



From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks

The Life and Times of Harry Bridges



Written & performed by Ian Ruskin

An Australian born labour leader and social campaigner **Harry Bridges** had a profound and far-reaching impact on the fabric of North American union life during the 20th century and yet he is little known by most workers. The first President of the **International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)** he fought to win basic rights and human dignity for workers and to build a sense of community that would include people of all racial, ethnic, religious and political backgrounds.

He was, in his own words, a “working stiff”, yet he met with Presidents and toured Europe as a hero. On his first visit to the U.S. Nelson Mandela thanked him and his membership for their stand against Apartheid. A man with a Marxist philosophy who spent 21 years fighting to become an American citizen, he was a truly unique character, with a sharp sense of humour, and fearlessness in the face of controversy.

Ruskin, a British born actor, has brought Harry back to life and placed him centre stage with his play.

“Harry Bridges is one of the most important labor leaders of the 20th century. Ian Ruskin has captured his persona and his ideas brilliantly”

Howard Zinn - Historian, Playwright and Social Activist

“Ian Ruskin accurately portrayed one of the most important people in San Francisco’s history in one of the City’s most turbulent times. As a friend of Happy Bridges, I thought his characterization brought to life the struggles of working people, struggles that must not be forgotten. Ruskin’s performance was excellent.”

Stan Smith - Secretary-Treasurer, Retired San Francisco Buildings Trades Council

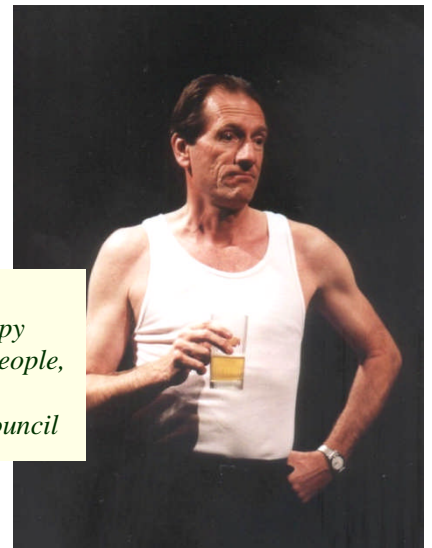


Photo courtesy Cathy Wild

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7:30 pm – Tickets \$20 / \$15 low income

Cube Gallery 7 Hamilton Ave. North, Ottawa

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