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## **Cheyne Charlwood**

**01/05/1946 - 02/07/2017**

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It is with great sadness LPA acknowledges the passing of Cheyne Charlwood, the face of Stage Door at Melbourne's Princess Theatre.

Cheyne was born into the Princess Theatre. Her mother, Dora, was an usher, and her father, Howard – known to all as "Ging" – was the Front of House Manager for over 50 years. Cheyne's childhood was spent roaming backstage and she was regularly found roller-skating on stage.

At 17, Cheyne began her theatrical career as an usher, soon followed by shifts at Stage Door. This was the beginning of her own 50+ year journey at the Princess. Cheyne was the stalwart of Stage Door, welcoming cast, crew, creatives and producers to her theatre.

During a quiet period in the 1980s, she worked briefly down the road at Her Majesty's Theatre. Cheyne returned to the Princess on its reopening in 1989 as the front desk and switchboard operator for Cameron Mackintosh, or more accurately, the gatekeeper for John Robertson, James Thane, Louise Withers and Andrew Payne. After the conclusion of *Les Misérables*, Cheyne returned to where she loved the most: Stage Door.

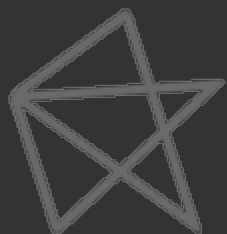
Cheyne, alongside Graham "Cookie" Cook, came with the furniture when David and Elaine Marriner bought the Princess in 1986. She brought with her an incredible wealth of knowledge and understanding of the business that she willingly shared with the new owners.

Cheyne's career spanned over five decades, two theatre owners, hundreds of productions, and thousands of friends. Her loyalty was her philosophy, but it was her wicked and incandescent humour – always delivered with a gleam in her eye – that was Cheyne's trademark. Even in her final days, her acerbic wit remained intact. To be barbed by Cheyne was to know you were loved.

It would be unfair to both Cheyne and her colleagues to suggest that she was anything less than a member of the family; a beloved identity of not just the theatre, but the industry.

LPA extends our deepest condolences to her partner Ian, her friends and her colleagues.

**A memorial service will be held at the Princess Theatre on Monday 10 July, 1pm.**



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