



News Release
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Herman Leonard receives the Bruce Lundvall Award

Montreal, Saturday, June 26, 2010 — Herman Leonard, the legendary photographer who immortalised a great number of celebrated jazz musicians in portraits, will be honoured today by the **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal** with the **Bruce Lundvall Award**. A ceremony will be held during a press conference which will be held at **2 p.m.** in the **Salle Stevie Wonder** of Maison du Festival Rio Tinto Alcan (305 Ste. Catherine St. West, 2nd floor).

Herman Leonard is the second recipient of the **Bruce Lundvall Award** created last year during the Festival's 30th edition and presented annually to a non-musician who has left a mark on the world of jazz or contributed to the development of the music, through the media, the concert or record industries.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1923, Herman Leonard discovered his passion for photography at a young age. In 1947 and 1948 he lived in Ottawa where he apprenticed with renowned master portraitist Yousuf Karsh—working alongside him to photograph such notables as Albert Einstein and Clark Gable. As a professional, Leonard's passion for jazz brought him to New York City, where he opened a studio in the heart of Greenwich Village. He photographed and developed friendships with Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and many more. It's during this period that he took some of his most famous portraits, consigning them with his famous signature style: dark ambiance, subject brightened in a coarse flash of light, singular angles and the occasional lingering puff of smoke for composition. After a stint as Marlon Brando's personal photographer, he headed to Paris and continued to photograph the jazz scene while working in advertising as well as for *Playboy* magazine. In the 1980s, he moved to the island of Ibiza, where he rediscovered his jazz negatives and published his first book. In 1991, he moved to New Orleans and immersed himself in the city's prolific jazz scene. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed Herman's home and studio, and 6000 of his photographs (miraculously, all the negatives were saved). Leonard, now 86, lives in California where he continues to take photographs, to exhibit his work all over the world and, of course, to listen to jazz.

Herman Leonard's photographs now belong to prestigious museum collections, public and private. The historical importance and excellence of his work have brought him a number of awards and distinctions, including the Milt Hinton Award for Excellence in Jazz Photography from the Jazz Photographer's Association in 1999, and the Excellence in Photography Award from the Jazz Journalists Association in 2000. However, these words from Quincy Jones probably best sum up Leonard's career "When people think of jazz, their mental picture is likely one of Herman's." Nothing could be truer!

As winner of the Bruce Lundvall Award, Herman Leonard follows in the footsteps of Bruce Lundvall (2009).

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