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Market Hall Performing Arts presents Bright Lights
AN EVENING WITH GWEN BROWN
In conversation with Paul Wilson
With performances by Paul Crough and Gwen Brown
Directed by Gillian Wilson

WEDNESDAY, NOV 19, 8PM AT THE MARKET HALL

Tickets: \$12 (\$8 students, seniors and underemployed), available at the Showplace Box Office.
Phone 705-742-7469 or go online at www.showplace.org

Market Hall Performing Arts presents **An Evening with Gwen Brown**, the latest event in its **Bright Lights** series of conversations with great Peterborough artists. At 87 years young, Ms. Brown is one of Peterborough's leading senior citizens and one of its most accomplished theatre artists. A woman of great integrity, strong sensitivity, and deep moral fibre who lives every day with an intense love of life, Gwen Brown is an inspiring role model for octogenarians everywhere.

Hosting the event, and speaking with Gwen about her life and career, will be another veteran of the Peterborough stage, **Paul (PSB) Wilson**. One of Peterborough's most engaging personalities, Paul's reach extends into many parts of the community, from politics to athletics and the arts. This range of interests almost matches Ms. Brown's lifetime of experiences: she's been a champion golfer, an accomplished singer, an award winning actor and director, a radio dramatist, and a long-time volunteer who reads for the blind. In 1999 she was inducted into Peterborough's Pathway of Fame, and in 2006 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Showplace Performance Centre. In 2004 Gwen was one of 12 Calendar Girls who posed for the calendar that raised over \$20,000 for flood relief.

"We're very proud to have Gwen Brown as part of our Bright Lights series," said Market Hall general manager Bill Kimball. "The combination of Gwen talking with Paul Wilson and performing with Paul Crough, will guarantee an evening of lively story-telling and inspiring performances."

Among the topics up for discussion on the program will be Gwen's memories of Peterborough before and during World War II and tales from the 1950's of Peterborough's earliest professional theatre, with such luminaries as Bill Hutt, Kate Reid, Anthony Perkins, Charmian King, and Gordon Pinsent. Much of the discussion will revolve around Ms. Brown's greatest accomplishments, which have been in the world of theatre: she helped to found the Peterborough Theatre Guild in 1965 and then directed its first play, Eugene O'Neil's *Ah Wilderness*. In the 1970's she performed professionally with Arbor Theatre. In the intervening years she has been an adjudicator, workshop leader, and lecturer, as well as actor and director for which she has won numerous awards. Well into her 80's, she continues to perform on stage. Her most recent major role came in 2006 in the St. James Players' world premiere of the Irish musical *Slainte*, and she still performs every year in Spring Tonic at Showplace.

For audience members who have somehow missed seeing Ms. Brown on stage, the evening's program will be rounded out by a number of performances from Gwen, accompanied by **Paul Crough**, of a scenes and songs from plays and musicals she has been in over the years (including *Slainte*), as well as readings of some of her favourite poetry. And what would a program of talking, singing and dancing be without a director? The crucial role of staging the performances and directing the program is being filled by one of Peterborough's most experienced theatre directors, **Gillian Wilson**, whose latest production, *The Chalk Garden*, is running at the Peterborough Theatre Guild to Nov. 8.

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About Bright Lights Bright Lights is a series of live on-stage conversations with great artists who live in, or hail from, the Peterborough area. Previous artists have included playwright **Drew Hayden Taylor**, ballerina **Evelyn Hart** and composer **R. Murray Schafer**. The series is based on Market Hall's **Greatest 100 in the Performing Arts**, a centennial project for the city of Peterborough that named the 100 most outstanding performing artists in its history. It can be viewed at www.markethall.org

Proceeds from Bright Lights events contribute to Market Hall's artistic programming as well as to the **Bright Lights Award**, an educational bursary given out at each event to a young artist working in the same field as the featured guest.