Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Joy Coghill whose stage presence, subtlety of gesture and nuance of voice have captivated theatre, film, radio and television audiences for over forty years. A preeminent actor, Joy Coghill is also a pioneer artistic director. Her boldness of vision and unerring instincts have inspired a generation of actors, playwrights, and theatergoers.

Joy Coghill's life and work represent a happy convergence of time, place, and action. Born in Saskatchewan, she earned a B.A. at the University of British Columbia in 1949, and an M.F.A at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1951. Immediately after, she embarked on a career encompassing approximately 150 roles, ranging from Quince in *Midsummer Night's Dream* to Miss Helen in *Road to Mecca*. Her performances—a rare blend of intellect and intuition that simultaneously fuses the actor and character—remind us of Laurence Olivier's words: "An actor, above all, must be a great understander, either by intuition, observation, or both."

Audiences throughout North America have found that same unique understanding in her work as artistic director and producer. A champion of the new, the innovative, the daring, Joy Coghill comes from a long tradition of pioneering women in professional theatre in Vancouver. Her contribution to that tradition is unparalleled her achievements, a remarkable series of firsts.

In 1953, she co-founded Holiday Theatre, Canada's first theatre for children using professional talent. As the first woman Artistic Director of the Vancouver Playhouse, she commissioned and produced many new and challenging plays, among them *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*, one of the boldest and most successful steps undertaken by anyone in Canadian theatre. From 1970 to 1973, she served as Artistic Director of the English section of the National Theatre School of Canada, again the first woman to hold this position.

These achievements would be enough for anyone, but Joy Coghill is a woman of boundless energy, commitment, and enthusiasm. Throughout her career she has been a mentor to many younger colleagues. She has taught at several prestigious institutions, and she has written two plays, *YES* and *Song of This Place*.

A three-time JESSIE winner, and the first recipient of the Gascon-Thomas Award, Joy Coghill was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1990. Mr. Chancellor, it is with great pride that I present Joy Coghill for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.