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**NANCY J. WEBSTER**  
**Honoured with**  
**Leonard McHardy and John Harvey Award**

Toronto (May 30, 2016) – The **Leonard McHardy and John Harvey Award** (LMJH Award) was inaugurated in 2008 and recognizes the important work of theatre, dance and opera administrators. Recipients of the LMJH Award have at least 10 years of demonstrated commitment to the performing arts, in addition to having made an impact on the industry in Toronto. The award is named after **Leonard McHardy** and **John Harvey**, the celebrated former owners of Toronto’s Theatrebooks, which they co-founded in 1975. Until its closure in July of 2014, it stood as one of the longest surviving independent bookstores in the country.

The Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) announced today that this year’s recipient is arts manager and theatre champion **Nancy J. Webster**. Ms Webster is currently the Executive Director at Young People’s Theatre (YPT), first serving there as Managing Director from 2004-2009, and returning as Executive Director in 2013 after four years as Managing Director, English Theatre at the National Arts Centre (NAC).

Nancy’s ability to establish long-term advancement and stability and inspire innovation has allowed YPT to engender multiple years of budget surpluses (defying national trends), grow the annual budget, create a national model of integrated programming and much more. Importantly, Nancy’s expertise and unwavering commitment has allowed the company to pursue its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary goals, namely, to address the long-needed revitalization of YPT’s facilities.

Nancy Webster also has held other key roles in Toronto’s theatre community. As Producer of the Toronto Fringe Festival, she helped establish it as one of the most innovative and successful Fringe Festivals in North America. During her tenure as Managing Director of Factory Theatre, she sustained resources for the company’s new play development throughout a period of serious financial challenges.

During the ten years she spent as President and Past President of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), Nancy made a significant, volunteer contribution to the Canadian theatre community including a complete restructuring of the bylaws and board structure, resulting in significant diversification of PACT’s membership.

The range of experience that Nancy has had leading the organizational vision at companies of vastly different sizes and mandates makes her a unique and special resource. She is one of the most sought after advisors and mentors in Canadian theatre. She currently has roles with the Metcalf Foundation’s Creative Strategic Incubator program and the Ontario Minister of Culture’s Advisory Panel devising Ontario’s new culture plan. She is a dearly loved and exceptional mentor, lending an ear and a helping hand with a generosity of spirit to other arts administrators as well as emerging and developing theatre managers.

The previous winners of the LMJH Award are Sue Edworthy, Meredith Potter, Paul Templin, Leslie Lester, Ghislain Caron, Natasha Parsons, Naomi Campbell and Jim Lefrancois. The LMJH Award is administered by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). Candidates for the LMJH Award are nominated by TAPA members and then reviewed by a committee. The LMJH Selection Committee is Sandy Tulloch (Chair), Ghislain Caron, Derrick Chua, Leonard McHardy and John Harvey. The award winner receives a plaque and a cheque for \$1,000 through the generous sponsorship of Elizabeth Comper.

*The **Dora Mavor Moore Awards** are administered by the **Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA)**. In addition to the Doras, other programs and services provided by TAPA include: [www.whatsontonight.ca](http://www.whatsontonight.ca), *TOnight* (an app for Toronto performing arts tickets), *Toronto Theatre Guide*, [hipTIX](http://hipTIX.com) (offering \$5 tickets to students between the ages of 14 and 29), [citySPECIAL](http://citySPECIAL.com) (a ticket program for newcomers and at-risk youth), the Commercial Theatre Development Fund and the Travel Retreat Initiatives Program – TRIP. For more information visit [www.tapa.ca](http://www.tapa.ca).*