



VALE



Frank Ford AM (1935 - 2018)

We are very saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Adelaide cultural luminary Frank Ford AM, last Thursday. Frank was a dynamic and passionate advocate for the arts and part of the bedrock upon which South Australia's Festival state was built. In addition to Frank's professional achievements, his personal commitment to supporting and encouraging young performers and creative minds, cement his status as an elder statesman of Adelaide.

Frank studied acting, drama theory, dramaturgy, directing and cinema in his degrees: M.F.A. (Theatre Arts) from Columbia University, New York (Awarded the Richard Rodgers Scholarship); Certificate in Arts Administration, Harvard Business School; A.D.B (Associate of the Drama Board) London and B.A. University of Sydney.

He was an author and director of opera, music theatre, cabaret, experimental theatre, modern and classic drama and multi-media productions. His plays, adaptations and cabarets have been performed in Australia and overseas. He was former Head of the Department of Drama at Adelaide University and held various teaching, directing and arts administration positions here and overseas.

He was Founding Chair of Adelaide Fringe Festival in 1975, and its first Honorary Life Member. He initiated the Adelaide Cabaret Festival in 2001 and continued as the Chair of the Advocacy Committee. He served on many arts boards such as Country Arts SA,

Adelaide Festival and as Chair of the Australian Dance Theatre and was currently serving as Chair of the Independent Arts Foundation and on the Board of the Adelaide Festival.

In 1999, he was awarded Member of the Order of Australia for service to the development of the performing arts in South Australia as a director, playwright, administrator and educator. In 2001 he received the Centenary Medal for services to the community, particularly through the performing arts. In 2006 he received the inaugural Premier's "Life Time Achievement" Ruby Award for the Arts. He is an Australia Day, South Australian Senior of the Year Finalist 2015 and City of Adelaide, Citizen of the Year 2015. Also in 2015, Frank was honoured with an Adelaide Cabaret Festival icon award and in 2017 he was appointed Honorary Membership, Actors Equity division of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

Frank was a dedicated member of LPA's Helpmann Awards Cabaret Panel and a strong supporter of LPA's activities.

Frank's smile, his old school diplomacy, his generosity, his expertise, his enthusiasm and, most of all, his kindness will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and sincerest condolences are with Frank's partner Sam Harvey and his family and friends.



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