to what we leave behind when both of us are gone? Who will inherit the fruits of our lives? We looked at each other and I said, “The Arts Club. They are like my family now. I’m going to leave everything to my theatre children and grandchildren.” Then my husband said, “Okay. Make a copy of your will, and just change your name to mine.” So, we made identical wills!



Sharing stories is what has made us human since time immemorial. Helping to ensure that the theatre lights keep burning brightly is one of the precious gifts you can leave behind to ensure the survival of this human tradition. I am also very selfishly motivated to help the Arts Club. I am an aspiring playwright, and when and if I ever complete a play worthy of being on stage (and happen to leave it behind in my desk drawer), I want that stage to still be there. I intend to be reincarnated as the happiest fly on the theatre wall to hear my story being shared!



BYRON ACEMAN LEAVES A LEGACY:

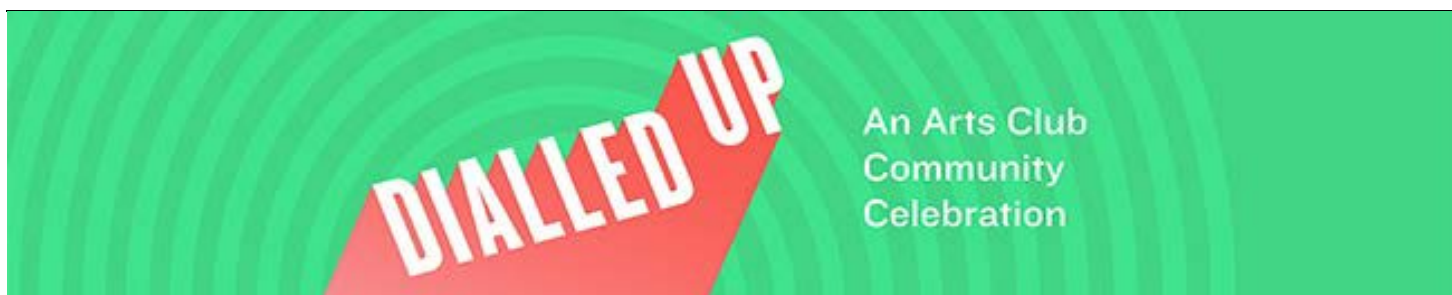


Byron Aceman was a genuine benefactor of the arts. The Arts Club was honoured to have Byron as a patron for over forty years. We knew him as a lover of theatre, a collector of art, an avid traveller and someone who truly appreciated great cuisine. Unless he was traveling abroad, we could count on Byron to be present at every Arts Club opening. Not only did he try to attend every play, he generously donated annually through the Artistic Director's Circle. Byron was a gentleman; before renewing his subscription and gift, he would personally come into the office each year and sit with the staff to learn about each play in the upcoming season. Byron always had specific questions about each production, and he enjoyed learning about the details behind the scenes. He was eager to see the Arts Club succeed and was clearly invested in seeing us do so.

Byron enjoyed attending each opening night reception for the Artistic Director's Circle donors. As often happens, patrons become friends over time and Byron had many friends. Byron, being a culinary connoisseur always provided us with feedback on the catering and helped us ensure we did our best to tantalize everyone's taste buds!

Over the years, Byron attended the Arts Club's cooking classes and galas. Besides making thoughtful gifts annually to support new play development and youth education, he additionally donated to several capital campaigns including the opening of the Stanley Theatre and more recently to the new BMO Theatre Centre.

The Arts Club is honoured to be remembered in Byron's will with a bequest. Byron's gift will continue to uplift, inspire, and educate audiences for many years to come. Byron, we miss you and extend our heartfelt gratitude!



SPECIAL EVENTS TO WATCH FOR

Here at the Arts Club, we're ending this summer with a bang! August is packed with exciting content and events, offered through **Dialled Up**, a digital festival, which takes place from **August 8 to 14**, and highlights the ways we support and engage with the work of local theatre artists. Watch for a reading of Silver Commission-in-progress *Redbone Coonhound* on **Friday, August 14** by Omari Newton—as well as many other videos and panels from participants in our professional development initiatives, this week is sure to be a blast.

We are also excited to share the second play reading in our **SPACED OUT** fundraising series. *Sexy Laundry* written by playwright Michele Riml, will be available in person and digitally on August **22 and 23**.

COVID-19 PROMPTS AN INCREASE IN WILLS

Richard Bell and Bell Alliance Lawyers & Notaries Public

At Bell Alliance LLP we have seen an increase in estate planning enquiries due to COVID-19. In some cases clients were self-isolating so we needed to get creative as Wills must be executed in front of two witnesses who are not beneficiaries and everyone needs to be present at the same time. We did develop a temporary solution and lobbied government to allow for video witnessing.

The good news is that on May 19, 2020 the Solicitor General issued a Ministerial Order which enabled the video witnessing of Wills, Powers of Attorney and Representation Agreements. A better late than never Order but still important for people that remain concerned about doing their estate plan but who are reluctant to attend at a lawyer's office. The Order only applies during the state of emergency.

So as I always tell my clients, the best thing you can do for your loved ones is to get your affairs in order.

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.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS FOR CARING ABOUT OUR FUTURE

Robert & Enneke Allan	Dr. Kathleen Dahlstrom	Dr. Ronald Jobe	Todd & Valerie Prodanuk
Corinne Assayag	Sam & Elizabeth Dunbar	Linda M. Johnston	Joanne Pugh
Richard Bell	Wilson Durward	Bruce Kellett	Derek and Johanna Rundell
Philip & Donna Bernard	Bill & Sandra Epplett	Marvin & Irma Lamoureux	Alfred Schultz & Leona Kolla
Jack & Lyrica Bradshaw	Bruce & Dale Flexman	Bonnie Mah	Robert Sharman
Boivie Family Fund	Stephanie Hargreaves	Bryan Mabee & TerriLynn Ray	Jo-Ann Ternier
Grant Burnyeat	Lee Grills	Betty McGowan	D. Marion Thomas
Judith Coffin	Jack Holmes	Bill Millerd & Marsha Sibthorpe	Anthony & Noreen Willingdon
Vicki Cuthbert	Brenda Hudson	Susan Mueller	Terry Whitehead
Judi L. Curtiss	J.M. Hurst	Gaylene Newman	Anonymous x16



Leaving a legacy gift is an ideal way to be remembered as a dedicated benefactor of the arts and to help the Arts Club achieve a long and vibrant future.

If you are one of our guardian angels and have already left a gift in your estate, please join our Legacy Circle and allow us to thank you and ensure your wishes are honored.

If you are considering a legacy gift and would like additional information about our options, please contact Eleanor Ryrie, Planned Giving Officer at 604.687.5315, ext.281 or at eryrie@artsclub.com. **Thank you!**



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