

PLAY INSPIRES PERSON TO REWRITE THEIR WILL

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Fwd: Inheritance - I picked the path for who to leave my house to!

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From: Penny [REDACTED] >

Date: Tue, Mar 10, 2020, 1:00 PM

Subject: Re: Inheritance - I picked the path for who to leave my house to!

To: info <info@alleytheatre.ca>

Hi all,

I stopped off after Sunday's performance to talk with the actors and Jennica about how this play made me think about what to do with my house when I die.

Just wanted to let you know I've now written my will so that the proceeds from the sale of my house will go to the Chief Joe Mathias Scholarship fund. I chose that one because, like his ancestor Joe Capilano, he fought for land rights and because the part in the play where the Frank's daughter couldn't afford to go to UBC really affected me.

In fact the whole inheritance thing was so well expressed by 'Frank' that it gave me a moment of clarity about what to do - I have no kids or family. For First Nations it isn't just the loss of the land, it's the impact of generations of missing out on the things that ownership of that land could have provided - the freedom brought by financial security, opportunities and self determination. This has an impact on physical and mental health, educational achievement.....so many things.

My great-grandparents, two great uncles and a great aunt were 'given' quarter sections in BC in 1920. Never considered before who had the authority to 'give' that. Didn't know this branch of the family at all, and the land was sold on in the 1960s, but I realised my Vancouver house = land that isn't really mine either. So I decided to do something about that.

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From: Penny [REDACTED] >
Date: Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 5:39 PM
Subject: Inheritance, March 2020: a follow up
To: <[REDACTED]>

Hi folks,

I spoke to several you after the performance of 'Inheritance' that I saw in March 2020 to say that it was such a life altering experience for me that I was intending to alter my will to leave our house to the original owners of the land that it's built on.

Almost year on and our wills are now finalised. We have no family, so with advice from Pivot Legal we decided to leave everything to the Joe Mathius Scholarship Fund. To achieve that they recommended Ratcliff and Co. lawyers to draw up all the legal documents for us. We signed the wills in Ratcliff's office under framed photographs of Chief Mathius with a Ratcliff lawyer who had set up the Joe Mathius Scholarship Fund. That lawyer, Gary Yabsley is still on the board of directors of the Fund.

We chose the Joe Mathius Scholarship Fund because in the play, the lead character says his daughter has earned a place at UBC, but she can't attend because the family doesn't have enough money to cover her living expenses in Vancouver. Having spent my life as a teacher, I was aware how often that happens, meaning that many hard working First Nations students don't get the chance at further education. Such a waste of young talent.

Anyhow, in what must be really hard times for you all in the theatre, I wanted to let you know that what you do is important and can affect people's lives beyond your play's audience.

Stay well,

Penny