The Megan Newton Memorial Award in Theatre

Amount: $1,100 (2019)

Applications accepted: June 1 – September 30 annually

Notification: By October 31

About Megan and the award: Megan Newton was an artist/set designer/stage manager/crafter and administrator at large. She received her BFA in Theatre from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, with a specialty in production management and design. Megan became the Operations Manager at Intrepid Theatre in Victoria in 2007, where she coordinated rentals for the Metro Studio and Intrepid Theatre Club and any other activities, tasks or crafts that came up during production for Intrepid's annual festivals. For Uno Fest, she created the annual Monobrow Cabaret.

A firm believer in assisting local emerging artists to get their work off the ground, Megan established and curated the YOU SHOW for Intrepid Theatre, as an outreach program for artists wanting to road-test original new works in front of an audience. Many YOU shows have gone on to great success on the Fringe and national touring circuits due in large part to Megan's vision and support. She was always ready to lend advice and guidance to artists and companies navigating the perils of their first full scale public production.

Megan was extraordinarily thrifty, independent, and hard-working. In her design work, Meg's ingenuity met her values of minimalism and environmental responsibility. She was committed to improvisation and reuse, not just philosophically but as ways to create the best designs (set, props, costumes) possible for low budget productions – which helped them have a better chance of succeeding and moving on to bigger things. Meg's work to create the YOU Show and Monobrow also manifested her affinity for "the little guy", as well as her belief in the importance of giving people a chance to use and develop their talents – and her respect for those who risk their bets and their sweat on their dreams.

Megan's life was cut short by melanoma shortly after her 30th birthday. Meg stared terminal cancer in the face and never flinched, and in this – as in so many things – she was inspirational to everyone who knew her. The Megan Newton Memorial Fund has been set up by Meg's family and colleagues to honour - and we hope, to help perpetuate - her spirit, resourcefulness, and deep love for theatre.

Selection criteria for the Megan Newton Memorial Award in Theatre

Applicants must be currently registered in (or accepted by, to begin studies within the calendar year) a program in theatre, including set/costume/prop design, stage management, theatre administration, playwriting and/or performing, at a recognized post-secondary institution. Applicants may be registered full-time or part-time.

Applications will be considered on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated interest in experimental or non-traditional forms of theatrical performance, or innovative use of theatre as a way to explore unusual or controversial topics
- Preference will be given to qualified applicants who are focussing their education and/or future plans on stage management, theatre administration, and/or any aspect of theatre-related design

Applications must include:

- A completed application form
- Proof of registration (or acceptance) at a recognized post-secondary institution
- An unofficial transcript (applicants currently in Grade 12 or about to start 1st year of post-secondary please ensure your high school transcript covers from Grade 10 onward, and also list courses currently in progress).
- A personal statement (around 500 words, typewritten) outlining your educational goals, specific areas of interest in your current theatre education and beyond, your program of study including focus/major or minor(s) and/or thesis topic as applicable, and related activities, accomplishments, etc., showing how these are congruent with the award's philosophy and criteria. Feel free to mention any of the following as they apply to you; although these are not formal selection criteria, they may help the selection committee get a better sense of who you are:
    - Financial need and/or a determination to be self-supporting during studies – e.g. working your way through school, with or without student loans; family financial obligations, special circumstances and/or challenges.
    - Studies with a professional instructor, or a professional company, e.g. workshops, intensives, etc. - if you have completed or are registered for such an activity we encourage you tell us about it.
    - Current volunteering, community service, etc. are *not* specific criteria for selection, as both education and any true passion require dedication and focus, leaving little time for outside commitments. However, if you do or have done activities of this sort relating to theatre, we encourage you to mention them.