

**BIOGRAPHY
OF
GARTH HOWARD DRABINSKY, O.C.**

Garth Howard Drabinsky was born in Toronto in 1949. He received his LL.B. from the University of Toronto in 1973, and was called to the Ontario Bar with Honours in 1975. He developed a successful entertainment law practice and his textbook, *Motion Pictures and the Arts in Canada - The Business and the Law*, published by McGraw Hill Ryerson in 1976, became a standard reference work.

In 1979, Mr. Drabinsky co-founded, with Nat Taylor, Cineplex Corporation, which became Cineplex Odeon Corporation with the purchase of Canadian Odeon Theatres in 1984. Cineplex Odeon grew to become one of North America's largest film exhibition companies. Mr. Drabinsky served as President from 1980, Chief Executive Officer from 1982 and Chairman of the Board from 1986. Under Mr. Drabinsky's leadership, the Corporation grew over ten years from an 18-screen cinema complex at Toronto's Eaton Centre into a chain of cinemas with some 1800 screens in 500 locations, including six Canadian provinces, 20 American states, the District of Columbia and the United Kingdom. Various divisions within the Corporation included Canada's largest independent film distribution company (Cineplex Odeon Films), Canada's largest motion picture laboratory and post-production sound and editing facility (Film House) and The Live Entertainment Division—formed in 1988—purchased in 1989 by Messrs. Drabinsky and Myron I. Gottlieb and re-established as Live Entertainment of Canada Incorporated and later known as Livent Inc.

Mr. Drabinsky demonstrated his creative insight into the movie business as producer of a number of successful motion pictures. From 1977 to 1981, he produced six films, five of them in association with his film production partner Joel B. Michaels, including "The Silent Partner," with Elliott Gould and Christopher Plummer, winner of six 1978 Canadian Film Awards, including "Best Picture of the Year," "The Changeling" starring George C. Scott, winner in 1980 of eight Genie Awards, including "Best Picture" and "Tribute" with Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick, for which Mr. Lemmon received an Academy Award nomination in 1981. In 2003 he produced *The Gospel of John*.

Mr. Drabinsky's live theatre career began in 1977 when he co-produced Tom Stoppard's award-winning drama "Travesties" at Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre. In 1981, he served as Chairman of the celebrated Toronto International Theatre Festival and in 1988 he co-produced the Broadway production of "Macbeth" starring Christopher Plummer and Glenda Jackson.

From 1993 to 1998 Mr. Drabinsky was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Livent Inc., the only publicly traded commercial live theatre company. Under Mr. Drabinsky's producing leadership, the corporation's Broadway productions were nominated for 61 Tony Awards and have collectively won 19 Tony Awards, including "Best Musical" for "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "Fosse" and "Best Musical Revival" for "Show Boat."

THEATRE OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

While Chairman of Cineplex Odeon Corporation, Mr. Drabinsky was responsible for restoring the Pantages Theatre to its original 1920's splendour. The landmark 2,200 seat theatre was re-opened in September 1989 with the Canadian production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's acclaimed musical, "The Phantom of the Opera."

In December 1995, the new 1,849 seat Ford Centre for the Performing Arts in Vancouver, designed by the Canadian-Israeli architect, Moshe Safdie, opened with the Pacific Northwest premiere of "Show Boat." Owned and managed by Livent, the Centre was the first theatre that Livent has built from inception and the first to be located outside Toronto.

Under Mr. Drabinsky's supervision, Livent's wholly owned subsidiary, Livent (U.S.) Inc., acquired and restored Chicago's historic Oriental Theatre which was completed in the fall of 1998. The Oriental, operating under the name The Ford Center for the Performing Arts, seats 2,180. In New York, Livent (U.S.) Inc. created a new 1,839 seat Broadway theatre, also operating under the name The Ford Center for the Performing Arts, on the site of the legendary Lyric and Apollo (also known as the Academy) Theatres. The new theatre is located

on the west side of 42nd Street just west of Times Square and opened in December 1997 with the Broadway production of “Ragtime.”

MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

Under Mr. Drabinsky’s creative leadership, Livent established a strong association with theatrical composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and his organization, The Really Useful Group. Livent’s productions of Sir Lloyd Webber’s musicals included “The Phantom of the Opera,” the longest running musical in Canadian theatre history. This production opened in 1989 and is now in its tenth year of performances at the Pantages Theatre in Toronto.

Other musicals written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and produced by Livent include a new production of “Aspects of Love,” restaged in 1992 by director Robin Phillips, the North American premiere stagings from 1990 to 1992, of “The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber In Concert”; the 1992 North American premiere production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat starring Donny Osmond, which broke records on tour in Canada and the United States; the Canadian premiere of the composer’s Tony Award-winning, “Sunset Boulevard,” starring Diahann Carroll, which opened in October 1995 at the Ford Centre in Metropolitan Toronto, and a newly conceived concert production, “Andrew Lloyd Webber Music of the Night,” originally starring Colm Wilkinson, which had its Canadian world premier in 1995.

Livent also produced the international award-winning musical version of “Kiss of the Spider Woman,” directed by Harold Prince, with a book by Terrence McNally and score of John Kander and Fred Ebb. Following its world premiere in Toronto in June 1992, “Kiss” moved to the Shaftesbury Theatre in London’s West End, winning the 1992 London Evening Standard Drama Award for “Best Musical,” before opening on Broadway where it was honoured with seven 1993 Tony Awards including “Best Musical” and was the recipient of the 1993 New York Drama Desk, New York Drama Critics’ Circle and 1994 New York Outer Critics’ Circle Awards for “Best Musical.”

Mr. Drabinsky's creative collaboration with legendary Broadway director, Harold Prince, which began with "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman," continued with Livent's critically acclaimed production of the Jerome Kern/Oscar Hammerstein II musical classic, "Show Boat." Following its world premiere in October 1993 in Metropolitan Toronto at the Ford Centre and a successful 20-month engagement there, a second "Show Boat" company opened to unanimous critical praise on Broadway on October 2, 1994 at the Gershwin Theatre, setting several new records including one for the highest Broadway advance earned by a re-creation/revival and another for the highest weekly box office gross. "Show Boat" became the most honoured Broadway show of the 1994-95 season, winning, among its numerous awards, five 1995 Tonys, including "Best Musical Revival." It also received five 1995 New York Drama Desk Awards, including "Outstanding Revival of a Musical." In January 1997, "Show Boat" closed on Broadway after playing to 1.5 million theatregoers and earning a record-breaking box office gross of US \$103 million.

In April 1997, Livent mounted a new Broadway production of Leonard Bernstein's "Candide," at the Gershwin Theatre, with director Harold Prince combining his landmark 1973 environmental staging with his most recent operatic interpretation, presented by the Lyric Opera of Chicago in 1994. "Candide" received four Tony Award nominations and won the 1997 Tony Award for "Best Costume Design."

Livent's new musical, Ragtime, based on E.L. Doctorow's modern classic novel, received its world premiere in December 1996 at the Ford Centre in Metropolitan Toronto. The production, the first Mr. Drabinsky and Livent developed from inception, was directed by Frank Galati with book by Terrence McNally and musical score by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. A second company of "Ragtime" opened in Los Angeles in June 1997. "Ragtime" opened in previews on Broadway on December 26, 1997, and had its official opening on January 18, 1998 as the inaugural production of Livent's new Ford Center for the Performing Arts on 42nd Street.

Other works developed by Mr. Drabinsky include a musical adaptation of the 1957 breakthrough, film noir drama, "The Sweet Smell of Success," with a score by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Craig Carnelia and book by John Guare; an original musical entitled "Parade," directed by Harold Prince with a book by Alfred Uhry, Oscar and Pulitzer-Prize winning author of "Driving Miss Daisy," and score by composer, Jason Robert Brown which premiered November 9, 1998 in New York and received 9 Tony Award nominations and 2 Tony Awards as well as the 1998 Drama Desk Award for Best Musical, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical; and a restoration of the Rodgers and Hart musical classic, "Pal Joey," with a new book by Terrence McNally. Livent also acquired the rights to the works of Dr. Seuss with plans to develop a new Broadway musical called, "The Seussical."

As well, Livent acquired the worldwide rights to produce a musical featuring choreographic works created by the legendary Bob Fosse. The production was directed by Richard Maltby, Jr., Gwen Verdon and Anne Reinking and choreographed by Ms. Reinking and was the recipient of three 1998 Tony Awards including Best Musical.

Mr. Drabinsky was instrumental in Livent aligning itself with three of Canada's most distinguished cultural institutions; the Stratford Festival, the Canadian Opera Company and the National Ballet of Canada. In September 1996, Livent produced, in association with the Stratford Festival, "Barrymore," an original one-man portrait of John Barrymore by acclaimed playwright, William Luce, starring Christopher Plummer. Following its Stratford engagement, "Barrymore" began a North American tour, produced exclusively by Livent. "Barrymore" opened on Broadway at the Music Box Theatre in March 1997 and Mr. Plummer received the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, and Outer Critics Circle Award for "Best Actor in a Play" for his portrayal of John Barrymore.

In 1997 Livent presented, for the first time, a series of concerts by the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra and Chorus, with distinguished soloists including the internationally acclaimed Canadian tenor, Ben Heppner, at the George Weston Recital Hall in the Ford Centre in Metropolitan Toronto.

Also in 1997, Livent presented the National Ballet of Canada's production of Karen Kain's Farewell Tour across Canada.

In addition to producing musicals, Livent programmed five full seasons of concerts and recitals by the world's most illustrious musicians and most sought-after performing artists in Metropolitan Toronto at the Ford Centre's George Weston Recital Hall. The programming encompassed Jazz, African-American music, blues and light classical repertoire.

In the spring of 2001, Mr. Drabinsky presented Athol Fugard's critically acclaimed play *The Island* in Toronto on behalf of the Royal National Theatre of London and the Market Theatre of Johannesburg. *The Island* won the 2001/2002 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Production of a Play.

Mr. Drabinsky is an avid collector and supporter of Canadian contemporary art and owns The Drabinsky Gallery located in Toronto's Yorkville district, dedicated to the presentation and promotion of contemporary Canadian and American art.

An Officer of the Order of Canada, Mr. Drabinsky is an ardent spokesman on behalf of interracial understanding and individual liberty. In July 1995 Mr. Drabinsky addressed the Canadian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge in England on the topic of freedom of artistic expression and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as part of the organization's annual Cambridge Lecture Series.

Mr. Drabinsky's autobiography, titled *Closer to the Sun*, which he co-authored with Governor General's Award finalist Marq de Villiers, was published by McClelland & Stewart in March 1995. It became an immediate best seller, appearing on the Hardcover Non-Fiction lists of prominent national newspapers and magazines including The Toronto Star, The Montreal Gazette, The Ottawa Citizen, The Vancouver Sun, The Winnipeg Free Press, The Calgary Herald, The Edmonton Journal and Maclean's magazine.

In 2003, Mr. Drabinsky was commissioned by Visual Bible International, Inc. to produce the landmark epic *The Gospel of John* for which he re-united with producer Joel B. Michaels. *The Gospel of John* is based word-for-word on the Good News Bible translation of the American Bible Society. Mr. Drabinsky assembled a creative constituency of Academy, Emmy and Tony Award-winning artists and a committee of esteemed scholars of theology and religion from around the world to create a film with exceptional production values that maintain the integrity of the Biblical work.

In 2007, Mr. Drabinsky created and executive produced *Triple Sensation*, a major performing arts television Series for CBC-TV which aired in October 2007 and received numerous critical acclaims.

December 2007

APPENDIX

HONOURS AND AWARDS

2000	IATSE Local 58 Gold Card
1997	Honorary Member of the Year Award, Theatre Historical Society of America
1996	Tourism Person of the Year, Tourism Toronto
1996	Harold J. Merilees Award, Tourism Vancouver
1996	Annual Achievement Award, Downtown Vancouver Association
1996	The Jerusalem of Gold Award
1996	Officer of the Order of Canada
1995	“Ursaki” Canadian Sales and Marketing Executive of the Year Award
1995	Human Relations Award, Canadian Council of Christians and Jews
1995	Ontario Entrepreneur of the Year, Master Entrepreneur
1995	International Business Achievement Award, Billboard Magazine
1994	Arts & Letters Award, The Canadian Club of New York
1994	Tourism Person of the Year, Tourism Industry Association of Canada
1989	Distinguished Achievement Award, B'nai B'rith International
1989	Heart of Variety Award, Variety Club of Greater Washington, DC
1988	ShoWest's Award as Industry's Consummate Showman
1987	Vanier Award, Air Canada's Award of Outstanding Contribution to the business of film making in Canada
1987	Renaissance Man of Film, The World Film Festival
1987	Lifetime Achievement Award, Canada/California Chamber of Commerce
1986	American Marketing Association Award for Marketing Excellence
1986	Canadian Film and Television Association, Chetwynd Award for Entrepreneurial Achievement

DEGREES

- LL.B. 1973 University of Toronto
- LL.D. (Hon.) June 1, 1995, University of British Columbia
- D.Litt. (Hon.) June 12, 1995, York University, Toronto
- Hon. Fellowship, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto
- Hon. Fellowship, Faculty of Fine Arts, York University, Toronto

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

Board of Directors:

American Cinematheque, L.A.	Resigned 1994
Canadian Tourism Commission	February 1995 - January 1997
Hollinger Inc.	February 1996 - May 1999
Livent Inc.	May 1993 - September 1999
The Actors' Studio, New York	Resigned 1995
Toronto Film Festival	Resigned April 1991

Board of Governors

Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto

Advisory Board:

Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases, U of T
49th Parallel Gallery, NY

Member:

American Film Institute	1986 - 1991
American Film Institute Second Decade Council	1988 - 1989

Board of Trustees:

American Museum of the Moving Image	Resigned 1994
Sundance Institute, Utah	1988 - 1991

Board of Governors:

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Toronto	1988 - 1989
National Theatre School of Canada	1991 - 1993