

PRESS RELEASE

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GLITTER—The Arts Club Honours

Thursday, October 23, 2008

Celebrating **Leon Bibb, Morris Panych, and Janet Wright**

VANCOUVER, BC— The Arts Club Theatre Company is pleased to announce their 6th annual fundraising gala **GLITTER—The Arts Club Honours**, which will be held **Thursday October 23**, at the **Villa Amato Ballroom**. The star-studded, glitzy evening will include the celebration of three artists who have made a significant artistic contribution to the company over the years. These honours will be bestowed annually in the run-up to the 50th anniversary of the Arts Club in 2013. This year's recipients are **Leon Bibb, Morris Panych, and Janet Wright**.

Bill Millerd, Artistic Managing Director said, "I am looking forward to publicly honouring those who have contributed artistically to the company over the years. This year's honourees are to be celebrated for their extraordinary talent, creativity, and dedication to the history of the Arts Club, and to the greater Vancouver arts community."

The event will be hosted by **Mark Docherty**, news anchor for Citytv's *Breakfast Television*, and will feature a cocktail reception, dinner, entertainment, and live and silent auctions. A three-course dinner will be masterfully created and catered by **Dino Renaerts**, executive chef of **Diva at the Met**, and paired with the fine wines of **Sonoma Vineyards** (California). Proceeds from the gala will help support the various arts and educational programs at the Arts Club.

About the Honourees:

Over the past thirty-five years, singer and actor **Leon Bibb** has made numerous appearances at the Arts Club. A member of the original Arts Club cast of *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, which opened on the Seymour Street Stage in 1972, he joined the cast again for a 1987 remount, and a 25-year reunion performance in 1997. Other Arts Club productions include *An Evening with the Bibbs and Mortifees*, *Side By Side By Sondheim*, *Give Out the News*, and *A Musical Evening with Ruth Nichol and Leon Bibb*, which was the first performance on the Arts Club's Revue Theatre Stage in 1983.

Morris Panych is known throughout Canada, Britain, and the U.S. as a playwright and director. Seven of his plays have premiered on the stages of the Arts Club including *7 Stories*, *The Dishwashers*, *The Ends of the Earth*, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, *The Necessary Steps*, and *Simple Folk*. As an actor he has performed in five Arts Club productions—*Art*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Being at Home with Claude*, and *Children of a Lesser God*. In addition he has directed 10 Arts Club productions, including the musicals *She Loves Me* and *Sweeney Todd*, both of which won Jessie Awards for Outstanding Production and Direction.

Janet Wright has worked as both an actor and director in 36 productions (22 as actor; 14 as performer) for the Arts Club. Among her directing credits: *It's Snowing on Saltspring*, *Thirteen Hands*, *Steel Magnolias*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Glengarry Glen Ross*, winner of a Jessie Award for Best Direction. Her work on *Elizabeth Rex* earned Jessie Awards for Best Production, Best Actor, and Best Actress, among others. Ms. Wright currently plays Emma in the popular CTV series *Corner Gas*.

IN BRIEF: The Arts Club Theatre Company presents their 6th annual fundraising gala **GLITTER—The Arts Club Honours**, on **Thursday, October 23, 2008**, at the **Villa Amato Ballroom**. The event begins at 6:30 pm with a cocktail reception and silent auction followed by entertainment, dinner, and auction. The Villa Amato Ballroom is located at 88 East 1st Avenue and Quebec. **Tickets are \$200 (including a \$100 tax receipt) and are available through the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644.**

The Arts Club Theatre Company, now in its 45th season, is a not-for-profit charitable organization that operates two theatres on a year-round basis, the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage and the Granville Island Stage. The company also tours a three-show mini-season throughout the province annually.