Mr. Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Judith Marcuse, a creative force in the dance and cultural communities of Vancouver for almost thirty years. We honour her today for her many contributions, and for her inspirational vision and leadership.

Not long ago, she wrote the following words: "Art and its values—the sheer experience of it—can open doors to a magical, transformative energy, energy which is profoundly potent, clarifying and affirming for individuals and community."

Judith Marcuse began opening those doors many years ago, when, as a young dancer, she represented Canadian ballet and modern dance with several leading companies here and abroad. In the early 1970s, she turned to choreography as a further means of exploring her artistic vision. Since then, she has created numerous works for Canadian and foreign troupes, receiving much acclaim for her unique and challenging creations. Indeed, her choreography earned her two leading honours: the Jean A. Chalmers and Clifford E. Lee Awards.

Her talent encompasses all aspects of dance. An inspirational teacher, she has conducted countless classes and workshops here and abroad. An exceptional administrator and promoter of dance, she brought fresh vitality to the dance scene in Vancouver with the founding of the Judith Marcuse Dance Projects Society, the Judith Marcuse Dance Company, and most recently the establishment of DigceArts, Vancouver, of which she is the artistic director. The creation of dance for film has also been a serious concern for Judith Marcuse. Her film, Second Nature, won a silver medal in the 1993 New York Dance Video and Film Festival.

Many have said that what distinguishes Judith Marcuse's contribution to the arts is her ongoing commitment to the marriage of artistic excellence with community involvement. To this end, she has toured the interior of BC with her company's program, bringing to her audiences the joy of dance. In 1995, she organized the first KISS project, an annual multidisciplinary experiment that has proven an important showcase for creators and performers to preview new works. Her strong commitment to social issues is evident in a major theatre work, ICE: beyond cool, based on research into teenage suicide. Thousands of young people lined up to attend this production, staying afterwards to participate in discussions.

Mr. Chancellor, as dancer, choreographer, teacher, and director, Judith Marcuse has carved herself a unique place in the artistic and cultural life of this city and province. In so doing, she has entertained, educated, and inspired many. On behalf of the Senate of this University, I ask that you confer upon Judith Marcuse the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.