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THE ROGER REES AWARDS

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FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

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To help further theatre arts education throughout  
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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

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IN SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN  
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Founded originally in 2010 as the Gershwin Awards, The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance was renamed in 2015 to honor actor, director, educator, Roger Rees. Since its inception it has been supported by the Broadway Education Alliance, Inc. For more information, visit [RogerReesAwards.com](http://RogerReesAwards.com).

THE ROGER REES AWARDS

*(Dramatic pause.)*

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**NOMINEES**

Congratulations to you all on your acclaimed performances - and a round of applause for **Caroline Ji**, this year's "You Will Be Found" College Essay Writing Challenge Winner.

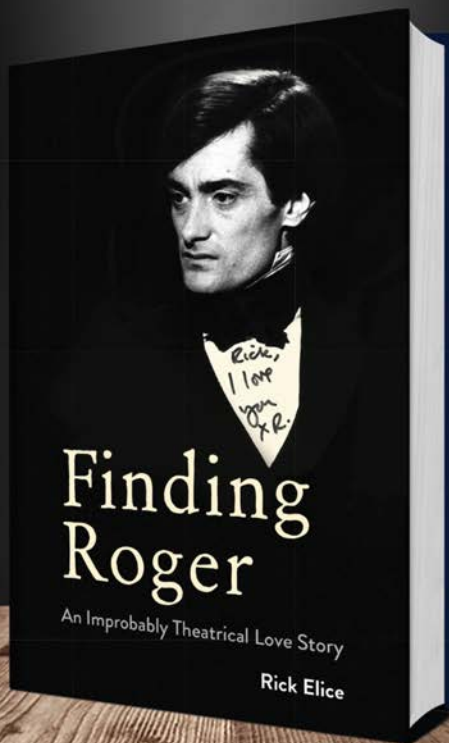
Today, whether on the page or on the stage, your voices are heard.

Sincerely,  
The **DEAR EVAN HANSEN** Family

[#YouWillBeFound](#)



Finding Roger  
is a story of  
*profound loss*  
but also a  
*love story*  
for the ages.



# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

## THE ROGER REES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

celebrates the exceptional life and career-long artistic excellence of the beloved actor, artist and teacher, Roger Rees.



Roger Rees was born in Aberystwyth, Wales on May 5, 1944, and grew up in South London. He began his career in the theater as a scenery painter. While working backstage, the theater manager called upon him to replace an injured cast-member. He never painted scenery again.

He spent 22 years as a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company with whom he received the Olivier® and Tony® Awards for his performance in the title role in *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*. Roger continued as an Associate Artist of the RSC for the rest of his life. Over the course

of his career Roger starred in dozens of plays and musicals produced on Broadway and the West End of London. Broadway audiences cheered his performance of Gomez opposite the Morticia played by Bebe Neuwirth and Brooke Shields in *The Addams Family*, and raved about his portrayal of Anton Schell starring opposite Chita Rivera in *The Visit*. Television audiences know him from recurring roles on *The West Wing*, *Cheers* and *Grey's Anatomy*; and guest appearances on dozens of other shows.

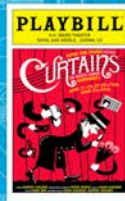
Roger was also a prolific director whose work graced the stages of many world-class theater companies including the Williamstown Theatre Festival where he served as the artistic director. A new generation of theatergoers were introduced to his extraordinary artistry when he teamed with Alex Timbers to direct *Peter and the Starcatcher* by Rick Elice, for which he won the Obie Award for Outstanding Direction Off-Broadway and then garnered nine Tony nominations, including one for Best Direction of a Play.

Throughout his life, Roger was a committed educator and generous mentor to young artists. From his earliest days as a fledgling with the Royal Shakespeare Company when he traveled to schools in the Cotswolds on Sundays, to the master-craftsman courses at Columbia University (adjunct professor), Williams College (Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts, 2006) and Florida State University (Hoffman Chair); from community outreach he began as Artistic Director of the Bristol Old Vic to the Leap-Frog internships he pioneered as Artistic Director of Williamstown Theater Festival, Roger spent countless hours in rehearsals and classrooms coaching aspiring writers, directors and performers on character, craft, collaboration and the vast cannon of theatrical works. The Roger Rees Award for Excellence in Student Performance continues his work.

Roger Rees passed away in July 2015 after a year-long battle with brain cancer. He was posthumously inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in November 2015. To read more about Rogers' life and legacy, please visit [RogerReesAwards.com](http://RogerReesAwards.com) where you will find a detailed account of his accomplishments written by his partner, Rick Elice.

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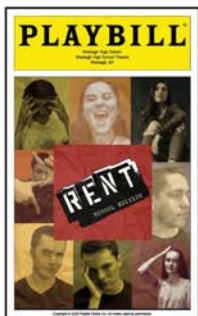
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## CONGRATS! 2020 WINNERS



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We are so honored to be recognized by Playbill for our *Rent* program. We have been using Playbillder for years, and it allows us to have a polished, professional face on our productions while providing a vehicle for fundraising through ad sales. Being able to have a “real Playbill” for our shows connects our students and audiences to the larger Broadway world. Playbillder makes us a part of the theatre community in a real and meaningful way.

– Heather Naughton, *Director & Playbill Coordinator*

Courtney Prestianni, *Business Manager & Ad Sales Coordinator*



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The Broadway Education Alliance and Gotham Writers

CAROLINE JI, *Stuyvesant High School*

\$1,500 scholarship sponsored by

Stacey Mindich, *Producer, Dear Evan Hansen*

From getting the opportunity to meet the masterminds behind the production of *Dear Evan Hansen* to being recognized by the Born This Way Foundation, my gratitude and enthusiasm extends far beyond what I can articulate.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported me throughout this process, especially the Broadway Education Alliance for making this all possible. I am excited for what is to come and hope that everyone is safe and healthy.

– Caroline Ji, *Stuyvesant High School Junior*


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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

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## PRE-SHOW



Presents

## 2020 ROGER REES AWARDS 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL PRE-SHOW

Hosted by

**RUTHIE FIERBERG**

Senior Features Editor, Playbill Inc.

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*Special Guests in Alphabetical Order*

**CRAIG COURSEY**

General Manager, One Shubert Alley and Theatre Circle

**JAKE RYAN FLYNN, ANALISE SCARPACI, AVERY SELL**

*Stars of Mrs. Doubtfire*

**TRALEN DOLER**

Director of Marketing, Broadway On Demand

**RICK ELICE**

*Writer of Jersey Boys and The Addams Family; author of Finding Roger*

**BONITA J. HAMILTON**

*Star of The Lion King*

**CHRISTYNE NICHOLAS**

*Chair of the Broadway Association and The New York State Tourism Authority Council (I Love NY), CEO, Nicholas & Lence Communications*

**CHRISTINE RILEY**

*Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, Marymount Manhattan College  
Music Director, Roger Rees Awards*

**EKELE UKEGBU**

*2019 Best Actress, Roger Rees Award & Jimmy Award®*

**CODY WILLIAMS**

*Executive Producer, Roger Rees Awards Online Special, Ordinary Sunday LLC*

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**RUTHIE FIERBERG** is a journalist living and working in New York City. She is currently the Senior Features Editor at Playbill Inc. and host of Playbill's Live From the Red Carpet specials on Facebook Live. A Barnard College alum, she has written for such publications as Backstage and Parents magazines, she has hosted panels at the 92nd Street Y, BroadwayCon 2016–2019, and the JCC Manhattan, and she has guested on SiriusXM radio. She is an ardent supporter of The Actors Fund and Covenant House. Her new podcasts *Why We Theater* and *Remotely, Ruthie* are soon to launch on the Broadway Podcast Network. Find more from Ruthie at [RuthieFierberg.com](http://RuthieFierberg.com), and follow her on Twitter @RuthiesATrain and Instagram @RuthieFierceberg.

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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

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## HOSTED BY



**FRANK DILELLA** is the Emmy Award winning host of “On Stage” on Spectrum News NY1, the news channel’s weekly half-hour theater program. DiLella’s celebrity interviews, along with his in-depth reporting of the theatrical scene, have helped make him a trusted friend and confidant within the theater and entertainment communities in New York City and around the globe. Since joining NY1 in 2004, DiLella has interviewed many legendary artists including Tom Hanks, Vanessa Redgrave, Bono, Nathan Lane, Elton John, Liza Minnelli, Patti LuPone, Bette Midler, Bernadette Peters, Hugh Jackman, Tom Stoppard, Lin-Manuel Miranda, James Earl Jones, Chita Rivera, Jane Fonda, Ben Vereen, Angela Lansbury, Lady Gaga, Tony Kushner and Andrew Lloyd Webber. In the spring of 2018, DiLella was honored with an Emmy Award for best News Magazine Program for his Special on the Broadway musical *Come From Away*. In 2019, DiLella received a New York Press Club Award in the category—Entertainment/TV for his special on the Broadway revival of *Angels in America*. In addition to filing reports on the Broadway and off-Broadway scenes, DiLella has traveled internationally to cover theater in the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, and Canada. Over the years, DiLella has acted as a contributing correspondent for the Tony Awards, the Olivier Awards at Royal Albert Hall, Playbill, MANHATTAN Magazine and Broadway Direct, and has given lectures on theater and journalism at Hofstra University and The American Theatre Wing. He has also appeared as a theater correspondent for the BBC, Sirius XM, “The Early Show” on CBS, CTV, and Al Jazeera TV. In 2013, he appeared on NBC’s “Smash,” portraying himself. In October of 2019, Frank launched the entertainment podcast – “Show and Tell with Frank DiLella” on iHeart Radio. A strong advocate of theater arts education, DiLella currently serves on the board of The Roger Rees Awards and is a part of the selection committee for the annual Clive Barnes Award and Foundation—which honors talented young professionals in the artistic fields of dance and theater. DiLella received a degree from Fordham University at Lincoln Center and has since returned to his alma mater as an adjunct professor teaching theater journalism.



**ANDREW BARTH FELDMAN** won the 2018 National High School Musical Theatre Award (aka the Jimmy Award® and the Roger Rees Award for Best Actor) as a high school sophomore and went on to make his Broadway debut as the title character in the Tony Award®-winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen* as a junior in high school. In his “spare” time, Andrew runs a theatre company, Zneefrock Productions. Founded when Andrew was twelve years old, Zneefrock’s productions raise money for NEXT for Autism. Shows have included *The Last Five Years*, *Be More Chill*, an original Star Wars musical parody called *SW: A New[sical] Hope*, and many others. In the fall of 2020, Andrew will attend Harvard University. To learn more about Andrew, visit Instagram @andrewbfieldman\_, Twitter @andrewbfieldman, as well as @zneefrockproductions or [www.zneefrockproductions.com](http://www.zneefrockproductions.com).

# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance promotes the value of formal theatre arts education by celebrating talented students who distinguish themselves for their work on stage, backstage and off stage while attending high schools located throughout the Greater New York region.

## BROOKLYN

Robert Randazzo  
Xaverian High School  
*Legally Blonde*

## MANHATTAN

Liane Byrne  
Hunter College High School  
*The Drowsy Chaperone*

Teri Gindi  
Professional Performing Arts School  
*Pippin*

Sarah Stewart  
Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School  
*The Addams Family*

## QUEENS

John Bellington  
Christ the King High School  
*Into the Woods*

## STATEN ISLAND

Donna D'Ermilio  
St. Joseph Hill Academy High School  
*Once Upon a Mattress*

## THE BRONX

Elizabeth Healy  
Cardinal Spellman High School  
*Aida*

Benjamin Posner  
Horace Mann School  
*Urinetown*

Laura Desmond  
Riverdale Country Day School  
*Hairspray*

## LONG ISLAND

Christopher Bilella  
Bay Shore Senior High School  
*Cats*

Michael Bruno  
Chaminade High School  
*Disney's Newsies*

Mary Ann Cafiero  
West Babylon Senior High School  
*Into the Woods*

Mary DeBorger  
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School  
*Once On This Island*

TinaMarie DeFalco  
Miller Place UFSD  
*Mamma Mia!*

Bethany Dellapolla  
Pierson Middle-High School  
*Urinetown*

Lisa Drance  
North Babylon High School  
*The Addams Family*

Cyndi Feinman  
Roslyn High School  
*Footloose*

Anthony Femino  
Oyster Bay High School  
*Into the Woods*

Lauren Foster-Holzer  
Paul D. Schreiber High School  
*Disney's Newsies*

Laura Gallo  
Oceanside High School  
*Disney's The Little Mermaid*

Edward Grosskreuz  
Wellington C. Mepham High School  
*Footloose*

Phil Iconis  
Half Hollow Hills High School East  
*Mamma Mia!*

Ryan Lane  
Plainedge High School  
*Hello, Dolly!*

Lisa Levenberg  
General Douglas MacArthur High School  
*You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*

Susan Lyons  
Huntington High School  
*Crazy For You*

Thomas Marr  
William A. Shine Great Neck South High School  
*Mamma Mia!*

Melissa McLees  
Cold Spring Harbor Junior-Senior High School  
*Pippin*



# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

We also recognize the many educators who, like Roger Rees, share their passion for and knowledge of the theatre with their students. It's the art and artistry of dedicated teachers that make this event possible.

Ilana Meredith  
Great Neck North High School  
*Anything Goes*

Jessica Mischke  
Farmingdale High School  
*Hairspray*

Heather Naughton  
Wantagh High School  
*Rent: School Edition*

Tasha Partee  
Lawrence Woodmere Academy  
*The Addams Family*

Ruthie Pincus  
Hauppauge High School  
*Footloose*

Theone Rinaudo  
Jericho High School  
*Disney's Newsies*

Pam Seiderman  
South Side High School  
*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*

John Smykowski  
Floral Park Memorial High School  
*Mamma Mia!*

Catherine Wright  
H Frank Carey High School  
*SHREK the Musical*

## ORANGE COUNTY

Natalie Arneson  
James I O'Neill High School  
*Urinetown*

## ROCKLAND COUNTY

Lisa Demarest  
Nyack High School  
*Hello, Dolly!*

Thomas Hoetzel  
Pearl River High School  
*Legally Blonde/ SHREK the Musical*

Lisa Imperial  
Clarkstown South High School  
*Disney's Newsies*

Casey Leibesberger  
North Rockland High School  
*Disney's Newsies*

Randy Schwartz  
Suffern High School  
*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Tom Beck  
Pelham Memorial High School  
*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*

Tammy Burgus  
Walter Panas High School  
*Legally Blonde*

Seren Cepler  
White Plains High School  
*SHREK the Musical*

Douglas Coates  
North Salem High School  
*The Sound of Music*

Christina Colangelo  
Blind Brook High School  
*Les Misérables: School Edition*

Scott Harris  
Rye Neck High School  
*Disney's The Little Mermaid*

Rob Jacoby  
Alexander Hamilton High School  
*Twelfth Night*

Elizabeth Melito  
Westlake High School  
*Chicago: High School Edition*

Frank Portanova  
Archbishop Stepinac High School  
*Something Rotten!*

Micah Sprague  
Sleepy Hollow High School  
*The Addams Family*

Kathleen Warren  
Pleasantville High School  
*Disney's The Little Mermaid*

Borough representation in the awards program changes annually.

To register your school for the 2020 – 2021 Roger Rees Awards, please visit [RogerReesAwards.com](http://RogerReesAwards.com).



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THE ROGER REES AWARDS

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**Disney** Theatrical Productions

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**Aladdin**

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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

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**THE  
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AWARDS** FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Hosted by

**FRANK DILELLA & ANDREW BARTH FELDMAN**

Starring

**ROGER REES AWARDS NOMINEES**

Samuel Ahn Emma Baldwin Cassidy Baltazar Olivia Barrios-Johnson Jack Brenner  
Ryan Burton Liam Byrne Dylan Chong Michael Cinquemani Emily DeChristine John Doty  
Eva Doyle Jack Finegan Jeremy Fuentes Grace Gallen Leana Genovese Vincent Gerardi  
Cara Gilbert Jenna Halvorsen Meredith Heller Paul Hogan Ryan Jaramillo Thomas Kelly  
Kamila Kudela John Lancia Shelby Levine Diego Lucano Keenan Lyons Kate Magocsi  
Amy Mandelbaum Jacqliene Mangini Sarah McGlinchey Meghan McLane Kyra Orgass  
Theo Pearson Sasha Phillips Bailey Proctor Dale Relevant Adrianna Romeo  
Meaghan Sabino Ginger Sakarya Jake Schauder Ashley Schlusberg Harrison Schwartz  
Lauren Seery Lior Shaham John Sileo Owen Trawick Westin VerHoef Barry Zhang

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Salute to "Show People"

Featuring Greater New York Region Best Actress and Best Actor Award Winners

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Ryan Koerber Kyra Leeds Sarah Libby Emily Loewus Marla Louissaint Alyssa McDonald  
Halle Mastroberardino Zander Pacella Maddie Rubin Joshua Schwartz  
Steven Telsey Harold Theurer Ekele Ukegbu

Special Appearance by

**JESSIE MUELLER**

Award Judges

**BONITA HAMILTON HAL LUFTIG ROB MCCLURE  
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**THEO LENCICKI**

Music Director

**CHRISTINE RILEY**

Directed by

**CYNTHIA THOLE**

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Roger Rees Awards!

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the talented young poppets!

# Mrs. Doubtfire

A New Musical Comedy



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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

## BEST ACTRESS NOMINEES



**EMMA BALDWIN**

Elle Woods, *Legally Blonde*  
Xaverian High School



**CASSIDY BALTAZAR**

Lucy, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*  
Gen. Douglas MacArthur High School



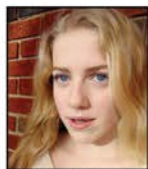
**OLIVIA BARRIOS-JOHNSON**

Aido, *Aido*  
Cardinal Spellman High School



**EMILY DECHRISTINE**

Princess Winnifred, *Once Upon A Mattress*  
St. Joseph Hill Academy High School



**EVA DOYLE**

Hope Cladwell, *Urinetown*  
Pierson Middle-High School



**GRACE GALLEN**

Tracy Turnblad, *Hairspray*  
Riverdale Country Day School



**LEANA GENOVESE**

Belle, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*  
South Side High School



**CARA GILBERT**

Belle, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*  
Suffern High School



**JENNA HALVORSEN**

The Witch, *Into The Woods*  
West Babylon Senior High School



**MEREDITH HELLER**

Rosemary, *How To Succeed...*  
Pelham Memorial High School



**KAMILA KUDELA**

Janet Van de Graaf, *The Drowsy Chaperone*  
Hunter College High School



**SHELBY LEVINE**

Crutchie, *Newsies*  
Jericho High School



**KATE MAGOCSI**

Katherine, *Disney's Newsies*  
Paul D. Schreiber High School



**AMY MANDELBAUM**

Princess Fiona, *SHREK the Musical*  
White Plains High School



**JACQUIENE MANGINI**

Lady Lurcan, *Once Upon A Mattress*  
Wellington C. Mepham High School



**SARAH MGLINCHEY**

Katherine, *Newsies*  
Clarkstown South High School



**MEGHAN MCLANE**

Ursula, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*  
Pleasantville High School



**KYRA ORGASS**

Mimi, *Rent: School Edition*  
Wantagh High School



**SASHA PHILLIPS**

Ariel, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*  
Oceanside High School



**BAILEY PROCTOR**

Olivia, *Twelfth Night*  
Alexander Hamilton High School



**ADRIANNA ROMEO**

Grizabela, *Cats*  
Bay Shore Senior High School



**MEAGHAN SABINO**

Mother Abbess, *The Sound of Music*  
North Salem Middle/High School



**GINGER SAKARYA**

Marticia Addams, *The Addams Family*  
Sleepy Hollow High School



**ASHLEY SCHLUSSELFBERG**

Hope Harcourt, *Anything Goes*  
Great Neck North High School



**LAUREN SEERY**

Dolly Levi, *Hello Dolly!*  
Plainridge High School

# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

## BEST ACTOR NOMINEES



**SAM AHN**

Adolph, *The Drowsy Chaperone*  
Hunter College High School



**JACK BRENNER**

Moonface Martin, *Anything Goes*  
Great Neck North High School



**RYAN BURTON**

Sebastian, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*  
Pleasantville High School



**LIAM BYRNE**

Horace Vandergelder, *Hello Dolly!*  
Plainedge High School



**DYLAN CHONG**

Munkustrap, *Cats*  
Bay Shore Senior High School



**MICHAEL CINQUEMANI**

Jack Kelly, *Disney's Newsies*  
North Rockland High School



**JOHN DOTY**

Link Larkin, *Hairspray*  
Farmingdale High School



**JACK FINEGAN**

J.P. Finch, *How To Succeed...*  
Pelham Memorial High School



**JEREMY FUENTES**

Nick Bottom, *Something Rotten!*  
Archbishop Stepinac High School



**VINCENT GERARDI**

Ren McCormack, *Footloose*  
Hauppauge High School



**PAUL HOGAN**

Daniel, *Once On This Island*  
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School



**RYAN JARAMILLO**

Lord Farquaad, *Shrek: The Musical*  
H Frank Casey High School



**THOMAS KELLY**

Beast, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*  
South Side High School



**JOHN LANCIA**

Beast, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*  
Suffern High School



**DIEGO LUCANO**

Pippin, *Pippin*  
Professional Performing Arts School



**KEENAN LYONS**

Bobby Child, *Crazy For You*  
Huntington High School



**THEO PEARSON**

Gomez, *The Addams Family*  
Sleepy Hollow High School



**DALE REVELANT**

Prince Eric, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*  
Oceanside High School



**JAKE SCHAUDER**

Charlie Brown,  
*You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*  
Gen. Douglas MacArthur High School



**HARRISON SCHWARTZ**

Gomez, *The Addams Family*  
Lawrence Woodmere Academy



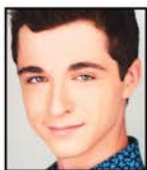
**LIOR SHAHAM**

Emmett Forrest, *Legally Blonde*  
Walter Panas High School



**JOHN SILEO**

Roger Davis, *Rent: School Edition*  
Wantagh High School



**OWEN TRAWICK**

Jack Kelly, *Disney's Newsies*  
Clarkstown South High School



**WESTIN VERHOEF**

Joseph Pulitzer, *Disney's Newsies*  
North Rockland High School



**BARRY ZHANG**

Davey, *Disney's Newsies*  
Jericho High School

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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS



## 2020 ROGER REES AWARDS ENSEMBLE

Featuring  
**JESSIE MUELLER**  
Tony Award<sup>®</sup> Best Actress (2014)

Performing  
"You'll Never Walk Alone"

Evenyue Afeto  
Christ the King High School

Cassidy Baltazar  
General Douglas MacArthur  
High School

Stephanie Bieder  
Walter Panas High School

Yanni Bitis  
Pierson Middle-High School

Luca Bombardiere  
Paul D. Schreiber High School

Andrew Bova  
Miller Place UFSD

Benjamin Checkla  
Wellington C. Mepham  
High School

Killian Chou  
Riverdale Country Day School

Ciara Cole  
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School

Jaden Colon  
Cardinal Spellman High School

Jake Cosentino  
North Babylon High School

Darren Del Orfano  
West Babylon Senior High School

Ashley Deschamps  
Farmingdale High School

Katie Dolce  
Hauppauge High School

Grace Gallen  
Riverdale Country Day School

Ellie Ganser  
North Babylon High School

Vincent Gerardi  
Hauppauge High School

Cara Gilbert  
Suffern High School

Caleb Gillen  
White Plains High School

Lila Goldstein  
Half Hollow Hills High School East

Eli Goodwin  
William A. Shine Great Neck  
South High School

Jenna Halvorsen  
West Babylon Senior High School

Meredith Heller  
Pelham Memorial High School

Charlotte Hogan  
Archbishop Stepinac High School

Jake Janata-Whittemore  
Nyack High School

Aliza Kibel  
Blind Brook High School

Alexa Kola  
H Frank Carey High School

John Lancia  
Suffern High School

Diego Lucano  
Professional Performing Arts School

Keenan Lyons  
Huntington High School

Jason Marks  
Columbia Grammar and  
Preparatory School

Isabella Meath  
Columbia Grammar and  
Preparatory School

Tyler Palma  
Floral Park Memorial High School

Theo Pearson  
Sleepy Hollow High School

Eden Plepler  
Horace Mann School

Anna Romani  
Rye Neck High School

Alex Russ  
Roslyn High School

Ginger Sakarya  
Sleepy Hollow High School

Angeli Santander  
Floral Park Memorial High School

Jake Schauder  
General Douglas MacArthur  
High School

Abby Semelsberger  
Huntington High School

Leonay Sheperd  
Professional Performing Arts School

Alix Sholomon  
William A. Shine Great Neck  
South High School

Ella Stevens  
Nyack High School

Alexa Tamis  
North Salem Middle/High School

Autumn Washington  
Lawrence Woodmere Academy

Andie Weiner  
Roslyn High School

"You'll Never Walk Alone" is written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II from the musical *Carousel* (1945). Published by Williamson Music Company (ASCAP). Performed with permission from Concord Music Group, Inc. The orchestral track for the Roger Rees Awards rendition has been created by Doug Oberhamer.



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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

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## JUDGES



**BONITA J. HAMILTON** is an acclaimed actress, singer, voice-over artist, and speaker who is now playing Shenzi the hyena on Broadway in *The Lion King*. Hamilton's 15-year tenure on Broadway includes pre-Broadway workshops for *The Color Purple*, *The Legend of Stagecoach Mary*, and *Mandela the Musical*. Her voice brings words to life for ESPN's NBA Countdown; Marvel's Wolverine Podcast; commercials for Marzetti, Walmart, and Novartis; the Academy Award®-nominated film, *Can You Ever Forgive Me* and the animated series, *Through the Woods*. Hamilton was a soloist on Good Morning America and at NBA games, Disney Musicals in Schools and Alabama State Founders Day Convocation. She had a recurring role in HBO's *The Knick* and NBC's *Manifest*. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Alabama State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theater from Brandeis University. She is a certified teacher, practitioner of the Being Acting Technique and mentor to high school theater students.



**ROB MCCLURE** will resume the title role when *Mrs. Doubtfire* returns to Broadway. He received Tony, Drama League, Astaire, and Outer Critics Circle nominations and won Theatre World and Clive Barnes awards for his performances in *Chaplin*. Other Broadway: *Beetlejuice*, *Something Rotten!*, *Noises Off!*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, *Avenue Q*. Encores!: *Where's Charley?* and *Irma La Douce*. Regional: The Muny, Paper Mill, Old Globe, Arden, Cleveland Play House, A.R.T., Walnut Street, Delaware Theatre, Flat Rock, McCarter, LaJolla. Film: *Recursion* (Best Actor at Queens World & Williamsburg Independent film festivals). TV: "Nancy Drew," "Person of Interest," "Elementary," "The Good Fight."



**HAL LUFTIG** is a leading producer of New York, London, and global theater for 25 years. He has collaborated with some of its most brilliant creative artists. His productions have received 45 Tony Awards and has been honored personally with four Tony's, and two Olivier Awards in London. His shows include new musicals, renowned plays, and beloved revivals: *Jelly's Last Jam*; *Angels in America*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *The Normal Heart*; *Legally Blonde, the Musical*; *Evita*; *Here Lies Love*; *Children of a Lesser God*; and *Kinky Boots*. In New York, he is producing David Byrne's *American Utopia*, and a revival of Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite*. Off Broadway: *Scotland, PA* (Roundabout); and *Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish* (Drama Desk Best Musical Revival). In development, Hal has new musicals *Becoming Nancy* and *My Very Own British Invasion*, a reimagining of *The Who's Tommy* and *Here Lies Love*. Hal is the host of new podcast Broadway Biz, coming soon to the Broadway Podcast Network.

# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

## JUDGES



**PATRICIA HOAG SIMON** has served as Coordinator for Musical Theatre at Marymount Manhattan College since 1991. She supervises a faculty of over forty musical theatre professionals in the fields of music theatre history, music theory, dance, private voice, auditioning, and acting for musical theatre. Pat has taught many courses including *Musical Theatre Techniques*, *Scene into Song* and *Auditioning for Musicals*, as well as directed *Baby*, *She Loves Me*, *The Grass Harp*, *The Human Heart*, *Plain and Fancy*, *Carousel*, *The Human Comedy*, *Ragtime*, *South Pacific*, *Cabaret* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Prior to joining MMC, she worked as Casting Director and Literary Advisor for the WPA Theatre, New York Agency and Bauman Hiller Associates, Musical Theatre Works and The American Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. An oral historian, her work on Joshua Logan as well as her collected oral histories is housed at the Goodspeed Library of Musical Theatre in East Haddam, Connecticut.



**MERRI SUGARMAN**, initially an actress (*Les Misérables*, *Aspects of Love*), Merri found herself out West where she began her Casting career working as an Executive Casting Director for DreamWorks Studios and Director of Casting at ABC. Merri returned to the East Coast to teach and coach actors, when Tara Rubin offered her a Casting Director position working on the Broadway and Touring companies of *Spamalot*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *A Bronx Tale*, *School of Rock* and *Miss Saigon*. She also casts for theaters regionally—including Chicago Lyric Opera, The Old Globe and The LaJolla Playhouse. She is the CD of the acclaimed web series *Submissions Only*. Merri has a BFA in Musical Theater from Emerson College, is a Tony® Award voter and member of the Casting Society of America. Roger Rees was a dear friend, an incredible collaborator, one of the best actors the world over and Merri is very proud to be here in his name and is pretty sure he's here too.

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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

## PRODUCTION COACHES



Sean McKnight



Cynthia Thole

**SEAN MCKNIGHT** (talent agent) brings over 20 years of experience in professional theatre to The Hybrid Agency. Together with owner/founder Rikky Fishbein, their clients appear nightly on Broadway, in national touring companies, and on stages across the world as well as appearing regularly on TV and film. As a performer, Sean has an extensive list of credits on Broadway/Tour including *Anything Goes*, *Shrek*, *Curtains*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Producers*, *42nd Street*, *Cinderella*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. His choreography has earned him nominations for both the Ovation! and LA Drama Critics Circle Awards. He holds a BFA degree in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan and is currently on faculty at The New School.

**CYNTHIA THOLE** is a veteran of the Broadway stage, having worked with theatre legends—Agnes DeMille, Twyla Tharp, Susan Stroman, Leonard Bernstein, Arthur Laurents, and Mike Ockrent. Broadway performance credits: *Me and My Girl*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *42nd Street*, *My Fair Lady*, *Nick & Nora*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*. National tours: *42nd Street*, *Oklahoma!*, *Sugar Babies* and the movie version of *The Producers*. Cynthia works professionally as a director/choreographer: Reagle Musical Theater, Theatre Under the Stars, Theatreworks USA, Allenberry Playhouse, Mill Mountain Theatre, City College, Penn State University and Camp Broadway. Cindy is currently preparing to remount *A Christmas Carol the Musical* for Susan Stroman at the English National Opera in London and is directing *Singin' In the Rain* for the Reagle Players in Boston. Cindy is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Musical Theater at Fairleigh Dickinson University and teaches ballet in the Montclair State University dance program.

## MUSIC DIRECTORS



Isaac Harlan



Christine Riley

**ISAAC HARLAN** is a Pittsburgh native who studied classical piano at Penn State University. Since 2010 he has worked in New York City as a pianist, music director and orchestrator. Isaac has played concerts for Norm Lewis, Renee Goldsberry, Eden Espinosa, and Michael McElroy, and has also had the pleasure of working with other artists such as Tituss Burgess, Leslie Odom Jr., and Capathia Jenkins. He has music directed shows regionally for the Pittsburgh CLO and at the Argyle Theater on Long Island, and his orchestrations have been heard at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and Yankee Stadium. Isaac also works with the Broadway Inspirational Voices, a Grammy Award-nominated gospel choir, as a pianist and orchestrator.

**CHRISTINE RILEY** is a Music Director and Vocal Coach in New York as well as an Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre at Marymount Manhattan College. New York and National Tour credits include: *My Vaudeville Man* (The York Theatre), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (National tour), *Addy and Uno* (The Kirk), *Errol and Fidel*, *A Moment in Time: A New Musical*; *Gemini the Musical* (The Acorn), *Perfectly Victorian*, and *Flight of the Lawnchair Man* (37 Arts). She also served as the Music Director for *Bring It On: The Musical*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Pangaea*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Shout! The Mod Musical*, *Edges*, *Sweet Charity*, *Rags*, *Triumph of Love*, *Wonderland*, and *The Boys from Syracuse* at Marymount Manhattan and many shows around the country and for Camp Broadway. Recently, she published a book, *Music Fundamentals for Musical Theatre*, with Bloomsbury Press. Christine received her BM from Ithaca College and an MM from Arizona State University.



# THE ROGER REES AWARDS



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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

## ADJUDICATORS



Kristine Bendul



Tina Maria Casamento



Andy Einhorn



David Libby

**KRISTINE BENDUL** began her career as a classically trained ballerina and ended up in NYC with thirteen Broadway production credits. Aside from Camp Broadway, she has created works for Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS, Dancers for Good, Broadway Barkada and BC Beat. She has choreographed immersive theater, showcase, short film, and music video. Kristine and her dance partner conceived, wrote, directed, choreographed and starred in *The Color Iz* at the iconic Stonewall Wall Inn in August 2019 which received a rave review on BroadwayWorld.com. Kristine has been a guest teaching artist for Julliard, University of Michigan, Elon, Santa Clara and Oklahoma Universities. Additionally she was a guest instructor at Broadway Dance Center, Gibney, the Los Angeles High School for the Arts, American Ballet Theater and a ballroom instructor on the Disney Magic, as well as other schools and workshops including Broadway Bound Kids' Workshop, Broadway Workshop and Manhattan Dance Project.

**TINA MARIE CASAMENTO** is a faculty member at Rider University teaching Musical Theatre and Acting and has extensive experience coaching young performers. She is the Conceiver/creator and Lead Producer of *Chasing Rainbows; The Road to Oz*, a new musical about Judy's Garland's early life, featuring songs from the Sony/Feist Robbins catalog with support from The Garland Heir estate. Her performing credits include leading roles in *Kiss Me Kate, Victor Victoria, Falsettos, In Trousers, Into The Woods, Spitfire Grill, That Other Woman's Child*; and as Poppy Cosgrove on *Submissions Only*. Working with Bob Cline Casting and NETworks, she has cast productions worldwide and runs auditions nationwide. Directing credits include New York and regional productions of *Okla-*

*homa!, The Fantasticks, Little Shop Of Horrors, Anyone Can Whistle; I Do, I Do, and Maids Of Honor.*

**ANDY EINHORN** served as the Music Supervisor and Musical Director on Broadway for *Carousel* and *Hello Dolly!*, as well as *Holiday Inn, Woody Allen's Bullets Over Broadway, Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella, Evita, Brief Encounter, The Light in the Piazza, and Sondheim on Sondheim*. Since 2011 Einhorn has served as music director and pianist for six-time Tony® Award-winner, Audra McDonald, performing with her around the world, as well as for Barbara Cook. Recording credits include Audra McDonald's *Sing Happy* with the New York Philharmonic, *Carousel* featuring Renee Fleming, *Hello Dolly!* featuring Bette Midler, *Bullets Over Broadway, Cinderella, Evita, and Sondheim on Sondheim* (Grammy Nom). He served as the music director for HBO's Peabody Award winning documentary *Six by Sondheim* and music supervisor for Great Performances award winning special "Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy" on PBS. Andy Einhorn is an Honors graduate from Rice University in Houston, Texas.

**DAVID LIBBY** is Music Supervisor/Arranger/Composer for the new musical *Chasing Rainbows: The Road to Oz*, which premiered on the main stage of Goodspeed Musicals in 2017 and was the 2019 Season Opener at Paper Mill Playhouse. David's Music Director credits include *Play it Cool* (Off Broadway), *The Shadow Sparrow* (O'Neill NMTC), and *That Other Woman's Child* (NYMF and Chattanooga Rep). He also played keyboards on the First National Broadway Tour of the 2001 revival of *Kiss Me Kate*. MM in Jazz Studies, Rutgers University; BA in Music, Bowdoin College.

# THE ROGER REES AWARDS



Ekele Ukegbu winning Best Actress at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Jimmy Awards for her role as Aida in Disney's *Aida*.

## EKELE SHINES AS 2019 BEST ACTRESS AT THE ROGER REES AND JIMMY AWARDS

### *Fortune favors the brave...*

High school musical productions are often considered to be a precursor to success within the performance industry. That being said, performing with my schoolmates during our highly anticipated musical *Aida* was a remarkably rewarding experience that I will never forget. As my family drove home from the show, I never knew that *Aida* would take me places. Briefly after my high school performance, I was nominated for my role as Aida for the Roger Rees Awards. I deeply enjoyed collaborating during dance numbers and various exercises with my fellow nominees and seeing that we were all devoted musicians and aspiring actors, we mastered every aspect of our respective routines. During the master class, I had the opportunity to hear everyone's

**"With Ekele, passion and perseverance have no limits."**

– Ekele's parents

solos. That's when I knew that the Roger Rees Awards not only provides a productive learning environment but helps every actor achieve their purpose. As I sat there astounded by the pure levels of talent among my peers, I realized that I too had a purpose to fulfill.

### *It's all worked out, my road is clear...*

The night was spectacular, and everyone looked amazing in their performance attire.

The show began with our first dance number and the introduction of nominees from the represented schools. Shortly following our performances, the advancing

finalists were called. After hearing my name, I excitedly ran backstage to prepare myself for my performance of "Easy as Life" from *Aida*. Following everyone's performances,



# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

the finalists were called out again and I was extremely proud of my accomplishments. All of a sudden I was announced as the winner of the Roger Rees Awards for Best Actress! I was overjoyed and ecstatic, completely caught off-guard by my success. I truly had an amazing experience at the Roger Rees Awards, and it was such a blessing to participate with my fellow nominees from different schools within the Greater New York region.

## *The lines of latitude extend...*

Making it to the Jimmy Awards was an equally thrilling experience, and I was enthusiastic to interact with teens from all across the country. Starting the week with dance numbers, master classes, and rehearsals, I loved every moment of it. I was grateful for the mentorship and expertise provided to us by the NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and I'm grateful to have learned from them all. We performed at the Minskoff Theatre, starting the show with a grand opening number and medley group performances. After this, we all came out on stage, holding hands and awaiting the announcement of the finalists. As soon as they called my name, all I could remember was the electric applause of the audience and the joy of my fellow nominees.

## *Beyond my wildest dreams...*

As I sang "I Am Here" from *The Color Purple*, I felt a surge of energy coursing through my

veins as I delivered each note. As I confidently exited the stage, I almost didn't realize that I received a standing ovation from the audience.

As we applauded for the winner of Best Actor, my name was announced as the winner for Best Actress! So many emotions rushed over me, and that day was the most spectacular day of my life! I am so glad I had the opportunity to be a part of this and learn from such wonderful coaches and students.

I felt so much love and support during the Roger Rees and Jimmy Awards, and I am eternally grateful for sharing my talents with the world.

I currently attend NYU Tisch School of Drama. With the training I am given, I will continue to share my talents with the world.



Ekele Ukegbu at the 2019 Roger Rees Awards.

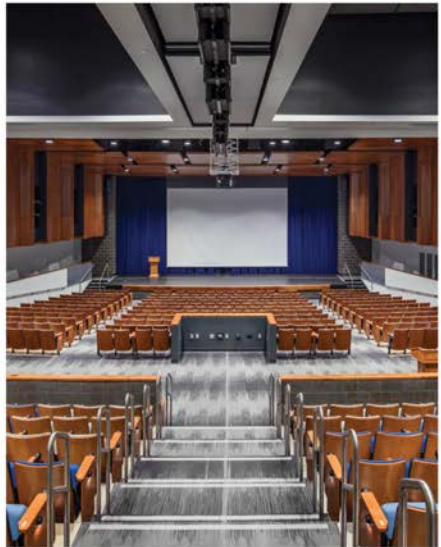
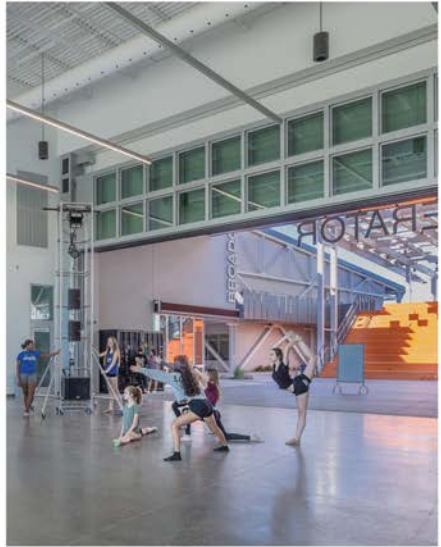


2019 Roger Rees Award winner, Ekele Ukegbu performing on "Live with Kelly and Ryan".





# THE ROGER REES AWARDS



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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS



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## THE ROGER REES AWARDS SALUTE TO "SHOW PEOPLE"

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2011



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KEVIN W. CROWLEY

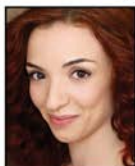


KYRA LEEDS

2012



JOSHUA SCHWARTZ



HALLE MASTROBERARDINO

2013



ERIC HAROLD

2014



SARAH LIDDY



STEVEN TELSEY

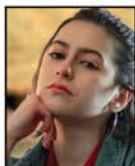


MARLA LOUISSAINT

2015



RYAN KOERBER



SOPHIA CONDON

2016



ZANDER PACELLA

2017



MADDIE RUBIN



DEAN KLEBONAS



ALYSSA McDONALD

2018



ANDREW BARTH FELDMAN



EKELE UKEGBU

2019



JEREMY FUENTES

"Show People" from *Curtains*

(music: John Kander; lyrics: Fred Ebb, John Kander and Rupert Holmes).

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**THEO LENCKICKI** (Director) is a professional actor and arts educator based in New York City. A graduate of Penn State University, he has performed in many premier venues and the nation tours of *Hairspray*, *A Chorus Line*, *Young Frankenstein* and as Riff in *West Side Story*. He is a rostered artist with the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and was named Artist of the year in 2017. He is the assistant choreographer for The Jimmy Awards® and works with Camp Broadway on many performances including the MACY's Thanksgiving Day Parade, *Before Broadway Cabaret* at 54 Below, and *Rocktopia* on Broadway.



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*And the Barbra Barth Feldman  
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*ROGER REES WINNER '18*

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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

### BROADWAY EDUCATION ALLIANCE

President	Brian W. Curran
Vice President	Susan E. Lee
Website Designer/Social Media	Katie Ley Winger
Accountant	Marks Paneth & Shron LLC/Mark D'Ambrosi
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### CAMP BROADWAY INC.

Managing Director	Melissa Caolo
Business Manager	Jenine Campbell
Production Supervisor	Barb Domue
Roger Rees Awards Program Manager	Katie Ley Winger
Parent Liaison	Sunny Naughton

### ORDINARY SUNDAY LLC

Executive Producer/Director	Cody Williams
Executive Producer/Senior Editor	Adam Paul Verity
Editor and Graphics	Morgan Birman, Jess Orsburn, and Patrick Steward
Track Production/Additional Orchestration	Charlie Rosen
Production Assistant	Morgan Steward

### BROADWAY ON DEMAND

Executive Producer	Sean Cercone
Director of Marketing	Tralen Doler
Executive Producer	Jeff Keilholtz
Technical Director	Mark Ciglar, Cinevative

## MUSIC CREDITS

- "As Long As There is Love" from *Mrs. Doubtfire* (music and lyrics: Wayne and Karey Kirkpatrick)
- "Corner of the Sky" from *Pippin* (music and lyrics: Stephen Schwartz)
- "Could You Use Me" from *Crazy For You* (music: George Gershwin; lyrics: Ira Gershwin)
- "Happy To Keep His Dinner Warm" from *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* (music and lyrics: Frank Loesser)
- "Happy/Sad" from *The Addams Family* (music and lyrics: Andrew Lippa)
- "Home" from *Beauty and The Beast* (music: Alan Menken; lyrics: Howard Ashman and Tim Rice)
- "I Can Hear The Bells" from *Hairspray* (music: Mark Shaiman; lyrics: Mark Shaiman and Scott Wittman)
- "I Can't Stand Still" from *Footloose* (music: Tom Snow; lyrics: Dean Pitchford)
- "If I Can't Love Her" from *Beauty and The Beast* (music: Alan Menken; lyrics: Howard Ashman and Tim Rice)
- "Just Around The Corner" from *The Addams Family* (music and lyrics: Andrew Lippa)
- "Little Known Facts" from *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (music and lyrics: Clark Gesner)
- "Show People" from *Curtains* (music: John Kander; lyrics: Fred Ebb, John Kander and Rupert Holmes)
- "Stay With Me" from *Into The Woods* (music and lyrics: Stephen Sondheim)
- "The Kite" from *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (music and lyrics: Clark Gesner)
- "You'll Never Walk Alone" from *Carousel* (music and lyrics: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II)

# THE ROGER REES AWARDS



THANK YOU ROGER REES AWARDS!

CONGRATS TO KEENAN LYONS

& ALL THE NOMINEES!



Congratulations to KATE & LUCA!  
We are so proud of your AMAZING work!  
~ SCHREIBER THEATRE COMPANY ~

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMY MANDELBAUM AND ALL  
OF THE ROGER REES AWARD NOMINEES & FINALISTS!

THANK YOU AS WELL TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN  
PUTTING THIS ONLINE PRODUCTION TOGETHER. WE  
APPLAUD YOUR CREATIVITY AND DETERMINATION IN  
FINDING A WAY TO HONOR THESE TALENTED KIDS!

MOM, DAD & EVA  
GAGA & PAPA  
GRANDMA & GRANDPA

# THE ROGER REES AWARDS

THE ADMINISTRATION,  
FACULTY AND STAFF OF  
ST. JOSEPH HILL ACADEMY  
CONGRATULATES  
EMILY DE CHRISTINE AND  
JACLIENE MANGINI  
FOR RECEIVING THE  
ROGER REES AWARD

WE ARE SO PROUD OF  
YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
SUMMUM BONUM

CONGRATULATIONS

Kate Magosci

We're so proud of you.

Mom, Dad, Matthew,  
Esther, Teddy, and Coco



**CONGRATULATIONS MEGHAN!**

**Nothing make us happier than seeing you on stage.**

**Love,**

**Mom, Dad, Bruce, Brendan, Aunt Kim, Gammy, and Papa**



## THE ROGER REES AWARDS

***Congratulations Grace and Killian!  
We're so proud of you!***



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# THE ROGER REES AWARDS



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