

WHY THE ARTS MATTER

"There are shortcuts to happiness, and dancing is one of them."

- Vicki Baum

"A child sings before it speaks, dances almost before it walks, music is with us from the beginning."

- Pamela Brown

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see."

- Edgar Degas

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

- Albert Einstein

"Life is short, art is long..."

- Hippocrates

"Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can."

- Danny Kaye

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.

- Pablo Picasso

Forum for Arts Education

"If my mother could see me now," began Gordon Pinsent at the Alliance's conference at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People on May 11, 2004. "She would never believe I was standing up here giving a speech at a conference."

Pinsent went on to give a stirring keynote address, speaking to the significance of Canadian art and artists within Canadian culture, to the importance of place and to his own sense of Winnipeg as home. "Artists need to work where they love to be" he said, referring to his own decision as an actor to stay in Canada.

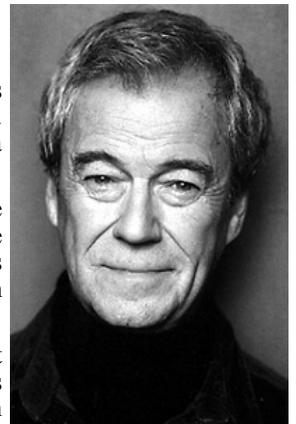
A second keynote was given by Eric Favaro of Nova Scotia's Department of Education, addressing how we might be effective advocates for Arts Education in our schools and communities. The nearly 80 participants in his following workshop came away full of energy and ideas.

The May snowstorm subsequently closed schools all over the Province, but 175 people from the schools, the community and professional arts organizations made their way to the Forks for the day. Out-of-towners ended up spending the night but several emailed afterwards to say it had been a wonderful conference and well worth it.

Sessions by (mostly) Manitobans were offered on such topics as "Arts Education: The Aboriginal Perspective", "Education and Academic Achievement: What the Research Says", "Innovation in the Schools," and "Arts Education Programming for Professional Arts Organizations." Students from Oak Park High School, Silver Heights Collegiate and Sisler High School performed, and a panel of students from around the province spoke of what their Arts Education had meant to them.

Those who had not had the opportunity to see the video "*Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter*" had the opportunity to do so, and the jazz lunch in MTYP's foyer was enjoyed by all.

The conference was financially supported by many organizations which have regularly contributed to our projects: The Manitoba Arts Council, CanWest Global Communications Corporation, Manitoba Fashion Institute, Wawanesa Insurance, the University of Manitoba's Faculties of Education and Music, the Fairmont Hotel, Great West Life, Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Tourism, and the Manitoba Foundation for the Arts. These are relationships we hope will continue.



Gordon Pinsent



Sisler's Most Wanted

Forum for Arts Education Comments

The forum was a refreshing experience for all art educators! Our job is often an isolated event where we are the island separated from the mainland of core curriculum. Art days such as this one at MTYP remind us that we are each a significant and integral part of the important whole of Arts Education. One of the highlights was the authenticity of Ian Ross who first spoke briefly on how art validated him as he grew up and then brought the thought provoking "Joe from Winnipeg" to the stage. For years Joe's insight and quiet, astute manner embodied the hearts and minds of many Winnipeg people. I, for one, will miss him. Thank you to all the dedicated people who work so hard to organize days like this! I am looking forward to getting together again soon!

Ingrid McMillan

Art Specialist – H.G. Izatt School

I had the privilege to participate in The Forum for Arts Education in the Spring of 2004. As a classroom teacher and a dance teacher I have also recognized and appreciated the value that Arts plays in the development of the whole child. Listening to the guest speakers as well as fellow teachers confirmed what I have always known... the arts breathes life into us all! Congratulations and thank you to The Alliance for their dedication and leadership in Arts Education.

Velvet Bergman

Meadows West School

I found the Alliance for Arts in Education Conference held last May to be a real treat to attend. It was extremely well organized, the choice of venue was excellent, and the key note speakers (Gordon Pinsent and Eric Favaro) were entertaining and shared their passion for the Arts. I especially enjoyed the video "*Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter*". The video made it clear that arts in the educational system are not simply a luxury but a necessity! This video should be available in all schools!! It was also a pleasure to be on a panel with other teachers sharing the challenges and success stories of integrating Art into their curricula. It was a very enriching experience for me. It's my hope that this conference becomes an annual spring event as it has so much relevance to educators and to all those interested in continuing to help the Arts flourish in Manitoba.

Nanette Godbout

Teacher, École Riverbend Community School

The Alliance for Arts Education Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the Conference Committee, led by Karen Lamb, for the success of the 2004 Forum for Arts Education. Their dedication and hard work contributed to the success of the Forum. Once again **THANK YOU!**

The Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba's Video Launch

A launch of the video, "*Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter*", was held at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on November 13, 2003. Nearly 250 people heard former mayor Glen Murray; Manitoba Arts Council Chair, Judith Flynn; retired Superintendent, Jean Yves Rochon; Liz Coffman, Instructor at the University of Manitoba; and Sisler High School Teacher, Kim Rampersad. The audience was treated to performances by the Louis Riel Divisional Choir, under the direction of Danielle Lorendeau, as well as the dance troupe, "Sisler's Most Wanted", with guidance from Kim Rampersad. Fred Penner emceed the evening, which wrapped up with a showing of the new video and a lovely reception. Manitoba Education and Youth has made over 900 copies of the video and distributed one to every school in the Province. The video is now in all Canadian provinces, in parts of the United States and has been distributed into parts of Europe. If you have not already ordered your own copy please do so as soon as possible.



"Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter" is a video that celebrates dance, music, art and drama and informs the viewers of the many benefits of an education rich in the arts - \$15.00/copy. Email Sylvie Cottee at scottee_aaem@shaw.ca.

Letter from the Chair

I am honoured to be writing to you as the new Chair of the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba. I am truly thankful to Coralie Bryant, the founding Chair of the Alliance for her many contributions, devotion to Arts Education, and great encouragement. Thank you to previous Board Members. It was a pleasure working with you. Your artistry, experience and hard work has been instrumental in the success of the Alliance's endeavours.

It has been another busy year for the Alliance, beginning with the launch of our video, "**Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter**", promoting the value of Arts Education.

The May 11th, 2004 Forum: **Why the Arts Matter – Education & the Arts 2004** was a great success. The keynote speakers, Gordon Pinsent and Eric Favaro, as well as the many informed presenters and facilitators did a remarkable job of articulating the importance and value of the role of Arts Education.

On May 16th, 2004, Coralie Bryant and I attended the Manitoba Foundation for the Arts – Awards for the Arts. Coralie was invited to present an arts education award to Marcelline Moody, in recognition of Marcelline's work in Arts Education. Marcelline's contribution over the years is a stellar example of work that enables the Arts to flourish in Manitoba.

Congratulations to two of the Alliance's Board Members, Dr. Francine Morin and Liz Coffman, for their appointments to work on the Provincial Arts Education Curriculum. Francine is the Project Manager and is also responsible for leading the dance component of the curriculum while Liz will lead the drama component. We are sure that they and their colleagues will develop a curriculum framework that all educators in Manitoba will be proud to implement.

The Alliance is dedicated to keeping you informed through this newsletter as well as our brochure, handbill and website. I encourage you to visit us online at www.allartsedmanitoba.org for the latest AAEM news and updates.

I look forward to working with the new Board of the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba, as we continue to explore the diverse avenues for sharing the necessity, availability and possibilities of Arts Education in Manitoba. I invite you to contact me at education@pte.mb.ca with comments and submissions for future newsletters.

*Jey Thibedeau Silver
Chair, AAEM*

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Individual Membership \$15.00
Organizational Membership \$25.00
Student Membership \$5.00
(These are one-time membership fees.)
Charitable donations accepted.
Tax receipts issued.

Mail Cheque or Money Order To:

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C/O SYLVIE COTTEE, COORDINATOR
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WINNIPEG MB R3R 3S3
scottee_aaem@shaw.ca

Marcelline Moody and the *Arts for Life Project*

Thanks to the support and encouragement of AAEM, my first (and, as it turns out, temporarily last) year of retirement was one of the busiest years of my life!

Four organizations combined to engage me for creative projects with their communities or clientele: St Norbert Arts Centre, West End Cultural Centre, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra. The project was financed through the Winnipeg Foundation.

In June of 2003, the school where I was currently working, Robert Browning French Immersion School in St James-Assiniboia School Division, performed "A Renaissance Garden Ritual" in the ruins and garden of St Norbert. This work was inspired by a work of R. Murray Shafer, "The Spirit Garden", which had been performed there a few years ago. It involved music, dance, speech and costumes of the Renaissance.

From October 2003 – April 2004 I was involved in a Song Circle with Moms and Babies at the Magnus Eliason Drop-in Centre. This project was organized by the West End Cultural Centre and involved my teaching songs and singing games that help with physical, mental and emotional, and language development. We all enjoyed these activities, and I hope they will make a difference in the lives of those moms and babies.

In October 2003, I began to prepare groups of students from 12 different schools to dance with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Gustav Holst's "The Planets" at the yearly Elementary Schools Education Concerts in February 2004. Promoting the Arts is a passion of mine and I firmly believe that *involving* children with the Arts will encourage them to pursue them in their lives, to their benefit and society's.

Also in October began the year-long "Composition" project with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, involving groups from 6 different schools. This culminated in the performance with the orchestra of "King Midas" at the Jubilee Place Auditorium on June 3rd, 2004.

So ended the academic year of 2004. I look forward to continued association with arts organizations to promote the Arts in Education.



Marcelline Moody

Meet The Board of Directors

Jey Thibedeau Silver, Chair: Education Director, Prairie Theatre Exchange.

Gordon Campbell, Vice-Chair: Principal, École Saint Avila.

Nan Carson, Treasurer: Outreach Coordinator, Manitoba Theatre Centre.

Coralie Bryant, Past Chair: Executive Director, Manitoba Association of School Superintendents.

Martha Carlton: Teacher, Swan Valley Regional Secondary School.

Liz Coffman: Instructor, U of M, Member of the Manitoba Arts Council.

Cameron Cross: Visual Arts Consultant, Pembina Trails School Division.

Jacqui Davidson: Principal, Recreational Division of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School.

Jeff Erbach: Education Coordinator, Video Pool.

Joe Halas: Art Consultant, Winnipeg School Division.

Fred Hines: Principal, Sunrise Support Centre and Sunrise Alternative Learning Program.

Dr. Francine Morin: Professor, Faculty of Education, U of M.

Pat Stefanchuk: Retired Principal, Margaret Park School.

Vicki Young: General Manager, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra.

In Memoriam

On August 4, 2004 **Jill Denise Mino**, Dance Educator and former Board Member of the Alliance for Arts Education in Manitoba passed away. Jill was involved with the Alliance from its beginning as an advisory board. She was responsible for coordinating the performances at our first conference **For the Love of the Arts: Arts & Education 2002** and she worked very hard on the committee that oversaw the creation of the Alliance's video "**Learning for Life: Why the Arts Matter**". Jill made significant contributions to the dance community and to her many students in Winnipeg (through the School of Contemporary Dancers and Westwood Collegiate) as well as throughout the Province. Jill was committed to the values of Arts Education and its accessibility for all students. We shall all miss Jill's passion, humour and dedication.

A scholarship fund in her name has been established at the School of Contemporary Dancers, where Jill was a member of the school's faculty for the past twenty years. Donations to this scholarship fund can be made to:

The School of Contemporary Dancers
Jill Mino Scholarship Fund
104-211 Bannatyne Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3P2
Telephone: (204) 452-1239