



## **SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

### **Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*, conferred on Daryl Duke Wednesday, June 2, 2004**

Mr. Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Daryl Duke, a distinguished Canadian who has spent his life enriching ours. As a writer, producer, director, and executive, he helped to define television in this country, compelling all to believe in its power to educate, inform, and entertain.

Throughout a stellar career spanning 50 years and encompassing major networks and film studios here and abroad, he has brought his boldness of vision and unerring instincts to a remarkable number of superior productions. These include *This Hour has Seven Days*, *Quest*, *Close Up*, and *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*, for which he won the Christopher Award, and *The Silent Partner*, which received the Canadian Film Awards Best Director and Best Picture Awards.

Admired at home for his acuity and originality, he has attained equal fame and respect for his work in US television and film industries, his gifts evident in creations like *PayDay*, which received the National Society of Film Critics Special Award; *The Thorn Birds*, for which he received Emmy and Directors Guild of America nominations; and *The Day the Lion Died*, which was honoured with an Emmy Award

Such achievement would be enough for most people, but Daryl Duke always took an abiding interest in the arts at home, believing wholeheartedly in the importance of locally produced television and film to the cultural life of a community. Known as a man who translates thought into action, he founded and launched CKVU-TV in 1976. For the next twelve years in a sustained act of imaginative daring, he took British Columbians on an inimitable adventure with live daily shows and weekly entertainment programs. The success of CKVU-TV was a tribute to his integrity, foresight, and deep commitment to the people of this province.

Recently Daryl Duke received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Directors Guild of Canada. This great honour reminds us that he has served the arts long and well. His vision has set new standards for film and television production; his talent has given pleasure to millions around the world; and his example has inspired many to follow in his footsteps. Today, it is our privilege to recognize his lasting contributions to the cultural life of this province and this country. Mr. Chancellor, I ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you now confer upon Daryl Duke the degree, Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*.