

# Rick Wharton



2014



## Curriculum Vitae



## Summary

**A dynamic member of the Canadian arts and entertainment industry with a multi faceted career in live event production, music, comedy, film, radio, theatre, visual art, teaching and technical services.**

## Personal Statement

My love of music led me to that industry...my love of acting and comedy led me to performance with Second City, in television and on radio...my passion for the Arts took me into theatre and gallery management and production.

Throughout all of these years my creative side led me to produce live events blending together my colleagues, celebrities and contacts in all genres of the Arts. A well known individual in the media once said that I had the most envied rolodex in Canadian arts and entertainment!

My most recent experience as managing director of a large performing arts centre has given me an abundance of knowledge in working with Boards, human resources, strategic, business and marketing planning, patrons of the arts programming and as a public community figure. All of the challenges that have come with that have given me the tools to effectively manage, operate and create an environment where patrons, staff, volunteers and artists can have the full experience of the Arts and all it has to offer.

## Contacts

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## Experience

### 3 years as Director, Festival Hall Centre for the Arts

As artistic director; responsible for conception, development and implementation of the artistic focus of the largest performing arts centre and artisan's gallery/market in the Ottawa Valley; working with user groups, artists, promoters and in-house productions in the development of the season. As production manager; behind the scenes details, keeping shows within budget, overseeing technical requirements, negotiating and fulfilling contracts/ riders; providing leadership, supervision and guidance to staff, volunteers and technical crew, dictating the flow in the fast paced environment, trouble shooting/problem solving. As marketing director; liaison/networking with cultural and community organizations, patrons of the arts and audience members, media, and artists as spokesperson and advocate for promotion of the organization, facility and its events. As administrator; accountable to a Board of Directors, a joint consortium of supporting municipalities, a school board (landlord,) audience members and the taxpayers through monthly and annual reports, written and oral presentations, strategic and marketing plans, fundraising, research and preparation of grants, meetings, newspaper columns, radio interviews. Has given new life to a facility and regained the confidence of patrons and user groups, municipalities and taxpayers.

### 20 years in Arts and Entertainment

From Second City touring and MainStage, to a popular television character on SPACE: The Imagination Station, to a live event creator, producer and performer...radio host, teacher, corporate team builder... nothing gives me greater satisfaction than seeing someone touched by the gift of music, comedy, drama, visual art, the spoken word & more.

### 20 years in the Music Business

At Universal Music, I was the Liaison between record company, radio and retail; maximized profile and value of catalogue; marketed, tracked and promoted legendary influential recording artists including The Tragically Hip, U2, Guns n Roses, Tom Petty, The Who, Aerosmith, Rik Emmett, Alanis, Michael W. Smith, and others. As an award winning representative, increased territory sales and was quickly promoted to Head of Promotion in Ontario. I've also developed and managed the careers of many musicians as well as production and marketing of talent.

## Proficiency

### Testimonials

"we had not known (Wharton) or worked with him previously and therefore had no idea of the depth of his professional capabilities. He handled every challenge with diplomacy and grace."

"Wharton lives and breathes the arts. He has the background for directing crew, cast, groups in a professional and welcoming way."

"my students were inspired by their experience with Mr. Wharton at the theatre."

"thanks to Rick Wharton & staff transported us back to a truly memorable time in Canadian music history. Keep these shows coming!"

"Festival Hall was doing so well under Rick Wharton. He brought so much experience and wealth to the Arts."

"This man has done so much to revitalize the hall and for the community. He gave of himself totally."

Production & Direction

Strategic & Business Planning

Networking & Teambuilding

Leadership & Management

Staff & Facility Operations

Marketing & Promotion

Community & Advocacy

Accountability & Transparency

Fundraising, Grants & Patronage

Creativity & Development

"he has taken the right steps to bring a new perspective to the Arts for Pembroke."

"Any artist or patron who has met Rick can attest not only to his professionalism, ease, generosity, and kindness, but also to his enthusiasm for the arts. The arts is not a day job for Rick: it is a passion that moves beyond an event calendar so that passions and dreams can be created, witnessed and realised."

## References

Randy Lennox  
President and CEO  
Universal Music  
416 718 4000

Wayne Adlam  
Finance Professor  
Ivey Business School  
Western University  
416 278 7626

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## Education and Achievements

1990-  
2014

### Member, ACTRA/EQUITY

Performer, Producer and Writer

2 time nominee - Canadian Comedy Awards for  
Best Male Improvisor and Best Actor - Television

Alumni Award for Community Achievement -  
Toronto School Board

1985-  
1987

### York University, Toronto, Ontario

I completed several credits in various courses in  
the Fine Arts Program

1984-  
1985

### Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario

I attended Ryerson for the Radio and Television  
Program for one year.

2014

### Nominee, Best Community Organization

The redevelopment and revitalization of the  
performing arts centre under my direction was  
recognized with a nomination from the local  
Chamber of Commerce at their Awards Gala.

2011

### Nominee, Business Plan Writing

A business plan I authored for a new Arts Centre  
and performance theatre in Eastern Ontario was  
nominated for a prestigious Bootstrap Award in