

# Why does SFU have such a vibrant artistic community? The answer is in the Archives.

From the opening of SFU in 1965, a creative artistic community emerged on campus even though there were no official faculties of drama, art, or music. The Centre for Communication and the Arts offered non-credit courses in dance, film, video, music, theatre, and visual arts. It hosted exhibits, workshops, seminars and special events for the university community. The 70s were exciting years, with visits by high-profile artists, and productions that brought together the talents of different departments.

## Peanut butter and culture

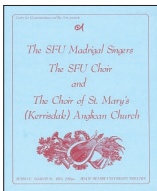
Everyone could attend the Centre's popular "Lunch Hour" series. Films, lectures, plays, and recitals were offered regularly during the late 60s, 70s and 80s.



A. SFU Archives.



A. 1982/1983 Film Program poster advertising student films. SFU Archives.



A. The Madrigal Singers, formed on campus in 1975, sang Renaissance music from the 15th-17th centuries at the mid-day concerts. SFU Archives.



SFU Archives. >

## Captain Picard and Ghandi

Patrick Stewart and Ben Kingsley were among the actors from England's Royal Shakespeare Company who came to SFU in 1977. As part of an artist-in-residence program, they held workshops and performed a series of Shakespearean plays that attracted over 1,900 fans.



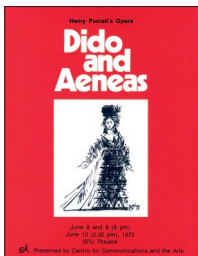
The Royal Shakespeare Company > residency at SFU. Left to right: Richard Passes, Sheila Allen, Patrick Stewart and Ben Kingsley. SFU Archives.



A. The Purcell String Quartet in 1979. Left to right: Ian Hargreaves (cello), Sydney Humphries (violin), Philippe Ester (viola), and Bryan King (violin). SFU Archives.

## Excellence and outreach

The Purcell String Quartet was SFU's quartet-in-residence from 1972-1982. The internationally acclaimed group performed regularly with visiting musicians and collaborated on projects including an in-house production of the famous baroque opera "Dido and Aeneas." They took their music throughout the province, establishing music camps and festivals, and commissioned and performed many new Canadian works.



A. Poster from the 1973 production of Henry Purcell's opera "Dido and Aeneas." SFU Archives.

## Teamwork and talent

Filmmaker Sandy Wilson graduated in 1969 with a BA. She says that her experiences with the SFU film workshop taught her how to make films as part of a team. Wilson won international acclaim for her 1986 box office success "My American Cousin" and returned to SFU in 1988 to film scenes for its sequel "American Boyfriends."



A. Sandy Wilson took advantage of the construction boom on campus in the late 1980s to set the stage for scenes from "American Boyfriends." SFU Media & PR.



School for the Contemporary > Arts placards advertising theatre, dance, and musical performances on campus in 2008. SFU Archives.



## Interaction and inspiration

In 1975 the Centre began offering credit courses, and later, degree programs. In 1989 it became the School for the Contemporary Arts where today students interact closely with faculty who are also practicing artists and established members of the artistic community.

## Your Archives. Your University.

The SFU Archives is home to the records of the School for the Contemporary Arts. We have photos, sound recordings and films that capture the spirit of the innovative and interdisciplinary programming at SFU. Do you have questions about the arts at SFU? The answers are in the Archives.

