

Winners Announced at the 2018 Suzi Bass Awards

November 5, 2018 at 7pm

Nominations in 33 categories honor

16 professional companies and 48 productions

Winners from among the nominated artists in this year's thirty-three (33) categories took home the coveted award. Judges and Suzi Members have chosen recipients in performance, direction and design categories for plays, musicals, and theatre productions for young audiences. The Ceremony also honored the recipients of the Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The ceremony included **live performances** from the musicals nominated in the Outstanding Production–Musical category: *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre; *Cabaret* at Serenbe Playhouse; *Candide* at the Alliance Theatre; *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express; and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit. This year, for the first time, the ceremony also included **live performances** of scenes from the plays nominated in the Outstanding Production—Play category: *Abigail/1702* at Aurora Theatre; *Angels in America* at Actor's Express; *Boy* at Theatrical Outfit; *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* at Theatrical Outfit; and *Perfect Arrangement* at Theatrical Outfit.

The evening's presenters were Kara Cantrell, Shelli Delgado, Kate Donadio, Anita Farley, Rachel Frawley, Jamil Jude, Julie Skryzpek, and Justin Walker. The voice of the Suzis was Topher Payne; Suehyla El-Attar was Ceremony Director; and Karen Martin was Event Producer.

The Winners in each category are **highlighted** in the Nominations list.

Record-setting Nominations vie for Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award

The award, named after the primary founder of the Suzi Awards organization, recognizes an Atlanta-based playwright whose work (written or adapted) was produced by a professional Atlanta theatre in the preceding season. A committee of area educators, playwrights and theatre professionals read each of the plays and chose the recipient. Unlike the other production and achievement awards given at the ceremony, the Gene Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award is a literary one assessing the play "on the page" and not as it was produced. After a production, playwrights often revise their scripts based on that experience, and the award committee considers the very latest draft of the play. Developing local works remains a priority within the professional Atlanta theatre community. This year there are eleven (11) nominees for the Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award.

The Winner is ***Black Nerd*, by Jon Carr (Dad's Garage)**

Alice Between, by Steve Coulter & Neely Gossett (Alliance Theatre)

Built to Float, by Rachel Graf Evans (Essential Theatre)

Empty Rooms, by Annie Harrison Elliott (Found Stages)

Hospice & Pointing at the Moon, by Pearl Cleage (Alliance Theatre)

Morningside, by Topher Payne (Georgia Ensemble Theatre)

The Dancing Granny, by Jireh Breon Holder (Alliance Theatre)

The Flower Room, by Daryl Lisa Fazio (Actor's Express)

The Followers, by Margaret Baldwin (7 Stages)

Three Ladies of Orpington, by Daniel Guyton (Onion Man Productions)

Woke, by Avery Sharpe (Essential Theatre)

The 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

From time to time, the Board of Directors of the Suzi Bass Awards may choose to recognize a member of the Metro Atlanta theatre community with a Lifetime Achievement Award. This award focuses on a body of work having a significant and long-term effect on the theatre community. This year, there was such compelling information on two nominees, that the Board decided to Award each with the honor. Both Liz Lee and Rosemary Newcott will receive a 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award. Both of these deserving recipients have resumes too long to include, but here is a snippet from each nomination communique:

Liz Lee:

Liz began her career with the Center for Puppetry Arts in 1978. She was the Center's first production manager in 1983, and continued as Resident Lighting Designer from 1983 onward, being named Producer in 1998. Each year she coordinates the production and/or presentation of more than 15 productions by the Center's own artists, and by national and international guest artists performing at the Center. In addition to her work at the Center, Liz is a free-lance lighting designer and has received numerous Suzi Awards for her work. At the end of October, Liz will step away from her role as Producer at the Center for Puppetry Arts. Her "retirement" will allow her more time to design, and thankfully, she's therefore not really leaving the Atlanta theater scene, we can think of no better time to acknowledge her great accomplishments and the many contributions she has made to our community in her 40+ years of professional work in Atlanta.

Rosemary Newcott:

Rosemary, the Alliance Theatre's Sally G. Tomlinson Artistic Director of Theatre for Youth, has been an integral part of the luminous history of theatre in Atlanta, and has blissfully directed dozens of productions such as *A Christmas Carol*, *Slur* (premiere), Pearl Cleage's *Tell Me My Dream* (premiere), *The Grimm Lives of the Inbetweens* (premiere), *Charlotte's Web*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Real Tweenagers of Atlanta* (premiere), *Suessical*, *Class of 3000 Live!* (premiere), *The Book of Ruth*, *The Hobbit*, and more. Committed to inspiring the young, she annually directs an elementary school level production, and a middle school level production. She directed, pioneered, and for over 10 years, has executed The Alliance High School Collision Project, and more recently, the Alliance's nationally acclaimed, new and innovative, Theatre for the Very Young--theatre for children ages zero to five years old. Rosemary will retire from the Alliance next year and will then share her creative gifts with those suffering from dementia and will develop theatre to give their lives hope and meaning.

The Nominees

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION - MUSICAL

Blackberry Daze at Horizon Theatre

Cabaret at Serenbe Playhouse

Candide at the Alliance Theatre

The Color Purple at Actor's Express

The Hunchback of Notre Dame at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION - MUSICAL

Justin Anderson for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit

Justin Anderson for *Mamma Mia!* at Aurora Theatre

Brian Clowdus for *Cabaret* at Serenbe Playhouse

David Koté for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express

Thomas W. Jones II for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre

OUTSTANDING MUSIC DIRECTION

S. Renee Clark for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre

Ann-Carol Pence for *Mamma Mia!* at Aurora Theatre

Ann-Carol Pence for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit

Robert Spano for *Candide* at Alliance Theatre

Amanda Wansa Morgan for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express

OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHY

Ricardo Aponte for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit
Ricardo Aponte for *Mamma Mia!* at Aurora Theatre
Bubba Carr for *Cabaret* at Serenbe Playhouse
Meredith Moore for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express
Cindy Mora Reiser for *Tarzan* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/FEMALE - MUSICAL

Naomi Lavette* for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre
Kristin Markiton for *Mamma Mia!* at Aurora Theatre
Latrice Pace for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express
Ayanna Reed for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre
Julissa Sabino* for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/MALE - MUSICAL

Aaron Blake* for *Candide* at The Alliance Theatre
Brian Clowdus for *Cabaret* at Serenbe Playhouse
Stanley Allyn Owen* for *Tarzan* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre
Haden Rider for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit
Juan Unzueta for *Little Shop of Horrors* at Actor's Express

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTOR/FEMALE - MUSICAL

Kandice Arrington for *Little Shop of Horrors* at Actor's Express
Deborah Bowman* for *The Little Mermaid* at Serenbe Playhouse
Christy Clark* for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre
Kayce Grogan-Wallace for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express
Jasmyn Hinson for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTOR/MALE - MUSICAL

Kevin Harry for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit
Lamont Hill for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express
Christian Magby for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre
Commodore Primous for *Tarzan* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre
Robert Wayne for *Cabaret* at Serenbe Playhouse

OUTSTANDING ACTING ENSEMBLE - MUSICAL

The cast of *Always... Patsy Cline* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre (Laura Hodos and Karen Howell*)
The cast of *Breath and Imagination* at ART Station (Theresa Hightower, Marcellis Cutler*, Patrick Hutchinson, Tony Hayes)
The cast of *Million Dollar Quartet* at Legacy Theatre (Janine DeMichele Baggett, Daniel Black, Daniel Burns, Ross Griffin, Bert Groover, Stephen Hardy, Edward La Cardo, David Perry)
The cast of *The Followers* at 7 Stages (Ofir Nahari, Lowery Brown, Diany Rodriguez*, Stephen Devillers, Nicolette Emanuelle)
The cast of *The World Goes 'Round* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre (Deborah Bowman*, Jeff McKerley*, Adrianna Trachell*, Brad Raymond*, Mary Nye Bennett, Chloe Cordle, Cansler McGhee, Brian Jordan, Grace Joo)

OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN - MUSICAL

Nyrobi Moss for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre
Nyrobi Moss for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express
Erik Teague for *Cabaret* at Serenbe Playhouse
Amanda Edgerton West for *Tarzan* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre
Alan Yeong for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN - MUSICAL

Andre C. Allen for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express
Kevin Frazier for *Cabaret* at Serenbe Playhouse
Kevin Frazier for *Mamma Mia!* at Aurora Theatre
Maria Cristina Fuste for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit
Mary Parker for *Tarzan* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre

OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN - MUSICAL

Isabel & Moriah Curley-Clay for *Little Shop of Horrors* at Actor's Express
Isabel and Mariah Curley-Clay for *Once on this Island* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre
Daniel Pattillo for *Tarzan* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre
Julie Ray for *Mamma Mia!* at Aurora Theatre
Shannon Robert for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN - MUSICAL

Rob Brooksher for *Mamma Mia!* at Aurora Theatre
Angela Bryant for *The Color Purple* at Actor's Express
Preston Goodson for *Tarzan* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre
Daniel Pope for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit
Mike Sal for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre

OUTSTANDING PROJECTION DESIGN - MUSICAL

Robbie Hayes for *Blackberry Daze* at Horizon Theatre
Bobby Johnston for *Holler If Ya Hear Me* at True Colors Theatre Company
Bobby Johnston for *The Ballad of Klook and Vinette* at Horizon Theatre
Sven Ortel for *Candide* at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING WORLD PREMIERE

The Flower Room at Actor's Express
Hospice and Pointing at the Moon at The Alliance Theatre
Il Etait Une Fois (Once Upon A Time) at Theatre du Reve
Morningside at Georgia Ensemble Theatre
Sheltered at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION - PLAY

Abigail/1702 at Aurora Theatre
Angels in America at Actor's Express
Boy at Theatrical Outfit
Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley at Theatrical Outfit
Perfect Arrangement at Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION - PLAY

Jeff Adler, Jennifer Alice Acker, Lisa Adler for *Citizens Market* at Horizon Theatre
Freddie Ashley and Martin Wilkins for *Angels in America* at Actor's Express
Carolyn Cook* for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* at Theatrical Outfit
Melissa Foulger for *Boy* at Theatrical Outfit
Leora Morris for *Crossing Delancey* at The Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/FEMALE - PLAY

Terry Burrell* for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at Theatrical Outfit
Taylor Dooley for *Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* at Aurora Theatre
Mary Lynn Owen* for *Crossing Delancey* at The Alliance Theatre
Courtney Patterson* for *Maytag Virgin* at Aurora Theatre
Diany Rodriguez* for *Abigail/1702* at Aurora Theatre

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/MALE - PLAY

Andrew Benator* for *Crossing Delancey* at The Alliance Theatre
Brad Brinkley* for *Maytag Virgin* at Aurora Theatre
Clifton Guterman* for *Boy* at Theatrical Outfit
Lee Osorio* for *The Life and Death of Richard the Second* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company
Ben Thorpe* for *Hand to God* at The Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTOR/FEMALE - PLAY

Carolyn Cook* for *Citizens Market* at Horizon Theatre

Galen Crawley* for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* at Theatrical Outfit

Sarah Newby Halicks for *The Christians* at Actor's Express

Tess Malis Kincaid* for *Shakespeare in Love* at The Alliance Theatre

Diany Rodriguez* for *Between Riverside and Crazy* at True Colors Theatre Company

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTOR/MALE - PLAY

Allen Edwards* for *Citizens Market* at Horizon Theatre

Tom Key* for *Boy* at Theatrical Outfit

Enoch King* for *The Christians* at Actor's Express

Lee Osorio* for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* at Theatrical Outfit

Sam Younis* for *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* at 7 Stages

OUTSTANDING ACTING ENSEMBLE – PLAY

The cast of *Angels in America* at Actor's Express (Grant Chapman*, Joe Sykes*, Louis Gregory, Cara Mantella, Robert Bryan Davis, Thandiwe DeShazor, Carolyn Cook*, Parris Sarter)

The cast of *Il Etait Une Fois (Once Upon A Time)* at Theatre du Reve (Natalie Karp, Eliana Marianes, Jennifer Schottstaedt)

The cast of *Morningside* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre (Shelly McCook, Ann Wilson, Ellen McQueen*, Keena Redding Hunt, Gina Rickicki, Kate Donadio*, Stacy Melich, Kelly Criss, Lala Cochran)

The cast of *Perfect Arrangement* at Theatrical Outfit (Joe Knezevich*, Ann-Marie Gideon*, Clifton Guterman*, Courtney Patterson*, Stacy Melich, Kevin Stillwell, Ann Wilson)

The cast of *Sense and Sensibility* at Synchronicity Theatre (Marcello Audino, Shelli Delgado, Robert Lee Hindsman, Rachel Mewbron*, Marcie Millard, Michelle Pokopac, J.L. Reed, Jennifer Schottstaedt, Bryant Smith*, Justin Walker)

OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN - PLAY

Anne Carole Butler for *The Life and Death of Richard the Second* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company

Angela Balogh Calin for *Shakespeare in Love* at The Alliance Theatre

Linda Patterson for *Perfect Arrangement* at Theatrical Outfit

Elizabeth Rasmusson for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* at Theatrical Outfit

Jennifer Schottstaedt for *Il Etait Une Fois (Once Upon A Time)* at Theatre du Reve

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN - PLAY

Maranda DeBusk for *Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* at Aurora Theatre

Rob Dillard for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at Theatrical Outfit

Liz Lee for *Hand to God* at The Alliance Theatre

Joseph P. Monaghan for *Angels in America* at Actor's Express

Ben Rawson for *Abigail/1702* at Aurora Theatre

OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN - PLAY

Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay for *Abigail/1702* at Aurora Theatre

Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay for *Between Riverside and Crazy* at True Colors Theatre

Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay for *Citizens Market* at Horizon Theatre

Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at Theatrical Outfit

Isabel and Moriah Curley-Clay for *Maytag Virgin* at Aurora Theatre

Elizabeth Jarrett for *Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* at Aurora Theatre

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN - PLAY

Marc Gwinn for *Abigail/1702* at Aurora Theatre

Jake Harbour for *Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* at Aurora Theatre

Stowe Nelson for *Hand to God* at The Alliance Theatre

Daniel Terry for *Maytag Virgin* at Aurora Theatre

Ed Thrower for *Angels in America* at Actor's Express

OUTSTANDING PROJECTION DESIGN - PLAY

Bradley Bergeron for *Project Dawn* at Horizon Theatre

Matt Brohammer for *The Taming* at Synchronicity Theatre

Barrett Doyle and Joel Coady for *Boy* at Theatrical Outfit

Jared Mezzochi for *Ripe Frenzy* at Synchronicity Theatre

Ed Thrower for *Il Etait Une Fois (Once Upon A Time)* at Theatre du Reve

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION - TYA

Heidi at Synchronicity Theatre

The Jungle Book at Georgia Ensemble Theatre

***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* at Synchronicity Theatre**

Mother Goose at Center for Puppetry Arts

Winnie the Pooh at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION - TYA

Heidi at Synchronicity Theatre—Director: Julie Skrzypek; Music Direction: Christopher Cannon

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane at Synchronicity Theatre—Director: Mira Hirsch

***Mother Goose* at Center for Puppetry Arts—Director: Amy Sweeney; Music Direction, Dolph Amick**

Polkadots, the Cool Kids Musical at the Legacy Theatre—Director: Mark Smith

Winnie the Pooh at the Alliance Theatre—Director: Leora Morris; Music Direction, Dylan Frederick

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE/ENSEMBLE - TYA

The cast of *Heidi* at Synchronicity Theatre: (Taryn Carmona, Jessenia Ingram, Jake Krakovsky, Robert Owenby, Emily Parrish Stembridge, Julie Trammel, Alex Van, Patrick Wade)

The cast of *The Jungle Book* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre: (Erik Poger Abrahamsen, Shelli Delgado, Robert Lee Hindsman, Asia Howard, JD Myers, Angelica K. Spence)

The cast of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* at Synchronicity Theatre: (Josh Brook, Jimmica Collins, Caitlin Hargraves, Justin Walker)

The cast of *Mother Goose* at Center for Puppetry Arts: (Jimmica Collins, Luis R Hernandez)

The cast of *Winnie the Pooh* at the Alliance Theatre: (Isake Akanke, Caleb Baumann, Grant Chapman, CJ Cooper, Maria Rodriguez-Sager, Joe Sykes, Mabel Tyler)

OUTSTANDING DESIGN – TYA

The design team of *Heidi* at Synchronicity Theatre--(Scenic Design: Elizabeth Jarrett; Costume and Puppet Design: Derrick Vanmeter; Lighting Design: Elisabeth Cooper; Sound Design: Rob Brooksher; Music Direction: Christopher Cannon; Choreography: Ricardo Aponte)

The design team of *The Jungle Book* at the Alliance Theatre--(Scenic Design: Kat Conley; Costume Design: Sydney Roberts; Lighting Design: Steven Love; Sound Design: Clay Benning; Choreographer: Jen McQueen; Puppet Consultant: Jason Hines)

The design team of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* at Synchronicity Theatre—(Scenic Designer: Jon Nooner; Costume Designer: Linda Patterson; Lighting Design: Chris Crawford; Sound Design: Dan Baumann; Properties Design: Jillian Haugey)

The design team of *Mother Goose* at Center for Puppetry Arts--(Scenic Design: Ryan Sbaratta; Costume Design: Erik Teague; Lighting Design: Gregory Montague; Sound Design: Dolph Amick; Puppet Design: Jason Hines)

The design team of *Winnie the Pooh* at the Alliance Theatre--(Scenic Design: Mariana Sanchez; Costume Design: Fabian Fidel Aguilar; Lighting Design: Steven Love; Sound Design: Clay Benning; Music Director: Dylan Frederick)