

*It's what each of us sows,
and how, that gives to us
character and prestige.
Seeds of kindness, goodwill,
and human understanding,
planted in fertile soil,
spring up into deathless
friendships, big deeds
of worth and a memory
that will not soon fade.*

– George Matthew Adams

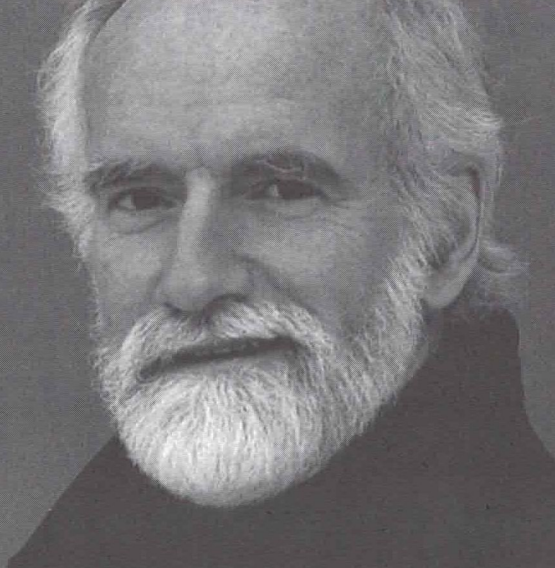


Photo of Bill Glassco by Nir Bareket

An Eternal Impression

By HELEN NESTOR

BILL GLASSCO LEFT AN IMPRESSION on many artists' lives and on the landscape of Canadian theatre. His tireless dedication and commitment to his craft has forever changed the trajectory of theatre and dramatists in Canada.

Born in 1935 in Quebec City, Mr. Glassco studied at Princeton and Oxford and taught English at the University of Toronto. He moved to New York to study acting and directing and returned to Canada in 1969.

Founding Toronto's Tarragon Theatre in 1971, Mr. Glassco began his decade-long tenure as artistic director with his production of David Freeman's *Creeps*. It was here that Mr. Glassco directed the premieres of David French and translated/directed the works of Michel Tremblay for English-speaking stages.

Mr. Glassco went on to become artistic director of CentreStage in 1985, merging the company in 1988 with the Toronto Free Theatre to become The Canadian Stage Company. The Canadian Stage Company, also known as CanStage, is Canada's largest contemporary theatre company.

His years following his reign at CanStage were taken up by freelance directing work in theatre and opera. In 1999, Mr. Glassco created the Montreal Young Company (with director Chris Abraham), a troupe that employs new graduates from professional theatre schools across Canada. Once again his dedication to young artists flourished within this company.

An officer of the Order of Canada, Mr. Glassco also held an honorary doctor of letters from the University of Toronto. He won a Dora Mavor Moore Award (*Cloud Nine*, 1984) and a Sterling Award (*Nothing Sacred*, 1989). In September 2000, the Montreal Young Company won the Montreal English Critics Circle Award for best ensemble.

Although Mr. Glassco's achievements are many, it is his spirit that will be most remembered. His kind and gentle soul will live on in the memories of many.