June 17, 2016

Passionate artistic director awarded Medal of Excellence

Edmonton – MacEwan University is pleased to announce that Bob Baker is one of four individuals selected to receive a Medal of Excellence during the Spring Convocation ceremonies. The Medals of Excellence are awarded to individuals from the broader community for their outstanding contributions and achievements. These individuals have contributed extensively to the quality of life in our city and beyond.

A native Edmontonian, Baker discovered his passion for theatre arts while attending Ross Sheppard High School and then earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours degree from the University of Alberta in 1974. In 1979 he became a faculty member at Vancouver Community College, and in 1982 he was appointed Artistic Director of Edmonton’s cutting-edge Phoenix Theatre.

Baker’s directional talents have taken him around the world including to the Wilber Theatre in Boston, The National Arts Centre, the Cleveland Playhouse, the Edinburgh International Theatre and the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. In 1989 he became a member of the faculty at Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto.

Baker returned to Edmonton 17 years ago to become the Artistic Director at the Citadel Theatre. Baker ushered in a period of growth that saw world-class theatrical productions year after year. He was instrumental in the creation of the Academy at the Citadel, incorporating four programs to build Canada’s most comprehensive centre for creative development in professional theatre.

Baker is a multi-award winning theatre director and was honoured with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for exceptional service, excellence and community involvement; the University of Alberta’s Distinguished Alumni Award; is a member of Edmonton’s Cultural Hall of Fame; and, is a recipient of a PACE award from Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes. He is now Artistic Director Emeritus of the Citadel Theatre and Director of the Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre.

Baker will receive his Medal of Excellence on June 21 during the 9:30 a.m. ceremony.