



Media Release: Sunday, November 2, 2008

Canadian Actors' Equity Association Honours Awards 2008

Canadian Actors' Equity Association (Equity) will honour Bernard Hopkins, Lloy Coutts, Louis-Marie Bournival, and Derrick Chua on November 2nd in Vancouver, British Columbia. "Once again our Honours Committee faced the difficult task of selecting award recipients from a talent pool of so many deserving candidates." said Allan Teichman, Equity President. **Bernard Hopkins** (London, Ontario) and **Lloy Coutts** (posthumous) will both be presented with *Life Membership* in Equity in recognition of their distinguished careers in the performing arts. "Together, Bernard and Lloy exemplify artistic excellence and the value of mentorship in Canadian theatre." continued Teichman.

Bernard Hopkins, former artistic director of the Banff Centre and The Grand Theatre, is an accomplished performer. "Besides Bernard Hopkins' individual achievements as an actor and director this talented 'man of the theatre' is regarded by many in Equity's membership as a valued guide and teacher" reports Teichman. Lloy Coutts, renowned voice coach, dramaturg, director and professor, has helped shape many of the classical theatres in Canada today. Lloy, who recently passed away of Multiple System Atrophy, "will forever be remembered by the myriad of students she taught in her exceptional 30 year career, and treasured for her wealth of knowledge of classical theatre and her love of language."

Louis-Marie Bournival (Vancouver) will receive the prestigious *Larry McCance Award* for his outstanding contributions to the Association. He has been an active member of Equity serving as either an Advisor or Councillor in British Columbia during his 30 plus years of membership. "Louis-Marie's dedication to the Association and to 'Theatre Cares Vancouver,' a volunteer-based organization created to raise funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS relief, demonstrates his career-long commitment to fostering a sense of caring community within his profession." praised Allan Teichman.

Independent theatre producer **Derrick Chua** is the 2008 recipient of *Honorary Membership* in Equity, awarded in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the performing arts. He is a co-founder and producer of Studio 180, an ensemble devoted to theatrical storytelling and the collective theatre experience. Derrick's name is ubiquitous with independent theatre production in Toronto, and various productions he has worked on over the past eight years have garnered over 30 Dora nominations. "Derrick's impressive track record over such a short span has made a dramatic impact on the Toronto and Canadian theatre scene, and we are proud to now include him in our membership" said Teichman.

Additionally the 2008 *Stage West - Equity Emerging Theatre Artist Award* winner will be announced on Sunday, November 2nd. Kawa Ada is this year's winner of the \$2,000 cash prize, initiated in celebration of Equity's silver anniversary in 2001. The Award, sponsored by Stage West Theatre restaurants, recognizes an Equity member of three years or less who has made a significant contribution and impression as an artist. Kawa is a multi-talented performer, already notable for his involvement in the theatre scene across Canada, most recently at the Shaw Festival and Canadian Stage.

Equity is the voice of professional artists working in live performance in English Canada. It is a national artists' association representing more than 5,500 performers, directors, choreographers, fight directors and stage managers working in theatre, opera and dance from coast to coast.

Awards Presentation: Sunday, November 2nd, 8:00 – 9:15 p.m.
The Backstage Lounge, 1585 Johnston Street, Granville Island, Vancouver B.C.

Contact: Lynn McQueen, Communications Director
416-867-9165 ext. 243, 416-476-7037(m) after Thursday, October 30, commdir@caea.com