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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.

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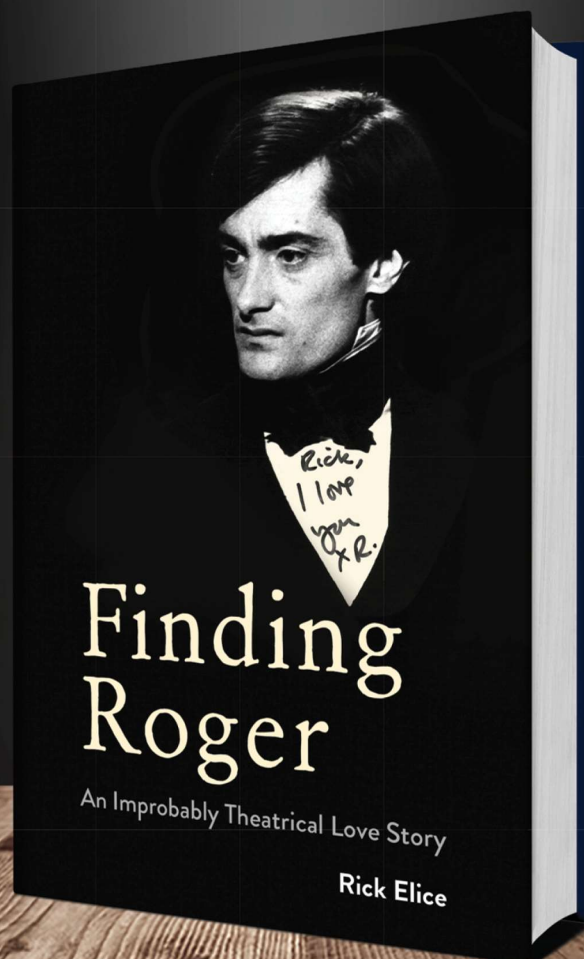
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THE ROGER REES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

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 where you will find a detailed account of his accomplishments written by his partner, Rick Elice.



Cue & Curtain Drama Club at Clarkstown North High School; photo by Julianna Holmes

THEATRE EDUCATION IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC

by Dr. Jeff S. Dailey

March 13, 2020—Friday the thirteenth—was the last day we had a “normal” day of school (although many would say nothing is normal when talking about schools). On that day, we had a dress rehearsal of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Islip High School (where I was working at the time), and everyone was looking forward to opening night the following week. Alas, it was not to be. What we thought would be a one or two week delay lasted until the end of the semester and, even now—a year later—audiences have yet to return in person to school performances.

Yet, in spite of the many, many disappointments to both the performing arts and education that we have experienced this past year, all has not been lost. Theatre educators are, by nature and by training, creative, and they have adapted to the Covid 19 situation in a variety of ways. They have learned to teach via Zoom, Google Classroom, Snapchat, and Flipgrid, as well as by using e mail, text, and phone. They have learned how to capture performances on

video and also to navigate the legal ramifications of doing so. They have encouraged and counselled students who have been overwhelmed by the disease and the isolation it has wrought. They have assisted students with college auditions that are now either taped or done live over the computer.

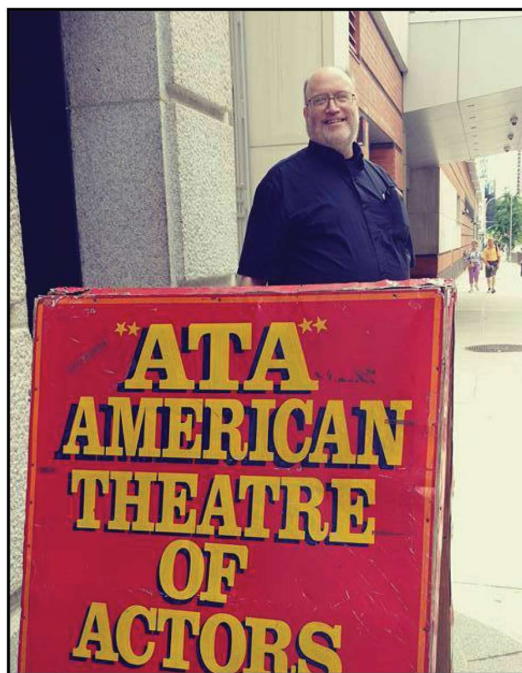
The New York Thespians (the honor society for the theatre arts) recently held its annual festival online, and the presenters showed their inventiveness and resilience by teaching acting, singing, stage combat, makeup techniques, sound and lighting design, and dance via Zoom. While this manner of delivering instruction is not ideal, in the hands of innovative teachers, it works fine. Theatre teachers throughout the country have been delivering quality instruction in novel ways, and, although everyone cannot wait until in-person instruction resumes, they are making the best of a bad situation.

Actually, a bigger problem will be arriving in the new school year. School budgets are

prepared a year in advance, so this year's budgets were in place when the pandemic hit. Next year does not look good for schools, so it is important for parents and other community members to maintain pressure to ensure that the arts are adequately funded and do not bear the brunt of cuts.

There has also been an increased awareness of how theatre is more than entertainment; that it is a means of examining and dealing with oppression and inequality. Since theatre is based on conflict—no one goes to the theatre to see people agree with each other—theatre as a means of learning about conflict resolution goes back to the earliest surviving Greek dramas. By analyzing theatrical conflict, students can learn how to deal with the struggles—large and small—that they encounter in everyday life.

Theatre in the United States has survived disasters before—wars, unrest, censorship, and philistinism have all disrupted performances before. But it has always returned, and out of the hardship and conflict of the pandemic new (and greater) theatre will emerge.



Dr. Jeff S. Dailey retired in 2015 from his position as Director of Fine and Performing Arts in the Deer Park Schools. For the 2019–2020 school year, he filled in as an interim administrator for the arts in the Islip School District. His most recent article, "Performing Gilbert and Sullivan During a Pandemic and Beyond," was published in the April 2021 issue of *School Music News*. He is a member of the Board of Directors of New York Thespians, and the founder of the Classical Acting Institute.



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SENIOR LAUREN MERTING' DESIGNS DELIVER PLAYBILLDER AWARD



In a year full of so many uncertainties and restrictions, it was invaluable to have such a talented and dedicated student to create our Playbills and the PLAYBILLder program to help us engage our remote audiences.

– Kimberly Davis, Director of Wantagh Theatre



LAUREN MERTING

As the Wantagh International Thespian Society board secretary responsible for social media and design, I had the pleasure of designing the posters and Playbills for our shows this year. Our advertising campaign looked quite different this year, due to the virtual nature of our shows. Our season consisted of an at-home adaptation of *Clue* and Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. I tried to create eye-catching poster designs in hopes of increasing our audience. We had two separate casts for *Clue*, so it was important to make each poster specific to their respective cast. I referenced movie posters that I found online in order to achieve this goal. During *Cinderella*, our spring musical, we had the privilege of returning to the stage and performing for a remote audience.

I wanted to exemplify the unique nature of our process by creating a poster that had never been done before. After much deliberation,

I decided on a colorful background to create a magical feel, and the iconic carriage as the focal point of the poster. It was difficult to reach our prospective audiences due to the circumstances, so it was important to have online methods of advertising.

In order to create our Playbills, I was fortunate enough to have access to the PLAYBILLder program. This allowed us to reach our virtual audience and added a sense of normalcy to such a unique year. The software is incredibly easy to navigate, and enabled me to experience the process by which a real Playbill is created. My wonderful director, Mrs. Davis, was an enormous help through this year, and it was an absolute pleasure to work under her. As I make my exit from Wantagh Theatre, I am proud to have made my mark on the department with the help of the PLAYBILLder program.

Lauren will be attending Long Island University in Fall 2021. Her major is Secondary English Education with a minor in Theatre.

The background of the entire poster is a photograph of the Statue of Liberty, taken from a low angle looking up. The statue is holding a torch in its right hand and a tablet in its left. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The word "Write" is written in a large, white, hand-painted style across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the statue's torch and crown.

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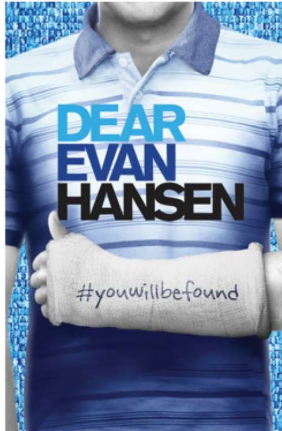
Congratulations on your
acclaimed performances.

Tonight, we're all
waving back at you.

Sincerely,
DEAR EVAN HANSEN

#YouWillBeFound

ESSAY CONTEST GOES NATIONAL



**“Every time that you call out,
you’re a little less alone.”**

“You Will Be Found”, Dear Evan Hansen

“During the past year, connection has never been more integral to our daily lives, yet we find ourselves in a moment where it requires more creativity than ever to maintain.”

So begins the prompt for Dear Evan Hansen’s third-annual “You Will Be Found” College Essay Writing Challenge, which expanded to nationwide eligibility for the first time in 2021.

In their essays, students were asked to describe how they’d managed to ensure those around them were a little less alone in recent months—or, alternatively, a moment where they themselves found comfort in connection. Over the course of a two-month entry period, 3,277 students from 49 states, 3 US Territories and the US Armed Forces took the time to share their experiences through the essay challenge.

The college application process, and the essays that accompany it, have always played a role in Evan Hansen’s story of a young adult coming into his own. That idea inspired the *Dear Evan Hansen* team to launch the essay challenge three years ago, awarding the first two scholarships to students in the greater New York City area.

The decision to expand eligibility was inspired by *Dear Evan Hansen*’s record-breaking National Tour, and the millions of audience members who have embraced the show nationwide since its debut. The growth of the essay challenge has been accomplished with the support of presenting partners at venues across the country. In a true collaborative effort, dozens of team members representing these theatres have served as preliminary judges,

each reading hundreds of essays from their respective regions to identify national finalists.

“Now, more than ever, we realize how the past year has impacted the educational experience for students across the country—and how those students have responded with incredible resilience and adaptability,” says lead producer Stacey Mindich. “We’re grateful that the year ahead will ultimately find productions like *Dear Evan Hansen* on track to return to the stage, and students across the country able to get safely back to their classrooms.”

The winner of the essay challenge, which is presented alongside *Dear Evan Hansen*’s longtime partners The Broadway Education Alliance and Gotham Writers Workshop, will receive a \$10,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. The winning student, along with national finalists, will also be hosted as VIP guests of *Dear Evan Hansen* as the production resumes performances on Broadway and on Tour at the end of this year.

Keep an eye on the show’s official social channels (@DearEvanHansen) for the chance to read the winning essay, along with those of the national finalists, throughout the summer.

ESSAY CONTEST GOES NATIONAL



Katherine Hui, graduating senior from Great Neck South High School, visits *Dear Evan Hansen* star, Andrew Barth Feldman, and the Broadway cast backstage at the Music Box Theatre to accept a scholarship from producer Stacey Mindich her scholarship for her winning essay. Feldman is the 2019 Roger Rees Award and Jimmy Award Best Actor.



Caroline Ji, junior from Stuyvesant High School, receives her own *Dear Evan Hansen* inspired poster along with her scholarship for her 2020 winning essay. Upon receiving her award, she reflected on her experience.

"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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TRW PRESENTS: INSIDE BROADWAY INSIGHTS



SARAH JANE ARNEGGER



RICK ELICE



BETH LEAVEL

SARAH JANE (SJ) ARNEGGER (Moderator) (Director, iHeartRadio Broadway) began working within the Broadway community in 2001 with positions at some of the most prestigious firms—Douglas & Kopelman, Disney Theatrical Group, Boneau/Bryan-Brown and The Karpel Group and in 2011, Sarah Jane joined Playbill to launch their education and community engagement program. Sarah Jane oversaw the day-to-day operations for Playbill's main educational website PLAYBILLder and all special educational initiatives, which included the Junior Theatre Festival, International Thespian Festival, BroadwayCon, Broadway Teachers Workshop and partnerships with EdTA, NYC DOE, itheatrics, and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2018 Sarah Jane joined iHeartMedia to launch the new iHeartRadio Broadway platform. Sarah Jane oversees the growing streaming radio station, serves as the executive producer for all digital content/podcasts and is on camera host for the iHeartRadio Broadway Mercedes-Benz Interview Lounge and the co-host for the 'Growin' Up Broadway' podcast. Sarah Jane is a former professional opera singer and received her M.M. from New York University and B.A. from Marymount Manhattan College.

RICK ELICE (Writer) On Broadway so far: *Jersey Boys*, *The Addams Family*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *The Cher Show*. In the pipeline: *The Princess Bride* for Disney; *Smash* for Robert Greenblatt, Neil Meron and Steven Spielberg; *Mad Season*, with Rob Thomas of

Matchbox Twenty, directed by Schele Williams. Rick is also adapting Sara Gruen's novel *Water for Elephants* with the theater collective, *Pig Pen*, directed by Jessica Stone; and writing a musical based on the rivalry between Darwin and Roget, love, death, madness and the creation of Roget's Thesaurus, with 2021 Ed Kleban Award winner, Benjamin Scheuer. His next acting gig will be on the new season of *Submissions Only*, playing Beth Leavel's husband. His last acting gig was as a porn star for Elaine May, in her off-Broadway play, *Adult Entertainment*. Rick's book, *Finding Roger*, An Improbably Theatrical Love Story, a tribute to his extraordinary husband, Roger Rees, is published by Kingswell.

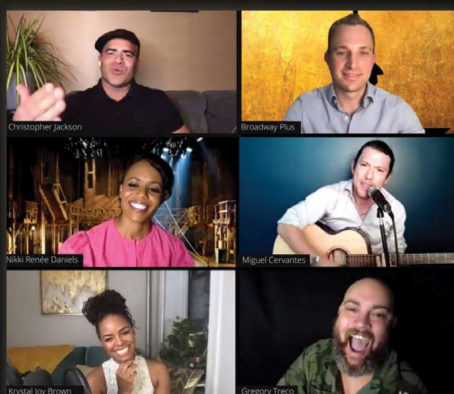
BETH LEAVEL (Actress) Broadway Credits: Mabel/Mrs. Bixby in *The Prom*, Tess in the original Broadway production of *Crazy For You*, Ellie in Hal Prince's production of *Show Boat* and Anytime Annie in *42nd Street*. Off-Broadway credits: *Broadway Jukebox* and *An Unfinished Song*. Regional Credits: *Kudzu* (Ford's Theater), *Songs for a New World* (Helen Hayes Performing Arts Center), *The Gershwin's Facinatin' Rhythm* (Hartford Stage Company). On TV, Ms. Leavel was Carina Levitt on ABC's "Ryan's Hope," Mom on Nickelodeon's "Yours Truly" and can be seen in numerous commercials. Other favorite roles include Rizzo in the national tour of *Grease* and Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*. Beth and her husband, John Milne, have two wonderful sons, T.K. and Sam.

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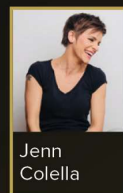
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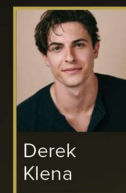
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ARABELLA POWELL



TIM REID

ADAM HONORÉ (*Lighting Designer*) is a Harlem based lighting designer for plays, musicals, and live events. His résumé includes off-Broadway productions, regional shows, national tours, and international premieres. Internationally, Adam's work has been seen in Austria, Canada, and the Philippines, where he designed the international premiere of *Fun Home*, which featured Tony Award® winner Lea Salonga. Adam is a Drama Desk, Henry Hewes, and Helen Hayes Award Nominee; AUDELCO Award Recipient, and a Member of Live Design Magazine's "30 Under 30"

GENE O'DONOVAN started as a scenic carpenter in 1970, progressing upward to shop foreman then General Manager/Vice President. He worked as a stagehand, automation operator, production carpenter, and house carpenter. In 1980, he founded Hudson Scenic Studio and was its President until 1994 when he opened Aurora Productions, a production management company. While at Hudson he production managed theater and corporate events. He retired from Aurora in January of 2015 but continues as a consultant. He has been involved in the building, technical supervision or production management of over 250 Broadway shows and their tours across four continents. Gene began O'Donovan Consulting which is presently advising the Nederlander Organization on the restoration of the Palace Theater. Gene has taught Production Management & Technical Theater at SUNY Purchase (2001–present) and Columbia University (2013-2018). He is the recipient of a TONY Honors Award For Excellence in Theater, a proud veteran of the Army, member of Locals One and 74 of the IATSE and is

married to Linda Batwin O'Donovan (Principle of Batwin+Robin Productions). They have five children and six grandchildren.

ARABELLA POWELL is a Broadway Stage Manager with over 25 years of experience. She has worked and toured internationally including London's West End and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Off-Broadway highlights include *Tap Dogs* and *Trumbo*. On Broadway she has worked on the one person plays of Eve Ensler and John Leguizamo as well as many years with Disney's *The Lion King*. Most recent projects include *What the Constitution Means to Me* and *Richard II* for The Public Theatre and WNYC. Arabella is also an educator as Program Director at Open Stage Project and as Lecturer in Stage Management at UC Riverside.

TIM REID (Moderator) has combined his passions for drama and teaching in the Education field for over 20 years by creating diverse curricula, designing theater courses, and mentoring school theatrical programs. As an artist with the International Schools Theatre Association, Tim has designed innovative programs for incorporating a range of world theatre practices to enrich student learning. He thrives on developing creative ways of increasing student engagement through professional theatrical productions. Following his passion for involving children in the arts, he currently serves on the Board of Directors for New York City Children's Theater. While working daily as a drama teacher at a high school just north of NYC, Tim has been nominated for a Disney American Teacher Award and an Excellence in Theatre Education TONY Award®.

ROGER REES AWARDS 2020 - 2021

The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance promotes the value of formal theatre arts education in high schools located throughout the Greater New York area. The Broadway Education Alliance would like to congratulate the dedicated educators who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to keep their students singing and dancing!

Borough representation in the awards program changes annually.
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Pearl River High School

Randy Schwartz
Suffern High School

SUFFOLK

Christopher Bilella
Bay Shore Senior High School*

Ruthie Pincus
Hauppauge High School

Michael Schwendemann
Huntington High School

TinaMarie DeFalco
Miller Place UFSD

Lisa Drance
North Babylon High School

Mary Ann Cafiero
West Babylon Senior High School

WESTCHESTER

Nadia Rizzo
Pleasantville High School

*Denotes participation in the Harmony Helper® Mosaic Award for Group Performance Excellence

ROGER REES AWARDS 2020 - 2021

On behalf of the participating schools, the Broadway Education Alliance wants to thank the educators, professional artists and industry executives who have donated their time to adjudicate the performances of the many students who are eligible for the 2020 – 2021 Roger Rees Award for Best Actress and Best Actor

ROGER REES AWARD ADJUDICATORS FOR BEST ACTRESS & BEST ACTOR

Sinead Atkinson	Alyssa May Gold	Brendt Rell
Glen Beck	Thomas Gordon	Jacqueline Saunier
Anita Boyer	Joshua Huff	Barbara Schmidt
Darilyn Castillo	Kasia Klimiuk	Brooke Shapiro
Judy Coniglio	Stephanie Lengyel	Allison Shindler
James Crichton	Jessica Lynady	Michelle Shmuel
Tyler Dema	Jenna Margiasso	Erin Sica
Kathleen Donovan-Warren	Martin Meccouri	Mary Jeanne Stead
Harold Eric	Jesse Michels	Hansel Tan
Carl Ferrara	Sadie Pincus	Jason Tramm
Brenda Festo	Faith Reifsnyder	Matthew Westerby

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NOMINEES.**

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THIS FALL!



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Athena Chuang Sophia Cimmino Will Cowitt Gabriel Cruz Ashley DiLorenzo Katie Dolce
Sabrina Garigali Vincent Gerardi Aiden Hoey Tyler Hothersall Netza Jimenez Sarah Katz Aidan Kelly
Rebecca Kenjesky Charlotte Knutsen Katriana Koppe Jessica Levin Mateo Lizcano Katie Lopez
Robert Magnus Isabel Manne Erin Matthews Audrey McCarter Armando Mendez Ella Moroney
John Munro Sophia Nardone Adrianna Neal Kirsten Owens Sophia Pettaway Gauri Purohit
Dylan Renart Sean Rowburrey Warren Schindler Sarah Schuster Samuel Schwartz Zachary Schwartz
Gabriella Sferlazza Carly Shurbet Grace Sottilo Joseph Stallone Frankie Tinelli Mia Turchin
Fiona VonThaden Aidan Wightman Jack Yan

Award Judges

**CALEY BARETTA FRANK DILELLA JASON GROSSMAN
T. OLIVER REID MERRI SUGARMAN EBONY VINE**

ROGER REES AWARDS NEW FACES

Sam Baum Sarah Biernacki Kylie Butler Colin Dowd Jacqueline Evangelista Gabriella Felice
Elijah Frechtman Olivia Jones Kamila Kudela Ryan Lewis Sophia Maiello Majella Maltempi
Lauren Marchand Emma Markey Mallory Morton Victoria O'Shea Evan Ozer Claudia Paolucci
Andrea Rodriguez James Rossomangno Sabina Sadiq Ashley Schlusberg
Amanda Swickle Maverick Williams

New Faces Program Adjudicators

**ERIN BURRIS DANNY LOFTUS GEORGE STEPHANIE KLAPPER
SHEREEN PIMENTEL JILLIAN SACCENTE**

Program Assistant
ERIKA FOLEY

Program Manager
BARB DOMUE

General Management
CAMP BROADWAY LLC

Video Producer
CODY WILLIAMS

Producer
MELISSA CAOLO

Executive Producer
SUSAN E. LEE

ROGER REES AWARDS 2020 - 2021

BEST ACTRESS NOMINEES



CASSIDY BALTARAZ
Anna,
Frozen Jr.
Gen. Douglas MacArthur HS



HAILEY BATISTA
Lumiere,
Beauty and the Beast
Farmingdale High School



ELLIE BREEN
Godmother,
Cinderella
Wantagh High School



ATHENA CHUANG
Woman 1,
Songs for a New World
Poly Prep Country Day School



SOPHIA CIMMINO
Woman 2,
Songs for a New World
Poly Prep Country Day School



ASHLEY DILORENZO
Woman 2,
Songs for a New World
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts



KATIE DOLCE
Wednesday Addams,
The Addams Family Jr.
Hauppauge High School



SABRINA GARIGALI
Miss Adelaide,
Guys & Dolls
North Rockland High School



SARAH KATZ
Mrs. Potts,
Beauty and the Beast
Suffern High School



REBECCA KENJESKY
Mrs. Potts,
Beauty and the Beast
Farmingdale High School



CHARLOTTE KNUITSEN
Woman 2,
Songs for a New World
Poly Prep Country Day School



KATRIANA KOPPE
Cinderella,
Cinderella
Wantagh High School



JESSICA LEVIN
Woman 1,
Songs for a New World
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts



KATIE LOPEZ
Woman 1,
Songs for a New World
Poly Prep Country Day School



ISABEL MANNE
Sharpay Evans,
High School Musical
Lawrence Woodmere Academy



ERIN MATTHEWS
Cosette,
Les Misérables
Miller Place USFD



AUDREY MCCARTER
Belle,
Beauty and the Beast
Suffern High School



ELLA MORONEY
Vicki,
A Grand Night For Singing
Pleasantville High School



SOPHIA NARDONE
Sarah Brown,
Guys & Dolls
North Rockland High School



ADRIANNA NEAL
Woman 2,
Songs for a New World
Poly Prep Country Day School



KIRSTEN OWENS
Vicki,
A Grand Night For Singing
Pleasantville High School



SOPHIA PETTAWAY
Woman 2,
Songs for a New World
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts



GAURI PUROHIT
Woman 1,
Songs for a New World
Poly Prep High School



SARAH SCHUSTER
Lynne,
A Grand Night For Singing
Pleasantville High School



GABRIELLA SFERLAZZA
Belle,
Beauty and the Beast
Farmingdale High School



CARLY SHURBET
Eponine,
Les Misérables
Miller Place USFD



GRACE SOTTILO
Fantine,
Les Misérables
Miller Place USFD



MIA TURCHIN
Alyson,
A Grand Night For Singing
Pleasantville High School



FIONA VONTHADEN
Elsa,
Frozen Jr.
General Douglas MacArthur HS

BEST ACTOR NOMINEES



SCOTT BISIANI
Thenardier,
Les Misérables
Miller Place USFD



ANDREW BOVA
Jean Valjean,
Les Misérables
Miller Place USFD



GIANCARLO CASCARINO
Man 1,
Songs for a New World
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts



WILL COWITT
Martin,
A Grand Night For Singing
Pleasantville High School



GABRIEL CRUZ
Prince,
Cinderella
Wantagh High School



VINCENT GERARDI
Gomez Addams,
The Addams Family Jr.
Hauppauge High School



AIDEN HOEY
Sky Masterson,
Guys & Dolls
North Rockland High School



TYLER HOTHERSALL
Gaston,
Beauty and the Beast
Farmingdale High School



NETZA JIMENEZ
Man 1,
Songs for a New World
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts



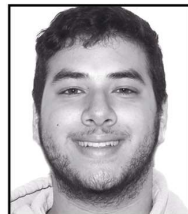
AIDAN KELLY
The Beast,
Beauty and the Beast
Farmingdale High School



MATEO LIZCANO
Man 2,
Songs for a New World
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts



ROBERT MAGNUS
Man 2,
Songs for a New World
Poly Prep Country Day School



ARMANDO MENDEZ
Nicely Nicely Johnson,
Guys & Dolls
North Rockland High School



JOHN MUNRO
Hans,
Frozen Jr.
General Douglas MacArthur HS



DYLAN RENART
Kristoff,
Frozen Jr.
General Douglas MacArthur HS



SEAN ROWBURREY
Marius,
Les Misérables
Miller Place USFD



WARREN SCHINDLER
Beast,
Beauty and the Beast
Suffern High School



SAMUEL SCHWARTZ
Troy,
High School Musical
Lawrence Woodmere Academy



ZACHARY SCHWARTZ
Gaston,
Beauty and the Beast
Suffern High School



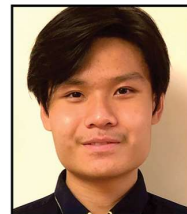
JOSEPH STALLONE
Olaf,
Frozen Jr.
General Douglas MacArthur HS



FRANKIE TINELLI
Lumiere,
Beauty and the Beast
Suffern High School



AIDAN WIGHTMAN
Javert,
Les Misérables
Miller Place USFD



JACK YAN
Man 1,
Songs for a New World
Poly Prep Country Day School

BEST ACTRESS AND BEST ACTOR JUDGES



CALEY BERETTA



FRANK DILELLA



JASON GROSSMAN

CALEY BERETTA is the Manager of Creative Development at Disney Theatrical Group, shepherding the creation of new Broadway musicals (*Frozen*, *Aladdin*), regional, international, and developmental productions (*Hercules*, *Freaky Friday*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*) and the adaptation of titles for amateur licensing (Descendants, *Moana JR.*). In 2018, in collaboration with her Disney colleagues, Caley co-produced the landmark event Women's Day on Broadway at the New Amsterdam Theatre; she co-produced the event again in 2019 at the St. James Theatre. Caley started at DTG in 2013, after graduating with a B.A. in Communication from Northwestern University.

FRANK DILELLA When New Yorkers are looking for the latest on the city's vibrant theater scene, they turn to NY1 theater correspondent and host of "On Stage," Frank DiLella. A resident of the Upper West Side and native of Philly, Frank attended Fordham University at Lincoln Center and has returned to his alma mater as a professor. Frank began his time at NY1 in 2004 as an intern for "On Stage." After stints on the assignment desk and as a producer, Frank got his big break during the Broadway stagehand strike of 2007 where he was asked to lead NY1's coverage. Frank continued to appear on camera on "On Stage" through 2016, eventually taking over as host in 2017. Frank and his team were awarded an Emmy for best news magazine program in 2018. When not

reporting on the entertainment community, Frank spends time trying new restaurants and traveling with friends. But no matter where his journey takes him, things seem to always lead back to the bright lights of Broadway.

JASON GROSSMAN is a Tony and Olivier award-winning theatrical producer and founder of Plush Theatricals. He is the lead-producer of the musical *Romantics Anonymous* (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and US Tour 2020) and co-founder of Radio Mouse Entertainment. His producing credits include *Come From Away* (Broadway, West End, National Tour, Toronto and Australia), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (2013 Tony Award for Best Play), and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (5 Tony Awards), *The Pee-wee Herman Show* on Broadway, and the Olivier Award-nominated West End production of *Lend Me A Tenor The Musical*. Jason's off-Broadway credits include *Shear Madness* (New World Stages) and *Nevermore – The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe* (nominated for 2015 Lucille Lortel Awards for Best Musical). He also worked on *The Color Purple* (Broadway) and the Disney film *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*. He is the recipient of the Young Alumni Achievement Award from Emerson College, and has also taught Commercial Producing at Emerson, New York Institute of Technology and Boston University.

BEST ACTRESS AND BEST ACTOR JUDGES



T. OLIVER REID



MERRI SUGARMAN



EBONY VINES

T. OLIVER REID has spent the past 20 years working on Broadway shows, (*Hadestown*; *Once On This Island*; *Sunset Boulevard*; *After Midnight*; *Sister Act*; *Mary Poppins*; *The Wedding Singer*; *Chicago*; *La Cage Aux Folles*; *Never Gonna Dance*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Follies*; *Kiss Me, Kate*), which have amassed more than 20 Tony Awards from the American Theatre Wing's Tony Awards. He is also an accomplished cabaret artist and multiple award winner for his solo show, "Drop Me Off In Harlem" which he directed, wrote and starred in. He has produced and directed concerts for Feinstein's 54 Below and continues to work in film and television. He is on faculty at NYU-Tisch's Grad Acting Program and Columbia University School of the Arts' Grad Acting program as well as Rider University. He sits on the Board of Visitors for the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He is currently in the critically acclaimed, *Hadestown* on Broadway.

MERRI SUGARMAN (Casting Director, Tara Rubin Casting) began her career as an actress before moving into casting for television and film at Dreamworks Studios becoming the Director of Casting for Dramas and Movies at ABC Television where she oversaw *Alias*, *NYPD Blue*, *The Practice*, *Gilda Radner—It's Always Something* and *The Music Man*, starring Matthew Broderick. She cast the web series *Submission Only* and Broadway, touring and international productions including *Ain't Too Proud*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Phantom of The Opera*, *Les Mi-*

sérables, *School of Rock*, *Miss Saigon* and *A Bronx Tale*, as well as *Clueless* and *Trevor The Musical* Off-Broadway. She works for Paper Mill Playhouse, Dallas Theater Center, The Old Globe and LaJolla Playhouse. She is a coach, a Big Sister to Jenny through Big Brothers/Big Sisters, an alumni officer at Kappa Gamma Chi (BFA in Musical Theater –Emerson College), and a member of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Casting Society of America, and a Tony Award® voter.

EBONY VINES is a writer, directs for the stage and produces for film and theater. Currently Ebony can be heard co-hosting a weekly theatre podcast called Theatre Geeks Anonymous on the Broadway Podcast Network. In 2020 she completed the Commercial Theater Institute's fourteen-week producing program. Ebony is a board member at Colt Coeur and a founding member of the Think Tank for Theatrical Innovation which is a "collaborative community of theater professionals who provide innovative strategies to promote inclusion, equity, diversity, and access in the creation and business of theater." Ebony's love for theater blossomed in high school where she became an Honor Thespian in the International Thespian Society. She is excited to be a judge for this year's Roger Rees Awards and looks forward to continuing to work with organizations that will create opportunities for young people who are frequently underrepresented to be able to showcase their talents.



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BEST ACTOR COACHES AND MUSIC DIRECTORS



CHRISTOPHER BETTS



CYNTHIA THOLE



STEVEN CUEVAS



CHRISTINE RILEY

CHRISTOPHER D. BETTS recent credits include: *Is God Is, School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play, We are Proud to Present...*, *Fireflies*, *littleboy/littleman* (Yale Cabaret) *How Black Girls Get Over Fuckbois* and *The Winter's Tale* (Yale School of Drama). Other collaborations include: *In the Southern Breeze* (Rattlestick Theatre), Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* (PopArt Johannesburg/Market Theatre Lab); a series of new works with the Obie Award-winning Fire this Time Festival; the workshops of *Goodnight Tyler* (Kennedy Center/Alliance Theatre) and *Refuge of the Damned* (Long Wharf); *The Cave: A Folk Opera* (New York Premiere); *CARRIE* (2015 BroadwayWorld Best Musical nomination) and *Barbecue* (Movement Director—The Public Theatre). Betts is a recipient of the Julie Taymor World Theater Fellowship, the Richie Jackson Artist Fellowship and a two-time recipient of the SDCF Observership. Betts received his BFA in drama with triple honors from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (Bachelor's Representative) and is currently completing his MFA in Directing at Yale School of Drama. He is an Artist-in-Residence at both Kampala International Theater Festival and Pop Art Johannesburg, a teaching artist at The Market Theatre Lab and a support team member for Art Equity. christopherdbetts.com IG: @chris.tagram

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.

STEVEN CUEVAS is a NYC-based music director, musician, orchestrator, and arranger. He was most recently the Music Director/Conductor of the first national tour of the Tony Award-winning revival of *Once On This Island*. Broadway: *Once On This Island*, *Anastasia*, *Kinky Boots*. Off-Broadway: *I Spy a Spy*, *We Are The Tigers*, *Trip of Love*, *Closer Than Ever*. Tours: *Kinky Boots*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Spring Awakening*, *My Fair Lady* (Singapore). Recordings: *Once On This Island*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Monstersongs*. Chair of Local 802 AFM Diversity Committee. Proud member: AEA, Recording Academy, Filipino American community. BFA Musical Theatre: Emerson College. @StevenMCuevas

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.



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ROGER REES AWARDS 2020 - 2021

The Roger Rees Awards is proud to announce a new initiative to support talented New York area high school student artists who are pursuing acting, dance and vocal performance outside traditional musical theatre. New Faces 2021 provides students with a pathway to opportunities for private coaching and educational scholarships.

NEW FACES RECOGNIZING EMERGING SOLO ARTISTS



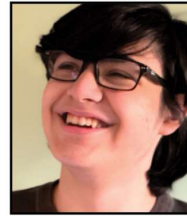
SAM BAUM
Riverdale Country Day School



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Huntington High School



KYLIE BUTLER
West Babylon High School



COLIN DOWD
Holy Trinity Diocesan HS



JACQUELINE EVANGELISTA
James I. O'Neill HS



GABRIELLA FELICE
North Babylon High School



ELIJAH FRECHTMAN
Fiorello H. Laguardia HS



OLIVIA JONES
Holy Trinity Diocesan HS



KAMILA KUDELA
Hunter College High School



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Jericho High School



EMMA MARKEY
Xaverian High School



MALLORY MORTON
Bay Shore Senior HS



VICTORIA O'SHEA
Wellington C. Mepham HS



EVAN OZER
Fiorello H. Laguardia HS



CLAUDIA PAOLUCCI
Holy Trinity Diocesan HS



ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
Fiorello H. Laguardia HS



JAMES ROSSOMANGNO
West Babylon High School



SABINA SADIQ
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NEW FACES COACHES



NATHAN CLARIDAD



MICHELLE ROBINSON



ROSE VAN DYNE

NATHANIEL P. CLARIDAD is an NYC based actor and director. Directing credits include work at Southern Rep., Two River Theatre, PlayMakers Repertory Company, the One Minute Play Festival, New York Shakespeare Exchange, Peculiar Works Project, Out of the Box Theatrics, and a Drama League Resident in 2019 & 2016. He is also co-founder of *Broadway Twisted*, an annual event in North Carolina benefitting NCAAN and BC/EFA. Acting credits include *Here Lies Love* (The Public Theater), *Taylor Mac's 24 Decade History...* (St. Ann's Warehouse), & many regional and international credits performing in venues from the Kennedy Center to the Sydney Opera House. Upcoming: Directing *Buyer & Cellar* (Weathervane Theatre), *Hookman* by Lauren Yee (University of Maryland, College Park) and *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (Imagination Stage).

MICHELLE M. ROBINSON began her training at The Dance Theatre of Harlem. She received the Harry Belafonte Performing Arts Scholarship, and has a BFA in Dance from SUNY Purchase. She has worked with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Bucket Dance Theater, The Dance Theatre of Harlem and The Eleo Pomare Dance Company. Musical theater credits: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Can-Can*, *For Colored Girls...*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Tempest*, and Broadway musical revival, *Chicago*. Television credits: *Law and Order*, *New York Undercover*, *Third Watch*, HBO's *Lackawanna Blues*, and *One Life to Live*. Film credits: Spike Lee's *Mal-*

colm X, *Flawless*. Most memorable show biz moment: becoming a Radio City Rockette. Nothing gave her as much joy as when she heard her mother say, "No matter where my child is on that kick line, I will be able to find her!"

ROSE VAN DYNE (she/her/hers) is a multifaceted artist based in NYC. As an Asian-American and the daughter of an immigrant, Rose constantly infuses her work with a drive toward diversity, equity, and inclusivity. Actor credits include *Cambodian Rock Band*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Interstate World Premiere* (Mixed Blood Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Argyle Theatre). Music Directing credits include Off-Broadway: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Out of the Box Theatrics), American Theatre Wing Songwriters Competition. *Second Line* (Pace University New Musicals, Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Baked! The Musical* (Chicago Underscore Theatre Company), *Sick Moves* (Temple University New Musicals). @rose_van_dyne, www.rosevandyne.com

NEW FACES ADJUDICATORS



ERIN BURRIS



DANNY LOFTUS GEORGE



STEPHANIE KLAPPER



SHEREEN PIMENTEL



JILLIAN SACCENTE

ERIN BURRIS is a talent manager at Whole Artist Management. Together with the team, WAM has placed clients on *Chicago PD*, *Law & Order SVU*, *FBI*, *Bull*, *Fosse/Verdon*, and many others. In addition, WAM has clients on Broadway and in National Tours including *Hamilton*, *Waitress*, *Be More Chill*, *Come From Away*, *Kinky Boots*, *Frozen* and more. Prior to joining the team at Whole Artist Management Erin was an intern and a freelance casting assistant at Binder Casting where she assisted on projects including *The Lion King* (Broadway), *Emojiland* (Off-Broadway), *Sister Act* (Paper Mill Playhouse), and The York Theatre's Musicals in Muftis Series. Erin earned a dual degree in Musical Theatre and Communication from the State University of New York at Geneseo.

DANNY LOFTUS GEORGE is the CoFounder of Geotus Productions with a portfolio including The Growing Studio International, The A1 Conference, and TGS Tours. He is the President of The Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts, a not-for-profit college conservatory located just outside New York City in Norwalk, CT. Danny starred in the original London companies of Lin Manuel Miranda's *21 Chump Street* and *The Burnt Part Boys* and *Sister Act*, *Chicago*, and *Altar Boyz* in NYC and across the United States. He has interviewed and/or worked with hundreds of stars and creatives including Jeff Daniels, Whoopi Goldberg, Matthew Broderick, Jerry Zaks, Casey Nicholaw, and many more. Graduate of The Boston Conservatory. Danny is a proud Board Member of The Higher Vibrations Collective.

STEPHANIE KLAPPER is a New York based, award-winning casting director whose work is frequently seen on Broadway, Off-Broadway, regionally, internationally, on television, film, and on many streaming platforms. Ms. Klapper is a graduate of Music and Art High School and SUNY College at Purchase. She is a frequent guest teacher and lecturer at many colleges and universities including New York University (The New Studio on Broadway), and the Tepper Semester through Syracuse University, where she is also a mentor to students interested in pursuing work in the casting profession.

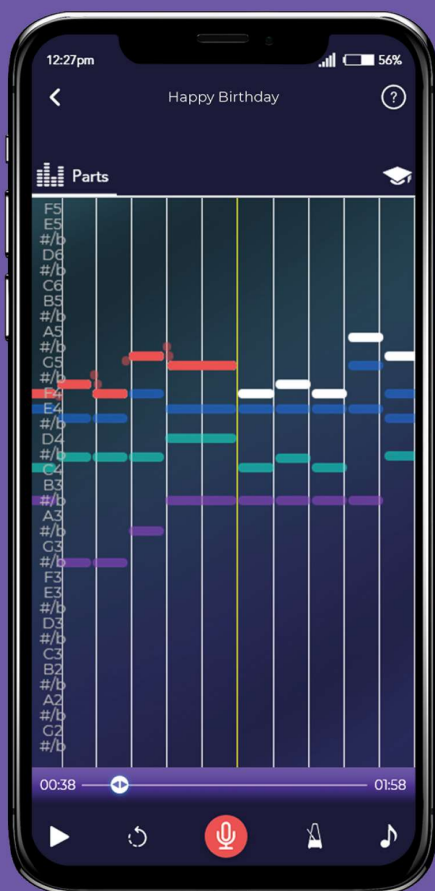
Ms. Klapper is passionate about working with creative teams to develop new work and expand the scope of established work. In addition to casting and teaching, Ms. Klapper is a member of the New York Board of the Casting Society of America, Casting Society Cares, NY-WIF, and an Associate Artist with NY Classical and Capital Rep. She is passionate about continuing to expand and champion diversity, equity, equality, and inclusion in the business. She loves working with emerging artists to help them develop their careers.

SHEREEN PIMENTEL is currently starring in the Broadway revival of *West Side Story* as Maria. This promising young soprano was recognized for her outstanding performance as an Outer Critics Circle honoree for Best Actress in a Musical. Ms. Pimentel started performing professionally at the very young age of nine, when she debuted on Broadway as Young Nala in *The Lion King*. Her recent concert performances include *Viva Broadway-Hear Our Voices* (w/Lin-Manuel Miranda and Gloria Estefan) and the Covenant House Gala - Night of Broadway Stars (w/Audra McDonald and Meryl Streep). Her screen credits include *John Mulaney & the Sack Lunch Bunch* on Netflix. Ms. Pimentel is a 2020 graduate from the Juilliard School with a bachelor's degree in vocal performance. She is a proud member of The Link Program.

JILLIAN SACCENTE is the Director of Marketing at Audience Rewards, the Official Rewards Program of Broadway, where she has provided ticket buyers with valuable ShowPoints and celebrity-filled events for over eight years. A lifelong theater fan, Jillian curates a talent roster of Broadway stars to produce events like choreography lessons, vocal workshops, master classes, and more. Jillian also collaborates with agencies and producers to strategically promote shows to nearly 3 million Audience Rewards members. She is thrilled to support arts education through the Roger Rees Awards and wishes a program like this existed when she was in high school so she could have performed "The Ladies Who Lunch" from *Company* to a packed house.



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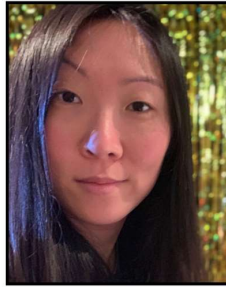
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GROUP PERFORMANCE AWARD ADJUDICATORS

The Broadway Education Alliance is proud to feature the Harmony Helper® Mosaic Award for Group Performance Excellence in the Roger Rees Awards. This new award recognizes the artistry, creativity and diversity of choral groups from high schools in the Greater New York area. It also celebrates the talent, dedication and teamwork essential in choral music.



ANDREW GOREN



AMANDA MORTON



JOSH TOTORA

ANDREW GOREN is the founder and CEO of Harmony Helper. As a passionate musical theatre actor, Andrew has been on a quest to develop the perfect way to learn and sharpen singing and harmonizing abilities. With over 10 years of singing and performing experience, his unique insights and vision have led to the creation of the amazing and elegant Harmony Helper app. With his leadership, Harmony Helper is helping singers of all kinds effectively practice and improve singing performance anywhere, anytime, removing traditional rehearsal barriers so singers can deliver their best performances.

Learn more about Andrew—Instagram: @harmony-helper

Website: www.harmonyhelper.com

AMANDA MORTON is a Music Director based out of the NYC region. Upcoming, she will serve as Associate Conductor for *KPOP: The Broadway Musical*. Most recently, she was the Music Director/Conductor/Keys 1 for the first national tour of *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*. She sits on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Committee of Maestra: an organization founded by composer/lyricist/music director Georgia Stitt, whose mission is rooted in uplifting “the women who make the music in the musical theater industry.” Select credits include: Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Lightning Rod Special, Ars Nova, Philadelphia Theatre Company, The Rev Theatre Co., Wilma Theater, and Theatre Horizon. She garnered Barrymore Awards for Best

Music Direction on Theatre Horizon’s *The Color Purple* and *Into the Woods* as well as Wilma Theater’s *Passing Strange*. She has a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre Performance from Ithaca College.

JOSH TOTORA is the Music Supervisor for Harmony Helper in addition to being an actor, musician, and composer based out of the Philadelphia/NYC area. Performance credits include the Walnut Street Theater, Arden Theatre Co., the Wilma Theater, Delaware Theatre Co., and Pig Iron Theatre Co. among many others. As a multi-instrumentalist and composer, his works have been featured in productions all over the country with Experiential Theater Co; Florida Rep in Fort Myers, FL; Trike Theater in Bentonville, AR; and the Children’s Theatre of Charlotte in Charlotte, NC (including a world premiere of his musical *The Invisible Boy*). He is a Theatre Philadelphia multi-Barrymore Award nominee for his performances, and a winner for “Outstanding Original Music” for his score of *He Who Gets Slapped* at Philadelphia Artists’ Collective. Josh has also toured his work internationally across Ireland, including the Babero International Arts Festival for Children in Galway. www.joshtatora.com

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