

# The Ken & Ann Watts Memorial Foundation Scholarships

## HISTORY

Ken Watts founded what is now called the NTS Festival (formerly the Sears Ontario Drama Festival) in 1946 in Toronto. For almost thirty years Ken and his wife Ann encouraged and supported high school students and teachers in the pursuit of excellence in theatre. Through the festivals which they promoted and administered, opportunities were provided for thousands of young people across Ontario to develop their talents. Many of them are now valued members of the professional performing arts community. The warm, personal interest that Ken and Ann Watts had in young actors, directors, designers and playwrights, and their dedication in serving them, will long be treasured. After Ann's death in 1981, a scholarship foundation was established in her name. Following Ken's death in 2002, the name of the foundation was changed, and the awards are now given in both names: The Ken and Ann Watts Memorial Foundation Scholarships.

## SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION

The scholarships provide financial assistance toward tuition fees for the program in which the recipient enrolls. One third of each of the four \$3000 scholarships is awarded for the first year, with another third at the start of each of the next two years of study, providing students are academically successful and remain in school. Four \$1000 bursaries are also awarded each year, given in one payment when proof of post-secondary enrolment is provided to scholarship administrator, Wayne Fairhead.

Scholarships can be awarded to Ontario secondary school students who:

- will be graduating from secondary school by the end of the school year in which the scholarship is awarded
- will be entering a Canadian college or university program which will provide training for an arts career in the fall following the spring in which they are eligible to apply; this includes programs such as Drama or Theatre Studies; Theatre Performance: Direction/Playwriting/Dramaturgy; Theatre Production: Stage Management/

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Lighting/Sound /Set/Costume Design; Music: Vocal or Instrumental Performance/ Composition/ Production; Dance: Performance/ Choreography; Mass Media: Radio, TV, Film, Photography : Writing / Direction/ Performance / Production / Graphic Design / Animation / Media / Studio / Digital / Fashion and Visual Arts; Arts Administration and Arts Education.

- have participated in a NTS Festival District production in the year of the application.
- have demonstrated exceptional talent in, and commitment to, the arts in their school and community

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY APRIL 5, 2019.
- The completed application package should be emailed, ideally all items in one PDF, to: [waynefairhead@hotmail.com](mailto:waynefairhead@hotmail.com)
- Applicants will be notified by the end of April if they have, or have not, been selected to proceed to the next step in the process: an interview with the scholarship selection committee comprised of a panel of theatre professionals and educators.
- Selected applicants will be given an opportunity to meet with the panel and discuss their educational and career plans, either in Toronto on the weekend prior to the NTS Festival Provincial Showcase, or during the NTS Festival Provincial Showcase week, in that year's host city.
- The scholarship winners are announced on the final evening of the Provincial Showcase.

There are five major categories that will be considered by the committee in making their decisions:

1. Financial need
2. Depth and breadth of involvement in theatre, including participation in NTS Ontario Festival (formerly SODF) productions
3. Academic success in grades 11 and 12
4. Other extra-curricular and community involvement
5. Your plans for next year and beyond

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Applicants for these scholarships are required to complete/ submit the following.

NOTE: Carefully and thoroughly completed tasks represent your best chance to tell the Scholarship Committee about yourself and help them make the most of their time with you during your interview.

- A) An official transcript from your high school AND your most recent report card with mid-term marks in courses not yet completed.
- B) A resume\* that includes:
- your theatre experience and training in and out of school
  - volunteer activities in and out of school
  - employment history
- \*Please start with the most recent and go back from there; pre-high school information is not required.*
- C) A paragraph outlining the post-secondary programs you are interested in, where you have applied for post-secondary education, where you have been accepted, and which program you have chosen, if known at time of application.
- D) A paragraph outlining the financial plans you and your family have made to cover the costs of post-secondary education.
- E) A short essay (300-400 words) explaining why the arts are important and how you see yourself contributing to an artistic community.
- F) A letter of Recommendation from an arts teacher at your school \*
- Instructions to referee: Please attach, on school letterhead, a brief description of the applicant's strengths and needs, including your evaluation of her/his/their potential for success in post- secondary arts training and the performing arts/arts education.
- \*additional non-school reference letters are welcome but not required.*
- G) Portfolio: (optional): You may wish to bring a portfolio or album containing designs, programs, photographs, reviews or other evidence of your achievements with you to your interview. (Do not bring CD/DVDs.)

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H) Application Cover Page (see criteria below)

Please submit an application cover page that includes the following information:

APPLICANT LAST NAME

APPLICANT FIRST NAME

APPLICANT PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUN

APPLICANT D.O.B. MONTH / DAY / YEAR

APPLICANT SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER

APPLICANT HOME ADDRESS (INCLUDING TOWN/CITY POSTAL CODE)

APPLICANT HOME PHONE

PARENT CELL PHONE

APPLICANT CELL PHONE if Applicable

APPLICANT EMAIL ADDRESS

HIGH SCHOOL NAME

HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS (INCLUDING TOWN/CITY POSTAL CODE)

HIGH SCHOOL PHONE

TEACHER SPONSOR NAME

TEACHER'S SCHOOL PHONE / EXTENSION

TEACHER'S SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS

The completed application package should be emailed, ideally all items in one PDF, to:

[waynefairhead@hotmail.com](mailto:waynefairhead@hotmail.com) by April 5th