

# SEYMOUR PERFORMERS WORKSHOP

## Honorary Life Membership

(Version 1 – Ratified 21-05-2021)

### Aims & Objectives:

In 2021, Seymour Performers Workshop Committee initiated the process of nominating and granting Honorary Life Membership to its members. The Honorary Life Membership is now recognised by SPW as the **highest recognition awarded to a member** in acknowledgement of exceptional service and contribution. It should retain its prestige and all due consideration must be given in the granting process.

Honorary Life Membership should not be considered as a competitive matter and each nominee must be considered individually and on their personal attributes and achievements, and not in comparison to others. While it is inevitable general comparisons will be made with past recipients, direct comparisons should not be made.

Though any member of SPW can nominate someone for Honorary Life Membership, it is the Committee that considers all the information that is relevant to the nomination; to deliberate and make a determination.

Granting Honorary Life Membership is a balancing exercise. Criteria are provided as guidance, but it is the overall contribution of the nominee that must be evaluated. There is necessarily, some subjectivity in the granting of Honorary Life Membership, and so rating each nominee's strengths against the various criteria will vary.

Successful recipients of Honorary Life Membership will have demonstrated an exceptional contribution beyond the ordinary for a sustained period of time; a contribution which has a measurable benefit to SPW and its goals. To assist with the nomination, some or all of the following Criteria should be considered.

### Selection Criteria:

- 1.1 Performing integral functional roles within SPW. These roles may include, but are not restricted to – service on the Committee, Executive roles, Sub-Committee leadership, coordinator roles, fund-raising activities, promotional and marketing, or other support roles such as box-office, kitchen, or maintenance of the facilities.
- 1.2 Representing SPW through leadership and/or teamwork skills in productions, plays and other performance opportunities, such as Director, Assistant Director, Musical Director, Set Design and Construction, Costume Design and Wardrobe, or support of Youth Activities, etc.
- 1.3 Representing SPW with distinction through Performance.

- 1.4 Contributed to the growth and betterment of SPW in a significant way, such as making improvements to the facilities, equipment, costuming, or financial and administrative success, or contributing to the community profile.
- 1.5 The conduct of the nominee has, at all times, adhered to SPW's Code of Conduct; and is indicative of a strong dedication to the values and attitudes consistent with that of SPW.
- 1.6 Being inducted as a Life Member means becoming a 'role model' to younger and/or newer members; this means the nominee must possess a number of positive attributes and skills, that they be considered as such.

**Honorary Life Membership Benefits:**

- Full SPW Membership for life with no fees.
- Complimentary double-pass to all SPW Productions (for own use).
- A Commemorative Badge.
- A Commemorative Certificate.
- Name listed on SPW Honour Roll.

**Processes for Nomination:**

2.1 Any current or previous SPW Member can be nominated by any current SPW Member, with the nomination seconded by at least one other current SPW Member. In the case that a non-member wishes to make a nomination, a current Member will make the nomination on their behalf.

2.2 In general, two Life Memberships may be awarded each year; however, Life Memberships need not be awarded each and every year. In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may award more than two.

2.3 Nominations should include the nominator's reasons for putting forward the candidate; including examples meeting the Criteria.

2.4 Nominations should be presented in writing on an official SPW NLM Nomination Form and signed by the nominating Members.

2.5 Nominations are to be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September each year by the Committee Secretary or President. Any nominations received after this will carry over to the following year.

2.6 Life Membership cannot be nominated by or seconded by an immediate family member of the nominee.

2.7 In the event the nominee is serving on the Committee at the time of nomination, that person must be removed from any deliberation on the nomination.

2.8 A simple majority of a quorum of the Committee is sufficient for the nomination to be pursued.

2.9 In the event the Committee believes the nomination is worthy of Honorary Life Membership, a two-thirds majority is required to formalise and pass the nomination.

2.10 The Committee will present the nomination at the Annual General Meeting or a Committee Meeting for the final ratification of the nomination and awarding of the Life Membership.

2.11 Life Membership must be recorded in the Seymour Performers Workshop Incorporated's official records.

2.12 The granting of Life membership and the recipients service to the Group should be publicised through regular associated media, such as the local newspapers, website and social media.

2.13 Best efforts must be made to ensure that nominations are kept confidential to all, including the person being nominated.

**Objections:**

In the case of an objection, the objecting member has to provide strong reasons and evidence that counteracts the fundamentals of the Life Membership Selection Criteria. The Committee needs to provide and document evidence that the final decision is based on.

**Retractions:**

Retraction of Life Membership bestowment may occur in the unlikely circumstances where the recipient has conducted themselves in a manner that reflects directly and adversely on the image or activities of Seymour Performers Workshop. This provision will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and will require the full support of the Committee. As part of the deliberation the 'Honorary Life Member' in question is also granted an opportunity to present their case for retention of their status.