

Arts & Culture Wall of Fame – 2011 Inductees

Diana Coatsworth

Diana Coatsworth was born on August 23, 1972 in Trenton, Ontario. She moved to Niagara Falls as a child and lived here for 18 years.

Diana started her acting career at the Firehall Theatre and her dance training at the Wendy Leard School of Dance where she was a Scholarship Winner. She continued her training at York University where she was a Dance Major. Her extensive training also includes studies at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts New York, the Randolph Certificate Training program (Scholarship Winner), Stratford Apprenticeship Training program, Yes O Yes Drama Outreach Playback Theatre Workshop (Full Scholarship), and Second City Conservatory Training program.

Diana spent 5 years in Stratford acting in many plays including lead roles in ThreePenny Opera and Cabaret, as well as being featured in My Fair Lady, Man of La Mancha, Oedipus Rex, Camelot, Julius Caesar and more. She was part of the Award Winning International Tour of "The Overcoat" entertaining audiences in Australia, New Zealand, Norway, England, US, and Canada. She continues to work as a choreographer, actor, singer and asst. director in venues across North America including singing with the Canadian Pop's Orchestra and being a cast member of the Second City National Touring Company. Other credits include lead roles in The Drowsy Chaperone, Cats, 39 Steps (Jessie Nominated), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Annie, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Peter Pan and many more across Canada and the US.

Her film career has included such films as Hairspray, the movie; CBC's "The Score"; Disney's Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen and Out of Synch as well as many commercials.

Diana continues to make the world a more colourful and interesting place.

Bob McAdorey

Bob grew up in Niagara Falls and attended Stamford Collegiate, where he was in the same graduating class as CBC news anchor Barbara Frum. As a teenager, he won a province-wide public speaking contest and was very popular with his fellow students.

He started his radio career in 1953 when he signed on with CHVC near the Falls, introducing listeners to his unique style of easy-going patter. After additional stops in London, Guelph, Hamilton, and Dawson Creek, Bob ended up at Toronto's popular rock 'n' roll station, 1050 CHUM.

Bob arrived at CHUM in the early '60s when many consider rock programming was at its finest and the DJs were the stars. CHUM was the station to listen to and McAdorey was the man who told you if the songs were going places. He introduced The Beatles on stage at Maple Leaf Gardens as well as The Rolling Stones. For years he hosted CHUM's 4 to 7 p.m. slot and could often be seen on the cover of those collectable CHUM's Charts.

McAdorey joined Global TV in the '70s producing humour segments and entertainment commentary. He became one of Global's most popular personalities, hosting a hit noontime telecast with Mike Anscombe and

John Dawe which became known as "The Three Nice Guys at Noon." Bob also interviewed celebrities as the laid back host of Global's daily afternoon series "Entertainment Desk."

In 2000, at the age of 65, Bob reluctantly retired from Global. He had a farm at Gormley and a place in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Despite his TV success he still yearned for the golden days of radio. Sadly, Bob died February 7, 2005 at the age of 69.

Frank Shuster

Frank Shuster was born September 5, 1916 in Toronto, Ontario. Frank was best known a being part of the comedy duo Wayne and Shuster. As a child, Shuster moved to Niagara Falls where his father worked as a projectionist. Frank spent many hours with his father in the cinema watching movies and learning about acting and comedic timing.

Shuster later moved backed to Toronto and attended grade ten at Harbord Collegiate. This is where he met his future partner Wayne and the comedy duo was born. They went on to attend University College at the University of Toronto together performing famously funny fraternity shows along with the U.C. Follies.

In 1941 Wayne and Shuster made their professional radio debut on CFRB Toronto. Soon after they were hired by the CBC and went National. During World War II Wayne and Shuster traveled to camps, hospitals, and the front line entertaining the troops. Returning to Canada after the war they returned to CBC in 1946.

In 1958 Wayne and Shuster made their first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show and a 30 year TV career was launched. "The Boys" as they were called did more Ed Sullivan appearances than anyone else.

Together they won a Genie Award in 1990 which was a Special Award for Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Television and in 1999 they were inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame.

Shuster was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Toronto in 1994 and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1997.

Frank Shuster passed away January 13, 2002 after over half a century of entertaining audiences and influencing many other Canadians.

Brian Smylski

In 1990, Brian became the Curator and later Executive Director of the Niagara Falls Art Gallery. He was a passionate promoter of the arts who believed that art should be available to all. He believed that an introduction to, and an appreciation of art should begin with children. Brian organized many arts programs and his staff continues to provide classes for all ages both at the gallery and in schools throughout the region. These programs became popular and in high demand, not just in Niagara Falls but also in St. Catharines, Welland, and other areas.

Brian received an Honours B.A. Degree from Brock University in 1981. He served as Curatorial Assistant at Rodman Hall Arts Centre, 1984-1990, was owner/publisher/editor of several regional arts journals and newspapers, and was editor of Brock University Press from 1980 to 1984. He presented many guest lectures at Brock University and at the National Gallery of Canada, in addition to contributing to numerous exhibition catalogues. Brian served on the city's Arts and Culture Committee for well over ten years, the Arts Education

Niagara Committee, the Board for the Niagara District School for Performing Arts, the Carousel Players Theatre Board, as well as other committees and boards. His calm advice and counsel were always appreciated.

The gallery has become a unique art education and exhibition facility. With the support of the Board of Directors, he instituted policies and procedures, rationalized and enhanced the Gallery's collections and collecting policies, and ensured a vibrant education program. Brian's greatest achievement and enduring legacy is the Niagara Children's Museum, where children of all ages will have a more fulfilling life because they have the opportunity to learn about art and enjoy it.

Brian was just fifty-three years old when he died on March 6, 2011, but he accomplished so much and left a lasting legacy.

Joel Zimmerman

Joel Zimmerman, better known throughout the world by his stage name deadmau5 (pronounced dead mouse), was born and raised in Niagara Falls. He grew up with a love of computers, electronic gaming, and music. He developed his unique sound as a teenager, and by age 20, he was performing live as an Electro Music Producer. He is now based in Toronto and is renowned for his innovative performances and cutting edge computer technology.

The name "deadmau5" originated when Zimmerman found a dead mouse in his computer while replacing a video card. He discussed this with chat room users and became known as "that dead mouse guy." He is known for performing in a costume head which resembles a mouse.

MTV named deadmau5 as the house DJ for the 2010 MTV video Music Awards. He has won numerous awards including: three Juno Awards (he's been nominated five times), nominated for a Grammy, won Best Artist, Best Canadian DJ, Best Electro Track at the International Dance and Music Awards and has won numerous other Beaport Music Awards.

His song "Ghosts N Stuff" was featured on the soundtrack for the MTV reality series Jersey Shore; "Some Chords" was featured on an episode of CSI: Crime Scene Investigation where Zimmerman guest starred; and an instrumental version of "Sofi Needs a Ladder" was featured in the film "The Hangover Part II".

Deadmau5 made history in December 2010 by selling out Earl's Court in London, with over 20,000 tickets sold. In the same year, he had the honour of playing live at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia. In 2011, he sold out the Rogers Centre in Toronto.

Niagara Parks Commission's Oakes Garden Theatre and Rainbow Gardens Artwork

The Niagara Parks Commission's Oakes Garden Theatre officially opened on September 18, 1937. It is located on the north side of Clifton Hill between Falls Avenue and River Road on the site of the former Clifton House and Lafayette Hotels. It was named in honour of the late Sir Harry Oakes who donated the property to the Niagara Parks Commission.

Oakes Garden Theatre was designed by early prominent landscape architects Dunnington-Grubb and Stensson, the architect was William Lyon Somerville. Noted Canadian artists Florence Wyle, Frances Loring and Elizabeth Wyn Wood created the artwork for the site. The design of the theatre is patterned after Beaux Arts principles. It consists of a fan shaped stage, limestone staircase, fountains, urns, statues, and bas relief panels and

medallions. Eight bas relief sculptures of Canadian bird life created by Loring and Wyle are located on either side of the arches.

In 1941, Rainbow Gardens was constructed to tie together landscaping around the new Rainbow Bridge with the formal style of neighbouring Oakes Garden Theatre. It consists of broad terraces with formal planters and carved balusters in the Art Deco style. Bas relief carvings designed by Loring and Wyle represent a distinct Canadian focus and include reliefs of indigenous flowers, farming and industry. The reliefs also record phases of settlement: a stagecoach, a farm, a rainbow arching over a hayfield, turbines and cogwheels to represent the harnessing of Niagara. Three limestone fountains designed by Wyn Wood include a drinking fountain modeled as a group of owls, a decorative fountain with arching salmon, and a corner fountain in relief of Canadian Geese in full flight.

Oakes Garden Theatre and Rainbow Gardens are very much a part of the rich culture of Niagara Falls and Ontario. The site continues to be a popular destination for tourists and locals alike.

Ladies and gentleman, please put your hands together as we recognize the Niagara Parks Commission's Oakes Garden Theatre and Rainbow Garden's Artwork and their contribution to the culture of Niagara Falls.

Honeymoon Suite

Honeymoon Suite, so-named in reference to its origins in Niagara Falls, "honeymoon capital" of North America was formed by Johnnie Dee. The band included singer/songwriter Johnnie Dee, songwriter Derry Grehan, and Ray Coburn as well as Gary Lalonde and Dave Betts. Honeymoon Suite's spirited, commercial style, supported by then new medium of music videos, brought the band success quickly.

In 1984, their first LP, Honeymoon Suite, included "New Girl Now" which was penned by Derry Grehan and featured on TV's "Miami Vice". This international hit became one of Canada's most recognizable songs and led to several tours in the USA. "Burning In Love" also made them staples of MuchMusic and MTV. The Big Prize was released Valentine's Day '85 and quickly turned platinum riding the singles "Bad Attitude", "Feel It Again", & "All Along You Knew" which featured Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson on flute. These singles were featured on TV series. In '86, Honeymoon Suite took part in the World Song Festival in Tokyo, Japan, representing Canada and winning the gold award for "Best Live Act".

In 1986, Honeymoon Suite received a Juno Award as "Group of the Year". In the spring of 1987, they produced a track for the Blockbuster film "Lethal Weapon" and another "One Crazy Summer" starring Demi Moore featuring the track "What Does It Take". In the 80's & 90's Honeymoon Suite continued recording albums & touring with "Racing After Midnight". In 1989, Honeymoon Suite released their first greatest hits compilation, The Singles, which included the new single "Still Loving You". In 2002, Honeymoon Suite released another studio album Lemon Tongue. In 2006, the band released a second greatest hit collection entitled Feel It Again. Honeymoon Suite toured extensively 2007 and in 2008 they entered the studio to record a new album Clifton Hill. Having 12 successful albums Honeymoon Suite continues to tour to sold out shows around the world, while still calling Niagara Falls home.