



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 13, 2010



University
of Victoria

Eva Markvoort
Celebration of Life

Sunday, September 26, 2010

1:30pm: Documentary Screening of
"65_RedRoses"

2:45pm: Reception

3:15pm: Celebration of Life

Phoenix Theatre,
Department of Theatre

The University of Victoria and the Department of Theatre welcomes everyone to join friends, family and faculty as we pay homage to alumna Eva Markvoort's indomitable spirit.

PHOENIX PAYS HOMAGE TO INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF PAST STUDENT

Celebration of Life for Eva Markvoort set for 6-month anniversary

(VICTORIA, BC) Eva Markvoort was a remarkable young woman whose indomitable spirit and energy were inspiring to everyone who learned of her struggles. On March 27 this year, she succumbed to a life-long battle with cystic fibrosis. She leaves an inspirational legacy – not only her tireless efforts for the causes that impassioned her – but also one of strength, love, courage, dignity and hope that has motivated thousands around the world.

On Sunday, September 26, the University of Victoria Department of Theatre is hosting a **Celebration of Life** for Eva Markvoort, who was a graduate of the acting program. Everyone is welcome to join friends, family and the faculty as we pay homage to her inspiring life. The event will comprise of three parts: a screening of the documentary of her life *"65_RedRoses: Every breath counts,"* at 1:30pm, which precedes a reception at 2:45pm and the Celebration of Life at 3:15pm. Guests are welcome to attend all or any part of the event.

The Department of Theatre will also be planting a red rose bush with a memorial plaque in the garden at the entrance of the Phoenix Building as a permanent commemoration of Eva Markvoort.

A native of New Westminster, Eva chronicled her experiences with cystic fibrosis on her blog, *"65_RedRoses"* and became a nationally recognized advocate for the support of cystic fibrosis and organ donation. Her inspirational story was followed by many thousands of people across the world through her blog and through the documentary directed and produced by Nimisha Mukerji and Philip Lyall. *65_RedRoses: Every breath counts* has gone on to win awards at the 2009 Hot Docs festival in Toronto and the Vancouver International Film Festival, and recently won the 2010 Banff Rockie Award for Best Canadian Program.

As an acting student at UVic, Eva performed in four mainstage productions at the Phoenix Theatre, *Listen to the Wind* (2002), *Taming of the Shrew* (2003), *Guys and Dolls* (2004) and *Tyrants* (2006). Her professors remember her as a talented actor and a person who fearlessly embraced every opportunity.

"For one who lived so close to death, Eva embraced life completely," said her fourth year acting professor, Jan Wood. *"She refused to be seen as a victim. She always lived in the moment, looking outward. I will remember her as a tenacious, joyful and loving woman. She leaves behind a tremendous legacy."*

In Jan Wood's class, fourth year acting students are required to perform a 10-minute "vocal masque" presenting multiple characters and voices through an original, self-written script. Eva's funny and poignant vocal masque offered insights into her experiences in the hospital system as well as living with cystic fibrosis. A video recording of her vocal masque will be shown as part of the Celebration of Life.

In 2007, Eva became too ill to continue her education. Later that year, she received a double lung transplant, which went into chronic rejection last summer. This past February, although short two credits, UVic fast-tracked her degree, which was delivered to her hospital room in Vancouver.

In 2010, the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation recognized her commitment and advocacy work with the prestigious Summerhayes Award. Donations can be made in Markvoort's name to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at www.cfvancover.ca or more information about Project Give Life can be found at www.transplant.bc.ca.

Department of Theatre & Phoenix

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