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By Justin Skinner

Cayle Chernin, once a bright star on the Canadian film and theatre scene, is continuing to impact the arts even after her death.

Chernin, who lived much of her life near Bloor and Bathurst streets, was perhaps best known to film-goers for her role in the seminal 1970 Canadian film *Goin' Down the Road*, though she later appeared in a bevy of other productions, including *Queer as Folk*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and *Monk*.

She also made her mark as a documentary filmmaker and served for a time as co-chair with the Toronto ACTRA Women's Committee.

Now, more than two years after she lost a battle with ovarian cancer, the Cayle Chernin Memorial Fund and Equity Showcase Theatre are seeking applicants for the second annual Cayle Chernin Award.

"This is the second year for the award and it alternates between film and theatre," said Chernin's widower, Dwight McFee. "My wife did everything – wrote, acted, produced – so it's fitting that the award goes back and forth between the two."

The Cayle Chernin Award offers a \$1,000 prize to a woman in the arts and aims to support the recipient in starting up a new project. It keeps Chernin's legacy alive both as a performer and one who was dedicated to ensuring others succeed in the arts.

"She was a big part of the Monday Nighters, a group of people from the (show business) industry who get together Monday nights (downtown)," McFee said. "Cayle knew she was lucky to have what she had and she always loved talking about acting and supporting others."

That the award goes to a woman also keeps with Chernin's values. She knew full well how difficult it could be for women to make a go of it in the entertainment industry, particularly in a behind-the-camera or offstage capacity.

"Cayle was amazing because she was able to plow through it all and keep going and creating works," McFee said.

Chernin remained dedicated to her craft until the end. She was first diagnosed with cancer in June 2010 but eschewed treatment as she was set to film *Down the Road Again*, a sequel to *Goin' Down the Road*.

"The doctor said 'If you don't have chemo and radiation, you'll die by September' and Cayle just said 'You don't understand. I have a film to do,'" McFee said.

This year's award will go to a woman in the theatre industry, with last year's inaugural Cayle Chernin Award being awarded to Collette Micks, the creator of the web series *Redheads*.

For information, or to apply for the award, visit www.caylecherninaward.ca