

The Phoenix Theatre Company Remembers Judith Hardes with Special Memorial

By Elizabeth Montgomery



Every performance at the Judith Hardes Theatre carries the spirit of the extraordinary woman whose name it bears.

The Phoenix Theatre Company invites the community to a heartfelt memorial on Sunday, February 2, celebrating the life and legacy of Judith Hardes, whose love for the arts has made a lasting impact on Phoenix and communities nationwide.

“She loved this theatre and we miss her greatly,” said Michael Barnard, Producing Artistic Director. “Her name graces our intimate black box theatre, that because of her, is a space that has inspired extraordinary productions and enriched our community for over 30 years.”

This special evening begins at 6 p.m. with a memorial program featuring speakers, singers, and a video presentation followed by a small reception with light bites and a cash bar in the Art+Bar and Bistro. Together, we will celebrate the countless lives Judith touched and the transformative impact she had on our community.

Hardes, who passed in June 2024, was not only a devoted supporter of The Phoenix Theatre Company but also a champion of the arts across Arizona.

She lent her passion and generosity to institutions such as Theatre Works, the Prescott Center for the Arts, and the Arizona Theatre Company. Her legacy was recognized with numerous accolades, including the Angel of the Art Award in 2014, the AriZoni Max McQueen Distinguished Service Award in 2017, and the Philanthropy Award at the 2018 Governor’s Arts Awards.

The Phoenix Theatre Company’s cherished Judith Hardes Theatre stands as a lasting tribute to her spirit of innovation and inclusivity. Thanks to her vision and support, it is a sanctuary where dreams come to life. From hosting Season productions, the Richard P. Stahl Festival of New American Theatre, Summer Camp programming, and more.

“Those who knew her well knew that she was a force to be reckoned with and we were always grateful for her genuine support of what we created at Phoenix Theatre Company,” Barnard said.

“The community has been at a bit of a loss without her, but we know she’s watching us and will let us know when we are on target or not.”

As we prepare to honor Judith’s memory, we are reminded of her extraordinary ability to see the world not just as it is, but as it could be.

Every note sung, every line delivered, and every moment of joy on the Judith Hades Theatre stage will forever carry her indomitable spirit.

Event Details

What: Judith Hades Memorial at The Phoenix Theatre Company, 1825 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

When: Sunday, February 2 at 6 p.m.

Tickets: This is a free event.

Website: <https://phoenixtheatre.com/>