



## Media Advisory

February 20, 2006

### 2005 Sam Payne Awards to honour three outstanding performers

You are cordially invited to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sam Payne Awards Ceremony on:  
Friday March 10,  
Sun Sui Wah Seafood Restaurant, 3888 Main Street  
1:30 Chinese banquet followed by Awards Presentation (approx. 2:30)

Established in 1984, two years after his death, the Sam Payne Awards are named in honour of one of Vancouver's well loved and respected professional actors. Recipients are nominated in two categories:

- **The Sam Payne Award**, which annually recognizes professional performers displaying humanity, artistic integrity and encouragement of new talent – all attributes that were often used to describe Sam Payne's personal qualities and his contribution to Canadian theatre, film, radio and television;
- **The Sam Payne Lifetime Achievement Award**, which was started in 1995 to recognize a Union member's accumulative outstanding body of work in the industry. This year marks the first time two members have been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.

2006 Recipients:

- **Carol Whiteman - Sam Payne Award.**  
Two-time Governor General's Award nominee, Carol Whiteman is the President and CEO of Creative Women Workshops Association, and co-creator of The Women In the Director's Chair Workshop (WIDC), a program founded in 1996 to encourage women of all ages to pursue their passion for creating films. With over 20 years experience as an actor, writer, producer, and advocate for women's issues, Carol works to bring out talent in women directors by facilitating workshop sessions and providing personal coaching and mentorship to participants.
- **Eleanor Collins - Lifetime Achievement Award.**  
Eleanor Collins, Jazz-Pop-Inspirational Singer, was the first variety show performer in Canada to have a national, weekly television show named for her, The Eleanor Show in the early 1950's. Always considered a consummate professional, this talented and engaging artist enjoyed a long career with CBC Radio and Television and received numerous awards for her contribution to arts and entertainment. At 86, she still takes part in the Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Orpheum Theatre Remembrance Day Concerts, and has appeared with Vancouver's *Mother of Pearl* all woman jazz quintet.
- **Leonard (Len) Gibson - Lifetime Achievement Award.**  
One of the most versatile African-Canadian dance artists this country has ever produced, Len Gibson has danced, choreographed and taught all across Canada, in the U.S. and Britain. He was the creator of *Bamboula: a Day in the West Indies*, the first live musical variety series produced in Vancouver and one of the first television shows to feature an interracial cast. He danced in the film classic *Cleopatra*, starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, and starred in many musicals. He is described as having been instrumental in launching the careers of many of his

former students and touching them personally with his sincerity, his professionalism and his humanity.

Previous winners of the Sam Payne Awards include Joy Coghill, Dorothy Somerset, Elizabeth Ball, Norman Young, John Juliani and Bev Fyfe.

Invited to share the celebration of this year's recipients are Betty Phillips, Joy Coghill, Antony Holland, Elizabeth Ball, Blu Mankuma, Donna Wong Juliani, Alessandro Juliani.

Attached is full bio of this year's recipients, list of all recipients from 1984 and bio of Sam Payne.

For further information contact:  
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