

## Arts & Culture Wall of Fame – 2010 Inductees

### Jacqueline R. Baldini

Jacqueline R. Baldini was born in New York in 1949 and has lived and worked in Niagara Falls Canada for the past 16 years. From a very young age Jacqueline would spend her lunch hours in the Munson Williams Proctor Institute Museum while other children were on the playground. She was more interested in art and books and was fascinated by Thomas Cole, a nineteenth century American artist who is considered to be the founder of an art movement concerned with the realistic and detailed portrayal of nature. At the age of 10 her parents sent her to the Munson Williams Proctor School of Art where she spent evenings and Saturdays morning engrossed in the arts.

She is the Executive Director, Signature Member, and Founder of International Plein Air Painters. She organized the first International Worldwide Paint Out for Plein Air Painters in 2003. Jacqueline holds the degree of Master of Photography, earned for the excellence of prints in international competitions and educational achievements, from Professional Photographers of America and a Craftsman degree earned by publishing articles, teaching workshops, and presenting educational programs to other professionals.

Jacqueline has been a plein air painter for over 30 years and currently instructs workshops in several countries. She is represented at several galleries including Niagara Fine Arts in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and John Turchin Art Gallery in Banner Elk, North Carolina. Her paintings and articles have appeared in several artists and professional magazines.

### James Cameron

James Cameron was born in Kapuskasing in 1954 and grew up in Niagara Falls (Chippawa). In 1971, he moved to California where he studied physics at Fullerton Junior College while working as a machinist and, later, a truck driver.

Cameron quit his trucking job in 1978 and raised money from local dentists to produce a 35mm short film. The visual effects in this film led to work on Roger Corman's "Battle Beyond the Stars" (1980). In 1983 Cameron wrote three scripts: "Rambo: First Blood Part 2", "Aliens", and "The Terminator". He directed "The Terminator" (1984) and "Aliens" (1986) and then wrote and directed "The Abyss" (1989). Following that he wrote, produced, and directed "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (1991), "True Lies" (1994), "Titanic" (1997), & Avatar (2009). His films have blazed new trails in visual effects, set numerous performance records, and earned many prestigious nominations and awards.

James has been an avid scuba diver since 1969, and in 1995 made 12 manned-submersible dives to the Titanic. The technical success of that expedition fueled his desire to bring the experience of deep ocean exploration to audiences around the world. He turned to documentary filmmaking and formed Earthship Productions to develop films about ocean exploration and conservation.

As an explorer, Cameron has been equally fascinated by outer as well as inner space. He is currently a co-investigator on the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Mastcam, which will be the first 3D motion imaging camera to operate on another planet, when it begins its exploration there in 2011. Cameron served on the NASA

Advisory Council for 3 years. Cameron is also continuing to develop a number of ocean projects, and other environmentally themed documentaries.

## **Leroy Edward Emmanuel**

Leroy was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1946 and later moved to Detroit, Michigan where he was raised. He received his first guitar at a very early age and taught himself to play. Leroy began his professional career at the age of 12. At 18 Leroy started his own band called the Fabulous Counts releasing five albums.

One day while walking down the street carrying his guitar he met Marvin Gaye who asked him if he wanted to jam. After that day they didn't see each other for years. In 1970s after meeting again Emmanuel was invited to record with Gaye in the studio for the "Let's Get It On Deluxe Edition". They stayed friends for many years. Leroy was later asked to portray his friend in a documentary about the tragic ending of his life making his acting debut.

Leroy has recorded with Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Funk Brothers, and performed live with Stevie Wonder, Al Green, John Lee Hooker, and Dionne Warwick. Between 1972 and 1982 Emmanuel worked with Hamilton Bohannon the disco king writing songs for his 22 albums. After disco ended Leroy played jazz in Toronto six nights a week. Later he toured for three years in a Vegas type show and then played on a Motown Tribute Show touring for five years all over Ontario, Quebec, and the United States.

Leroy, Mark Rogers (drummer), and John Irvine (bassist) founded the "LMT Connection", after twenty years of performing and recording many albums they still tour all over Canada and Europe performing their music to audiences that love their sound.

Emmanuel has resided in Niagara Falls for over thirty years playing all over the region at many clubs. Leroy also teaches and is willing sharing his talents with all.

## **Greg Frewin**

Greg Frewin was born in Hamilton in 1967. He is currently ranked as "The International Grand Champion of Magic," having won every major award offered within the magic community. He has placed first in numerous magic competitions including the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Society of American Magicians, the Canadian Association of Magicians and the Federation Internationale Society of Magique-widely regarded as the Olympics of magic. His winning streak recently culminated with his 2009 win of the "Magician of the Year" award at the World Magic awards, effectively ranking him as the world's top illusionist.

In his fifteen-year professional career Frewin has performed live all over the world, from Japan to Monte Carlo, cruise ships on the high seas to the Vegas Strip. He currently performs shows at the Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Frewin has also appeared on over 35 television programs including NBC's "World's Greatest Magic," ABC's "Champions of Magic" and his own CBC special "Magic Man: Home for the Holidays."

Frewin's love of magic began as a teenager in Hamilton, Ontario. At an early age he began joining local magic clubs and organizations, learning as many principles of the magical arts as possible. With the help of a mentor named Doug Basham, Frewin began to hone his skills. He attended college to study woodshop and machining, learning skills that would prove useful as a performer and as the primary carpenter behind 90% of his own props.

In 2005, after years of performing around the world, Frewin settled in the Niagara area and opened the Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

## Steve Karliski

Steve was born in Winnipeg Manitoba in 1940. He was the youngest of five and from a very early age Steve loved music and was giving recitals before the age of 10. In his teens Steve started composing songs, both lyrics and music. In the sixties after attending McGill University he headed for New York with his songs and became an instant success working with Larry Kolbar, Barry Mann, Neil Sedaka and Carol King. Later moving to Nashville his country songwriting credits and number 1 hits including "Yes Mr. Peters", featured on Sixty Minutes. "Molly" was written during the Vietnam War and was recognized in writing by Senator Dole.

Many artists recorded Steve's songs including Billy Walker, Jack Greene Freddie Hart, Norma Jean, Tommy Cash, Bobby Goldsboro, Waylon Jennings, Wayne Newton, Teresa Brewer, Hank Williams Jr., Bobby Vinton, Tony Orlando, Patti Page, Tex Ritter, Frankie Lane, Gary Pucket and the Union Gap and many others. Steve wrote the soundtrack for several movies "A time to Sing", "Old before My Time", "Money Can't Buy Happiness" and more.

Steve wrote or recorded more than two hundred songs not to mention the dozen or so songs yet to be published. While not a prolific recording artist himself, Steve did release the 1973 Album "Gotta Keep Moving" (Perception Records), featuring his own versions of "Molly" and "For Loving You".

Steve passed away at the age of 67 in Niagara Falls, where he had been living for more than 10 years.

## Garry Rigby

Garry was born in Toronto in 1934 and has lived in Niagara Falls for 58 years with a long history of creating art. Garry was an early member of the Niagara Art Association and taken lessons at several art institutions including a course at the Royal College of Art in Toronto.

When Garry joined the Niagara Falls Music Theater Society in 1969 he began designing and painting stage scenery. He quickly became an accomplished designer and scenic painter doing work for Garden City Productions, "Oh Canada Eh!", Niagara Falls Grand Dinner Theatre, Port Mansion Theatre in Port Dalhousie, and Shakespeare in the Vineyard at the Henry of Pelham Winery.

He was commissioned by the Niagara Wood Carvers to design a large wooden plaque representing the Niagara Region. The plaque is now on permanent display at the Niagara Regional Headquarters.

Garry was chairman of the Senior Adult Art branch of the Niagara Regional Exhibition for twelve years and was on the committee for creating the murals in Welland. He has created designs for many local businesses and schools and created decorations for weddings and birthday parties. His most notable design was for a parade float "Maid of the Mist" for the Shrine Club. This float has promoted Niagara Falls in parades all over Canada and the United States.

Garry is a gifted and prolific model maker. Many of his set design models are on display at the Firehall Theatre.

He continues to be generous with his time and talent and over the last 40 years he has left a substantial artistic mark on Niagara.