

Media Release
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**Leonard Cohen is the Man
Celebrated by Leonard Cohen Night**

*One by one the guests arrive
The guests are coming through
The open-hearted many
The broken-hearted few*

*And those who dance begin to dance
And those who weep begin
Welcome, welcome, cries a voice
Let all my guests come in*

Part of "The Guests" by Leonard Cohen N

Cohennights Arts Society presents the 6th Annual Leonard Cohen Festival with a **Leonard Cohen Night Concert** on **September 22** at the **Myer Horowitz Theatre** (Students' Union Building, University of Alberta) featuring Crystal Plamondon, supported by Bob Jahrig, and Ido Vanderlaan, Kit Johnson will be the musical director and show is being produced by Karen Slevinsky. It will be a night to remember. Tickets are at Tix on the Square (www.tixonthesquare.ca) - call 780-420-1757 or toll free 1-877.888.1757. Admission is \$25.00.

Leonard Cohen is truly a national treasure. He has been inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame and the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada (the nation's highest civilian honour). Cohen's songs and poetry have influenced more than two generations of singer-songwriters, and thousands of renditions of his work have been recorded. His lyrics conjure poetic images that are evocative and believable, and themes in his songs range from love, religion, sex and death. □ The Festival's dates always include September 21, the Montreal-born artist's birthday. The Cohennights Arts Society produces events bringing together artists of all disciplines to pay tribute to the work of Leonard Cohen. □

Many Edmontonians enjoy the annual Leonard Cohen Festival as a kick off to the performing arts season. Last year's Leonard Cohen Night concert was a huge success, with the final concert completely sold out. The Cohennights' organizers are absolutely thrilled with the incredible response they've received each year from the artists and the public. This year's festival takes a turn on a bigger stage in the beautiful Myer Horowitz Theatre. This year's lineup includes artists new to the festival, including Crystal Plamondon and Bob Jahrig with special guests Darren Frank and Ido Vanderlaan. They are also thrilled to welcome back festival favourite Sheri-D Wilson. □

"This is the first year we have had both a Friday and a Saturday event," said Kim Solez, President of the Cohennights Arts Society. "In 2007, the Friday Birthday Party and the Saturday Leonard Cohen Night concert are part of a broader Leonard Cohen Festival celebration that begins with the opening of the Cohen themed art exhibition that opens at City Hall on September 7th curated by Phil Alain." □ □

Other events held at the annual Leonard Cohen Festival include the **Visual Arts display** at **City Hall** for two weeks starting September 7. Admission is free. □ □ There will also be a Friday night **Leonard Cohen Festival Birthday Party with Academic Discussion and Poetry Reading** this year on **September 21** (8:00 pm) at the **Myer Horowitz Theatre** featuring Sheri-D Wilson and Darren Frank. Dr. Douglas Barbour will be also be reading two of his poems that he wrote for and about Leonard Cohen. Admission is free.

2007 Leonard Cohen Night Performer's biographies:

Crystal Plamondon □ has earned an international reputation as a World Class Recording Artist and Entertainer. A bilingual singer, songwriter, percussionist, Crystal hails from Plamondon, AB. In 2004 she was awarded "Prix Sylvie Van Brabant" for Excellence in Artisque Creation in Alberta. "Cow-Boy Poétré" a production of L'UniThéâtre / The National Arts Centre marked Crystal's premiere performance in live theatre in the spring of 2005. She was part of an Alberta documentary entitled "Alberta Bound" which aired on CBC Television in August 2005 as part of her province's centennial celebration. □

Bob Jahrig, an Edmonton-based singer/songwriter has been involved in the Alberta music scene for a number of years. His debut CD, *Tree Tops*, was released in 2002. Bob has been a concert performer at folk venues across Alberta and teaches songwriting as an artist-in-residence in elementary schools. □

Sheri-D Wilson (poet, playwright, performer, film-maker, essayist, teacher) has been called one of North America's most compelling action poets. She is known as a leader; a poet, innovator and activist; in the revival of Spoken Word Poetry which has grown from a grassroots movement into the literary world. She is the founder and Artistic Director of the Calgary International Spoken Word Festival, and a founding member of SWAN (Spoken Word Arts Network). □□ Sheri-D has five collections of published poetry: *Bulls Whip & Lambs Wool*, *Swerve*, *Girl's Guide to Giving Head*, *The Sweet Taste of Lightning*, and *Between Lovers*. Her CD entitled *sweet taste of lightning* (arranged by Russell Broom), was accompanied by two videopoems produced for BRAVO! TV. *Airplane Paula*, was nominated for five AMPIA awards, and *Spinsters Hanging in Trees*, won Gold at the Houston Film Festival; three ACE awards; and won the 2003 AMPIA for best short or vignette. Of the beat tradition, in 1989 Sheri-D studied at Naropa, The Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics, in Boulder. In 2003 she won the title Heavyweight of Poetry for the USA in a Bumbershoot Bout against Andrei Codrescu.

Darren Frank □ is a melodic interpreter of the human experience. He is a lyrical double-entendre, a poet, and an organically musical artist. Inspired by the everyday extraordinary, Frank sews together songs from his heartstrings with a rich and raw tapestry of sound and lyrics. Frank's ability to communicate the feelings of isolation/inclusion through music helped him move through the dark and light days described in his songs: "Music has always been a companion," says Frank, "It's an outlet that helps me say the things I have a hard time saying otherwise. Writing is a reminder that my life is a work in progress - sometimes it's great, sometimes it's not, but it's who I am and it's what I have to give." The result is his 2007 debut solo album that examines topics plucked from Frank's life like being bare and honest (*Uncross Your Arms*), self-helping (*Show and Tell*), memories that the senses evoke (*Old Familiar*), and the ping-pong match that is depression and elation (*I Feel Fine*). But these songs on record are only half the experience. Frank's ability to engage audiences with his raw vulnerability in his live performances is a refreshing balance of soul, pop and folk brought to the stage. □□

Ido Vanderlaan was born in Poria, Israel. Growing up in the Netherlands with his Mother, a professional sculptor, he was artistically influenced by such mediums as drawing and sculpting. After immigrating to Edmonton, Canada at the age of ten, Ido turned to music as an avenue of expression. Picking up the guitar at the age of fourteen, he found a niche in the craft of songwriting and enrolled at the Grant MacEwan vocal studies program in 1998. Ido has enjoyed local success with such bands as Year of the Panda, The Wowzers, and currently, Lovertine. □□

Kit Johnson □ relocated in Calgary in 1999 after 27 years in Toronto and has since been working in Calgary's recording and live music scenes as well as continuing to tour and play with some of Canada's top musicians. Kit has played extensively with some of the country's finest roots, country and rock acts and has backed up many international artists on stage and in the studio over the last 20 years. In 2006 Kit toured with Murray McLaughlin, David Wilcox and George Fox as well as playing and recording in Alberta with many different artists. Solid 'no-nonsense' bass playing is his forte though he is also an award winning songwriter, a record producer and a guitar player.

Come and join the Cohennights Arts Society as they celebrate the multi-faceted achievements of a great Canadian Icon at **Leonard Cohen Night** on **September 22** at the **Myer Horowitz Theatre** (Students' Union Building, University of Alberta). Tickets available at Tix on the Square (780-420-1757).

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