



CITADEL THEATRE

9828 – 101 A Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5J 3C6  
Tel: (780) 426-4811 Fax: (780) 428-7194  
Box Office: (780) 425-1820

Artistic Director DARYL CLORAN  
Executive Director PENNY RITCO

[www.citadeltheatre.com](http://www.citadeltheatre.com)

## MEDIA RELEASE

### CITADEL THEATRE MOURNS THE LOSS OF FOUNDER SANDY MACTAGGART

July 04, 2017

(EDMONTON) Edmonton philanthropist and long-time Citadel patron and benefactor **Sandy Mactaggart** has passed away in his native Scotland. He was 89 years of age.

Mactaggart was a founding member of the Citadel Theatre in 1965 with **Joe Shoctor, Ralph B. MacMillan** and **James L. Martin**. The four enterprising city builders contributed their own money to purchase and transform the old Salvation Army Citadel building into a theatre. Mactaggart served on the original Board of Directors of the Citadel and had been a member of the Board of Governors for many years.

Over the years, Maclab Enterprises, the property development company he shared with partner **Jean de la Bruyere**, proved to be a visionary ally and a steadfast financial supporter of the Citadel. The theatre's thrust stage was named after the company when it was built as part of the second phase of the new theatre complex in 1984. Maclab Enterprises sponsored a production each year on the Maclab stage, and also has supported such important programs as the Maclab Students Club, giving high school students in the greater Edmonton area access to Citadel performances and theatre professionals. Mactaggart also was a founder of the Edmonton Art Gallery.

In a 2015 interview for the Citadel Theatre archives, Mactaggart said he loved Edmonton from the start, appreciating the sense of equality, friendliness and helpfulness he found here. "You could get involved in everything," said Mactaggart. "You could build things into something that was better. And we were risk takers." Mactaggart went on to say that the Citadel Theatre put Edmonton on the map for having the biggest and best theatre outside Toronto, paving the way for other artistic ventures to gain a foothold in the city.

"Sandy to me was a gentle giant in so many different ways" said **Sol Rolinger**, Chair of the Citadel Board of Governors. "Marilyn and my numerous encounters with Sandy and Cecile were always interesting and all memorable to this day. He gave so much to this City and to what mattered in it, not only in being a founder of the Citadel Theatre and his Chancellorship at the University of Alberta but to so many other worthwhile causes. Words will never be enough to remember this wonderful human being. Go gently into the night my good friend."

"Sandy's contributions to The Citadel Theatre and the University of Alberta, amongst others, were substantial and exceptional," said **Marshall Shoctor**, a member of the Citadel's Board of Governors and son of founder Joe Shoctor. "His was part of the founding vision of The Citadel, and he sustained it for decades with his wisdom as a governor and with his generosity. Sandy

was a singular role model in philanthropy and in business, and a gentleman throughout. He was an irreplaceable Edmontonian.”

“Sandy will be remembered as one of the Citadel’s intrepid founders” said **Sheila Witwicky**, Chair of the Citadel Board of Directors. “He, along with his three comrades, took a big risk when they founded the theatre over 50 years ago and we will forever be grateful for the passion and generosity he brought to our theatre and to this City.”

“I can’t imagine the Citadel without the iconic MacLab theatre – the home of *A Christmas Carol* and so many other productions. Without Sandy’s support, this theatre might not have been possible. Thanks to his extraordinary generosity, thousands of Edmontonians have experienced the fun and excitement of a night at the theatre. “

Mactaggart was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1997 and later to the Alberta Order of Excellence in 1998. He and his wife Cecile moved to the Bahamas in 2010, donating their Ramsay Heights estate to the University of Alberta. Sandy served as University Chancellor from 1990 to 1994.

“Sandy was an avid supporter of the Citadel throughout the years, sharing his wisdom as a member of the Board of Directors and Board of Governors,” concluded Citadel Executive Director **Penny Ritco**. “I especially enjoyed seeing his smiling face and twinkling eyes at the many productions he attended. He was a wonderful man and will be truly missed.”

The Citadel Theatre offers Cecile and the entire Mactaggart family our sincere condolences.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Ken Davis  
Director, Marketing and Communications, Citadel Theatre  
780-428-2108  
kdavis@citadeltheatre.com

---

#### SPONSORS:

Season Sponsor: Capital Power

“A” Level Seat Sponsor: Landmark Homes

Government Funders: Government of Alberta; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; City of Edmonton; The Edmonton Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage.

---

*The Citadel Theatre is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and foundation and government funders.*



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA  
all for community.

FONDATIONS  
COMMUNAUTAIRES  
DU CANADA  
ensemble pour tous.



Canada