

Alex Czarnecki

Alex Czarnecki well-known Yellowknife musician, composer, artist, director and filmmaker died peacefully surrounded by love on January 9th, 2019 in the Cross Cancer Hospital, Edmonton.

Alex was born August 18, 1946 in Geislingen, Germany. Following the war his family moved to Montreal where Alex attended Concordia University and played saxophone in *The Island City Six*, Pierre Trudeau's band in his first campaign.

In 1972, Alex moved to Yellowknife. As a teacher at St. Patrick School, he encouraged students to embrace their individuality and creative spirit through drama. Together with his students and countless volunteers, Alex provided hours of entertainment with plays such as, *Oliver*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Thirteen Daughters*. His passion for life, music and the arts, his creative mind and unfaltering support left an indelible mark on the hearts and life direction of many of his former students.

Alex was the initial Artistic Director of the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre and instrumental in establishing the first live performance centre in the North. During his time at NACC, he directed plays and musical productions including *A Time to Remember*, *Man of La Mancha* and his last big stage production, *Matonabbee*. Alex is remembered for his ability to make everyone feel like an important piece of the production whether on centre stage or behind the scenes.

Throughout the years, Alex delved into other creative forms particularly filmmaking. His documentary, *Where the Rivers Meet*, presented the unique friendship of two men of vastly different cultures and *Hearts of Gold*, which celebrated Yellowknife's first fifty years. More recently, he produced a documentary *Water is Life* and

created video to accompany the music of well-known northern musician, Ted Wesley.

Alex had a phenomenal ability to capture the essence of people's spirit. In recent years he was sought after to create numerous tributes. His empathetic, artistic and creative style left many walking away feeling they truly knew the person.

He is predeceased by his mother and father, Janina and Witold Czarnecki, and three of his children, Michael, Kathryn and Ruth Ann. He was one-of-a-kind and will be sorely missed by his life partner, Carole Lane, daughter Andrea (Blair), grandchildren Michael and Tristan, brother Bob (Michelle), and nephew Peter as well as a myriad of friends.

In honour of Alex, the family would appreciate donations to NACC.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

