

## **Leonard McHardy and John Harvey**

Leonard and John met at Toronto's Global Village Theatre in 1972. The theatre was home for new Canadian musicals and what was called "dance drama". Leonard was directing *EYES – A Gothic Musical* and John, who had been a high school teacher in London, ON was looking for a new career. AT GV everybody discovered skills that may not have known they had. Right away John started re-building scavenged furniture which became part of the EYES set. He also became an acting member (with Gilda Radner and others), in the theatre's "Modern Fables In Mime", a program which operated in Toronto schools. Leonard was also publicist at GV, known as "Chief Chatter". He was a recipient of a Theatre Ontario Director in Training grant and headed off to England where he worked as an Assistant Director at the Tyneside Theatre Company.

Back in Toronto, John and Leonard re-connected and things started happening. They decided to open a performing arts bookstore and TheatreBooks was born in 1975. Leonard went back into the profession when he accepted an invitation to join the Stratford Festival as Director, Press & Public Relations from 1978 – 1981. John became the mainstay of the store at this time while Leonard took on other theatre/film gigs following Stratford. Leonard ultimately returned to the store where he worked with John until 2014. They have served in various volunteer roles in both the theatre and civic communities.

Together since 1973, they were married in Toronto when the laws for same-sex marriage were enacted.