



Leslie Yeo

May 29, 1915 – September 14, 2006

With more than 60 years of landmark success in theatre, film, television and arts management and administration, and having performed more than 500 roles on the professional stage, Leslie Yeo was one of the most highly respected members of the Canadian Artistic Community.

Leslie Yeo's ability to combine creative energy, artistic integrity and solid business process to his considerable endeavors was both extraordinary and remarkable. In memory of Leslie Yeo, who passed away September 14, 2006, and his exceptional contribution to Actra Fraternal Benefit Society, the Board of Governors is proud to announce the establishment of The Leslie Yeo Award for Volunteerism.

Leslie's unique and colourful story begins in England in 1951 when he formed the London Theatre Company. Without sponsorship or subsidies of any kind, he assembled a cast of fourteen highly skilled actors, shipped them to St. John's, Newfoundland, and staged twenty-six plays in twenty-six weeks and made a profit.

He and the company returned to St. John's with new plays and players for five more seasons, and included performances in Halifax and at the Grand Theatre, London and in Niagara Falls.

In 1957, Leslie was granted Canadian citizenship. During that year, anticipating the impact of television on live theatre, Leslie disbanded the company and moved to Toronto. In its six seasons in St. John's, the London Theatre Company had presented 107 different productions, 39 of them in period costume, each with a full stage set and each production staged in one week.

Later that year, Leslie began to direct large industrial musicals and conventions, an area dominated by directors from the U.S. Over the next twenty years, he directed thirty IBM conventions and thirteen Chrysler dealer shows, two of them in England on the stage of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

In 1973, Leslie abandoned the lucrative industrial show circuit and returned to theatre. In 1979 he was appointed Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival. During his tenure, he restored the box-office to its former profitable glory and introduced lunchtime theatre.

Throughout his life, Leslie showed great concern for others, as exemplified by his selfless devotion to ACTRA and Actra Fraternal Benefit Society. Leslie was one of the first thousand people to join ACTRA and was soon elected to the Board, serving as Treasurer from 1967 to 1971. During his term, he was also named to the Board of Trustees for the old insurance and retirement plan.

In 1972, the Board was reorganized and renamed the Board of Administration and Leslie became its first Treasurer, playing a central role in the establishment of the organization's own insurance company. In 1975 he was a founding father of Actra Fraternal Benefit Society and served as its Vice-President Finance, and Chairman of the Insurance Committee for most of the next fifteen years.

Leslie was a pivotal architect in growing The Society's insurance and retirement plan from \$700,000 in start-up capital to more than \$500 million in total assets under administration today.

Since its inception in 1986, Leslie was an integral member of the Society's Scholarship Committee, and was an active resource on insurance and retirement matters relating to our membership.

On January 1, 2000, 50 years after his company first landed in Newfoundland, the St. John's Telegram announced that Leslie Yeo had been voted one of the "Newfoundlanders Of The Millenium" in recognition of his great efforts and celebrated successes.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Leslie Yeo Award for Volunteerism, 2010

The Board of Governors of Actra Fraternal Benefit Society is pleased to announce the **Call for Nominations** for the Leslie Yeo Award for Volunteerism, 2010.

To be eligible for the Leslie Yeo Award for Volunteerism, the individual must meet the following minimum requirements:

- To have been nominated for the award;
- To have made an exceptional, non-financial, voluntary contribution to the Canadian Artistic Community;
- To be either a current or past Member of Actra Fraternal Benefit Society;
- The nomination and supporting documents must be received at AFBS before 5:00 p.m. EST, February 1, 2010.

The Leslie Yeo Award for Volunteerism consists of a \$5,000.00 cash award to the recipient.

All nominations must be received at AFBS c/o the Chair, The Donations Committee, before 5:00 p.m. EST., February 1, 2010. Additional criteria is as follows:

- A Member may nominate any Member (current or past), including himself or herself, for consideration by the Donations Committee of Actra Fraternal Benefit Society;
- All nominations must be provided in writing, addressed to the Chair of the Donations Committee and must include the following:
 - Name of the person nominated;
 - Contact information of the person nominated;
 - Name of the individual nominating the person;
 - Contact information of the nominator;
 - Rationale for the nomination;
 - A minimum of **two** additional letters in support of the person nominated.

The Donations Committee of Actra Fraternal Benefit Society will make a recommendation to the Board of Governors for the recipient of the Leslie Yeo Award for Volunteerism 2010, at the Society's February 2010 Board of Governors meeting.

The final decision will rest exclusively with the Board of Governors of AFBS.

Since nominations cannot be altered once they have been submitted to the Society, please take the time to review nominations thoroughly. The Donations Committee makes its decision based on the content of the nomination and letters of support and does not review additional materials.

The recipient of the award will be contacted and the award presented at the AFBS Annual General Meeting which is held in late May/early June of each year.

Eligibility Requirements

The Award

Nomination Process

Selection and Award Process