

Wall of Fame 2019

Dennis Johnson



Dennis Johnson enjoys collecting masks, fitting symbols of his passion for theatre and ability to fulfill many roles. A teacher, director, mentor and adjudicator, Dennis has shared his love of drama with students and colleagues for over fifty years.

Dennis taught English and Drama from 1975 to 1998 at The Guelph Collegiate-Vocational Institute. He produced, directed and designed wide-ranging productions, giving students opportunities to learn and perform both on stage and behind the scenes. Many were involved in the annual Sears Drama Festival, a highlight for all participants.

Outside the school setting, Dennis continued producing, directing and mentoring. In the 1970s he obtained funding for a summer Young Actors Theatre at Guelph's Road Show Theatre. He was the founding artistic director of Theatre Guelph, involving children, teens and adults together in play productions from 2004 to 2011, combining ages within casts so that adults could mentor young people. He has directed and produced both musicals and dramas, including ten for Guelph Little Theatre, between 1982 and 2001 and *The King and I*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Oliver!* and *Guys and Dolls* for Royal City Musical Productions Inc.

Dennis has generously shared his expertise with other directors and theatre groups in Guelph and beyond as well as with other teachers. His Additional Qualifications drama courses in the 1980s grew into a Wellington County Subject Council and local educators' drama conferences. He is the past president of the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators (CODE), and has led workshops in Masks, Juggling, and Script Interpretation at conferences. He served twice as the festival chair for the Western Ontario Drama League (WODL). As an adjudicator, Dennis is understanding, insightful and encouraging.

Dennis Johnson is a true man of the theatre and a gifted teacher. The impact of his creativity lives on in our community.