



## Ms. Ann Catherine Bannister

January 4, 2017

Ann Catherine Bannister passed away peacefully on January 4th, 2017. She is survived by her daughter Leila, who will remember and love her always. "I think we dream so we don't have to be apart so long. If we're in each others dreams, we can be together all the time." - A.A. Milne

Born in Oklahoma, Ann loved theatre from a young age. She studied theatre at Oklahoma University, and later took classes across London, UK. She loved Shakespeare, and would go on to perform in many troupes. At the age of 29, she played the title role in "King Lear" with "The King Lear Expedition" production in Toronto. This was a highlight of her acting career. ("All the best roles usually go to the men!" as she put it).

She was a fiercely talented artist in countless ways, and believed that art was vitally important and deserved respect. Ann loved to draw and simply "put colour down". She loved music and dance. She wove scarves on her loom, and crocheted hats to give as gifts. Her love of creativity shone through all her work - whether it was crafting lanterns for a treetop installation at Harbourfront, or making pinatas from paper mache for her daughters' birthday parties (which were also filled with her homemade sesame, honey and peanut-butter candies). She was full of love, and wisdom. She believed with all her heart that a woman is powerful and that she always has a right to fight for herself. May we remember and honor her by living our truths and never forgetting our strengths.

Ann also loved nature, was very spiritual and felt a deep connection to this Earth and its raw beauty. She enjoyed spending countless afternoons on the Toronto Islands. A gathering will be planned there this summer in her memory. Donations may be made to the Toronto Grace Health Centre, who supported Ann and her loved ones endlessly during this difficult time.