

PLAYBILL®

GREATER NEW YORK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATER AWARDS

Peter Norton Symphony Space

Monday, May 19, 2025



THE ROGER REES AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE
IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE



Bravo!



MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

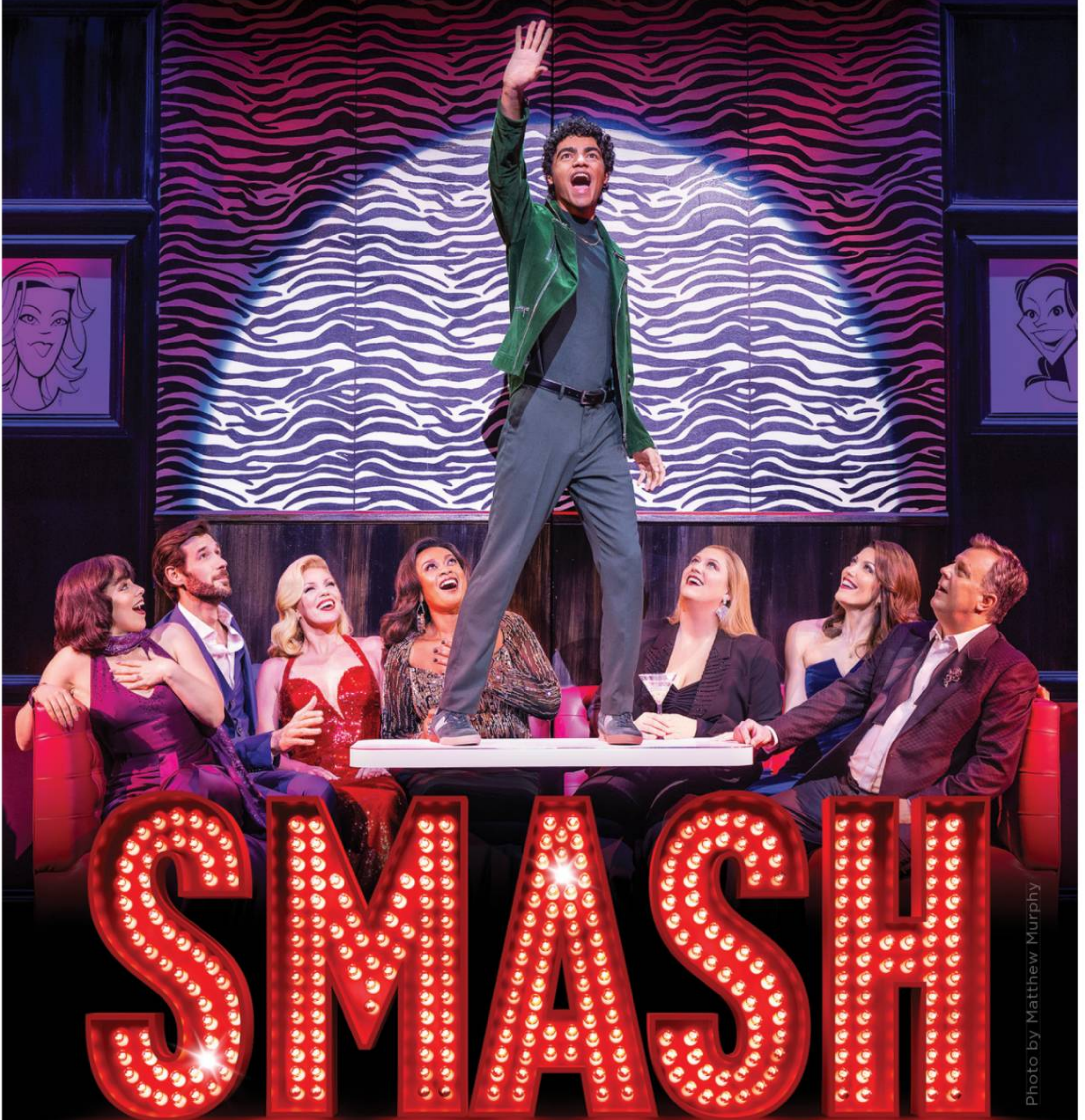
Salutes this year's exceptional students.
Keep chasing your dreams — this is just the beginning
of many amazing performances to come.



- mtishows.com -

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THIS YEAR'S ROGER REES
AWARD NOMINEES**

**YOU ARE ALL FACES AND
NAMES TO REMEMBER!**



SMASHBROADWAY.COM

 IMPERIAL THEATRE

**Just like the Roger Rees Awards,
bringing students to Broadway
is what we do!**



**Congrats to all of
today's talented
future stars!**

www.broadwayinbound.com | 866-302-0995




TRW IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE
15TH ANNUAL ROGER REES AWARDS
AND THE INAUGURAL AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATIVE
THEATER ARTS EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO
LISA DRANCE

2025 RECIPIENT OF THE
BROADWAY EDUCATION ALLIANCE AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATIVE THEATER ARTS EDUCATION

TRW THEATRICAL
RIGHTS
WORLDWIDE

A SINGULAR HOME FOR PLAYS AND MUSICALS

theatricalrights.com |    @trwshows

BROADWAYPLUS

We Bring Broadway to You!

- Meet-and-Greets
- Audition Coaching
- Masterclasses
- Lessons
- and more!



Select from over **1000 ARTISTS**, with a combined **100 TONY AWARD NOMINATIONS**, including:



Alex Brightman



JJ Niemann



Elizabeth Teeter

Book Virtual & Live Experiences Now At
BroadwayPlus.com

As Featured In



Forbes

The New York Times

Bloomberg



ROGER REES AWARDS

Congratulations To This Year's
ROGER REES AWARDS
Nominees And Winners!!!

I Believe In Supporting Broadway
And You Are All The
"Up and Coming Stars Of The Future"



Merrie L. Davis

Tony & Olivier Award Winning Creative Producer

CURRENT AND PRIOR BROADWAY PRODUCTIONS:



2024 TONY AWARD NOMINEE



2024 TONY AWARD NOMINEE





**Turn your dream
school into a reality!**



**100% of students accepted to an
audition-based Musical Theatre
or Acting program**



**85% of students receive talent-
based scholarship awards**

**Download our FREE COLLEGE
AUDITION TIMELINE!**



BONNIE COMLEY & STEWART F. LANE

**CONGRATULATE ALL
FINALISTS AND
WINNERS OF
THE 2024-2025
ROGER REES AWARDS**

**FOR EXCELLENCE IN
STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

10 **BROADWAY HD**
YEARS

**STREAM YOUR FAVORITE BROADWAY HITS.
ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.**

ROGER REES AWARDS



CULTIVATING A GENERATION OF GREAT PERFORMERS

Congratulations to the program alumni, today's talented performers,
and the educators who inspire future artists and audiences.

We are proud to support you.



To support THE ROGER REES AWARDS

Scan the QR code or visit
www.RogerReesAwards.com

BEAlliance.org



THE ROGER REES AWARDS IS THE PROUD WINNER OF THE
2019-2020 New York Emmy® Award
EDUCATION/SCHOOLS - LONG FORM CONTENT (LONGER THAN 10 MINUTES)

Hosted by Andrew Barth Feldman and Frank DiLella
Produced by Cody Williams and Susan E. Lee



@TheRogerReesAwards



@RogerReesAwards

ROGER REES AWARDS

The Broadway Education Alliance thanks the companies, civic organizations, industry professionals, artists, and friends who give their time, talents, and financial resources to the presentation of The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

DONORS

Over \$6,000

Disney Theatrical Group	Nancy Nagel Gibbs
Goren Family Foundation	Theatrical Rights Worldwide

UP TO \$5,000

Brian W. Curran & Susan E. Lee	Rick Elice	<i>Smash</i>
The Fiona & Eric Rudin Charitable Fund	New York City Center	

UP TO \$1,000

David Barry	Damian Bazadona	The Broadway Association
Broadway.com	Broadway Direct	Broadway Inbound
Broadway Plus	Broadway Teaching Group	Kristen Chambers
Anant Das	Merrie L. Davis	Douglas Denoff
Shira Friedman	Jillian Gibbs	Terry Knickerbocker Studios
Stewart F. Lane & Bonnie Comley Foundation	Long Island Music Festival	Long Island Studio of Music
Ann Maher	Music Theatre International	Robert Nederlander Jr.
Juan Tellez Sandoval	Ridley Pearson	Megan Ann Rasmussen
Brian Sliwinski	Dan Shaheen	SIX
Jacqueline M. West	Alex Timbers	Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts
	Withum	

UP TO \$499

Teddy Bergman	Blaising Family	Michael Carnahan	Dave & Buster's
Adam Grosswirth	David Harris	Daniel Ianetta	Jordan Leeds
Elizabeth Marchand	Henry Mastroberardino	Daniel Posener	Rosanna O'Brien
Katherine Wallace	Steven West	Barbara Whitman	

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Terry Knickerbocker Studios	Long Island University	Marymount Manhattan College
The Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts	NYC College Audition Coach	Purchase College/SUNY
Rider University	Rockland Community College	

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Broadway Boxed Up	BroadwayHD	Broadway Stage Management Symposium
BroadwayWorld	Casting Society (CSA)	Get Acceptd®
Harmony Helper®	John's Pizzeria of Times Square	Playbill Inc.
Keith Sherman & Associates	Stage Managers Association	

AWARD PROGRAM CHAMPIONS

Zachary Baer	Alexandra Bryne	Victoria Cairl	Danielle Pretsfelder Demchick	
Robert Diamond	Jered Fournier	Nathaniel Hill	Jim Hoare	Jerome Kane
Stephanie Klapper	Scott Klein	Seth Laidlaw	George Lence	Mateo Lizcano
Kiernan Matts	Cristyne Nicholas	Amanda Pekoe	Tia Powell-Harris	Nicole Rosky
Jess Ryan	Keith Sherman	Matthew Aaron Stern	Steven Telsey	Stephen West

Fiona Rudin and P3 Productions
are proud to support the
Roger Rees Awards.

Congratulations to all the
2025 Nominees!



P Three Productions

ROGER REES AWARDS

THEATER ARTS EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT IN BROADWAY’S FUTURE AND A STRATEGY FOR NURTURING AN EMPATHIC AND INFORMED SOCIETY

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us at the 15th annual Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance. I’m sure you are amazed and inspired by the many talented performers you are seeing on stage tonight. Hundreds of students are participating in this event because of dedicated teachers and supportive parents who prioritize the performing arts as an essential part of a child’s well-rounded education.

The Broadway Education Alliance is your partner in developing the next generation by presenting the Roger Rees Awards as a way to amplify the importance and impact of theater-arts-focused instruction at schools throughout the Greater New York region. As a new producer on Broadway, I am championing this unique recognition program because it provides shows like *Smash* (a comedy about a musical) and the Broadway community with innovative ways to connect with educators, provide aspiring arts professionals with access to career guidance, and engage directly with theater-loving audiences of all ages—who live right here in Broadway’s backyard.

Please join our growing roster of Award Ambassadors and help celebrate the educators and young artists who make New York the cultural capital of the world. There are many ways to get involved, and your participation can make a lasting impact. Write to me at anant@broadway-boxedup.com to explore how you can support the growth of the Roger Rees Awards.



ANANT
DAS



MERRIE L.
DAVIS



DOUGLAS
DENOFF



ALLISON
FRENCH



SHIRA
FRIEDMAN



NATHANIEL
HILL



MEGAN ANN
RASMUSSEN



FIONA HOWE
RUDIN



JUAN TELLEZ
SANDOVAL

CONGRATULATIONS

ROGER REES AWARDS



Juan Tellez Sandoval

Roger Rees Awards Ambassador



Supporting Theater, Film & TV



BROADWAY.COM 25 YEARS

Applauding this year's
Roger Rees Award nominees
and celebrating
25 show-stopping years
of **Broadway.com**

ROGER REES AWARDS



THE BROADWAY ASSOCIATION

proudly salutes
The Roger Rees Awards on

15 years

of elevating excellence in student
performance

*Wishing continued success to
all of the nominees!*



Founded in 1911, The Broadway Association is devoted to the cultural and economic betterment of Midtown West. We are proud to work with civic, business and cultural organizations to help foster the healthy climate that ushered in the development renaissance we currently enjoy.

broadwayassociation.org

ROGER REES AWARDS

THE
ROGER
REES
AWARDS

RECOGNIZING OUR TALENTED ROSTER
OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMER
WINNERS

2024



ISAIAH
BASTON



ASHLEE
FUCARINO



TATUM
HOPKINS



CALVIN
LINDO

2023

2022



SOPHIA
O'BRIEN



LIAM
GINSBURG

2021



KATRIANA
KOPPE



MATEO
LIZCANO

2020



MEREDITH
HELLER



JAKE
SCHAUDER

2019



EKELE
UKEGBU



JEREMY
FUENTES

2018



ALYSSA
MCDONALD



ANDREW BARTH
FELDMAN

2017

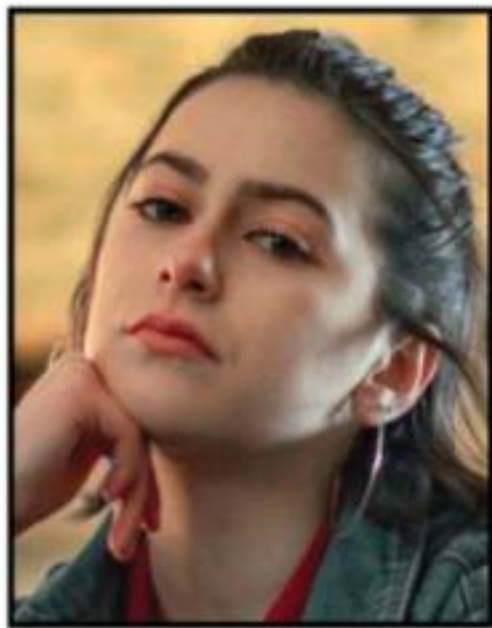


MADDIE
RUBIN



DEAN TYLER
K

2016



SOPHIA
CONDON

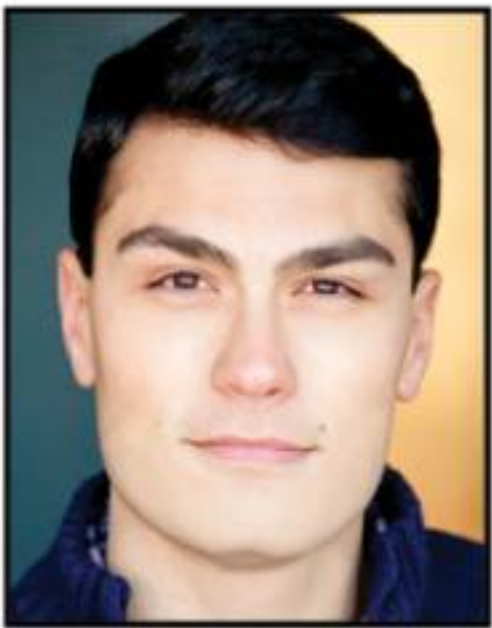


ZANDER
PACELLA

2015



MARLA
LOUISSAINT



RYAN
KOERBER

2014



SARAH
LIDDY



STEVEN
TELSEY

2013



HALLE
MASTROBERARDINO



ERIC
HAROLD

2012

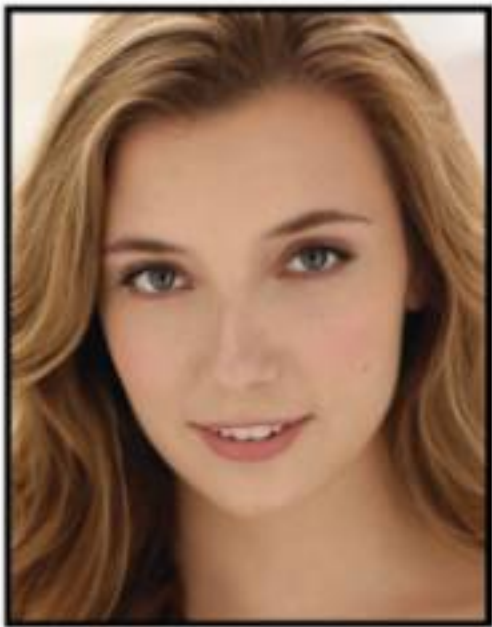


KYRA
LEEDS



JOSHUA
SCHWARTZ

2011



EMILY
LOEWUS



KEVIN W.
CROWLEY

ROGER REES AWARDS

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 performing.

2024–2025 GREATER NEW YORK REGION SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

BRONX

Laura Desmond
Riverdale Country School

Thomas O’Sullivan
Fordham Preparatory School

Aramis Soler
Cardinal Spellman High School

DUTCHESS

Danielle Brescia
Arlington High School

Emilio Giordano
John Jay High School

Lori LaDue
Beacon High School

Najah Muhammad
Roy C. Ketcham High School

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

Hayley Adler
Brooklyn High School
of the Arts

Stephen Ferrell
Success Academy
HSLA-Brooklyn

WT McRae
The Berkeley Carroll School

Mariko Watt
Poly Prep Country Day School

Gayle Zeitlin
Edward R. Murrow High School

NASSAU

Anissa Arnold
Herricks High School

Chris Brick
Long Island High School
for the Arts

Michael Bruno
Chaminade High School

AnnMarie Buonasgina
Locust Valley Central
School District

AnnMarie Buonasgina
Locust Valley High School

Christina Cinnamo
Roslyn High School

Gene Connor
Syosset High School

James Crichton
Sanford H. Calhoun High School

Kimberly Davis
Wantagh High School

Russel M. Dembin
South Side High School

Chris Doherty
Sewanhaka High School

Lauren Foster-Holzer
Paul D. Schreiber High School

Gabriella Franza
Baldwin Senior High School

Amanda Hauser
Garden City High School

Alyssa Kakis
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School

Gregory Krajci
W.T. Clarke High School

Julia Lang-Shapiro
Long Beach High School

Lisa Levenberg
Division Avenue High School

Lisa Levenberg
General Douglas MacArthur
High School

Pamela Levy-Majnemer
John L. Miller Great Neck
North High School

Ilana Meredith
William A. Shine Great Neck
South High School

Jessica Mischke
Farmingdale High School

Elizabeth Owens
Jericho High School

Joseph Owens
Manhasset High School

Michael Rodgers
Plainview-Old Bethpage
John F. Kennedy High School

Xavier Rodriguez
Hempstead High School

Jared Ross
Glen Cove High School

Adrianna Schaefer
Lynbrook Public Schools

Patrick Tirino
Valley Stream Central High School

Borough representation in the awards program changes annually.
To register your school for the 2025 – 2026 Roger Rees Awards, please visit RogerReesAwards.com.

ROGER REES AWARDS

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

Brooke Berry-Wolf
Talent Unlimited High School

Nicole DiMarco
Xavier High School

Teri Gindi
Professional Performing Arts School

Kary Haddad
Columbia Grammar and
Preparatory School

Keeshon Morrow
Repertory Company
High School for Theatre Arts

Lisa Nowicki
Léman Manhattan
Preparatory School

Jasmine Pai
Trinity School

Kim Roberts
New Explorations into Science, Technology
and Math High School (NEST+m)

Elijah Schreiner
Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of
Music & Art and Performing Arts

ORANGE

Amanda Clifford
Newburgh Free Academy

Michael Kaplan
Monroe-Woodbury
High School

QUEENS

Donna Mejia
St Francis Prep

Mia Melchiorri
The Scholars' Academy

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

Melissa Tierney
Monsignor Farrell High School

ROCKLAND

Rai Arsa Artha
Ramapo High School

Felicia Gell
Nyack High School

Randy Schwartz
Suffern High School

Virginia Stellato
North Rockland High School

SUFFOLK

Chris Brick
Half Hollow Hills
High School East

Mary Ann Cafiero
West Babylon Senior
High School

Margaret Campos
Bay Shore Senior High School

Michael Canestraro
The Knox School

Amy Connor
Mount Sinai High School

Bethany Dellapolla
Pierson Middle-High School

Lisa Drance
North Babylon High School

SUFFOLK

Jordan Hue
Hauppauge High School

Tyler Matos
Harborfields High School

Dustin Ramirez
The Stony Brook School

Kathryn Schreck
East Hampton High School

Lexie Seib
Southampton High School

Mark Stuckey
Commack High School

WESTCHESTER

Natalie Arneson
Sleepy Hollow High School

Thomas Beck
Pelham Memorial High School

Caty Cooper
School of the Holy Child

Cyndi Feinman
Rye Neck High School

Barbara Malecki
Scarsdale High School
Drama Club

Tiffany Moleski
Ardsley High School

Frank Portanova
Archbishop Stepinac High School

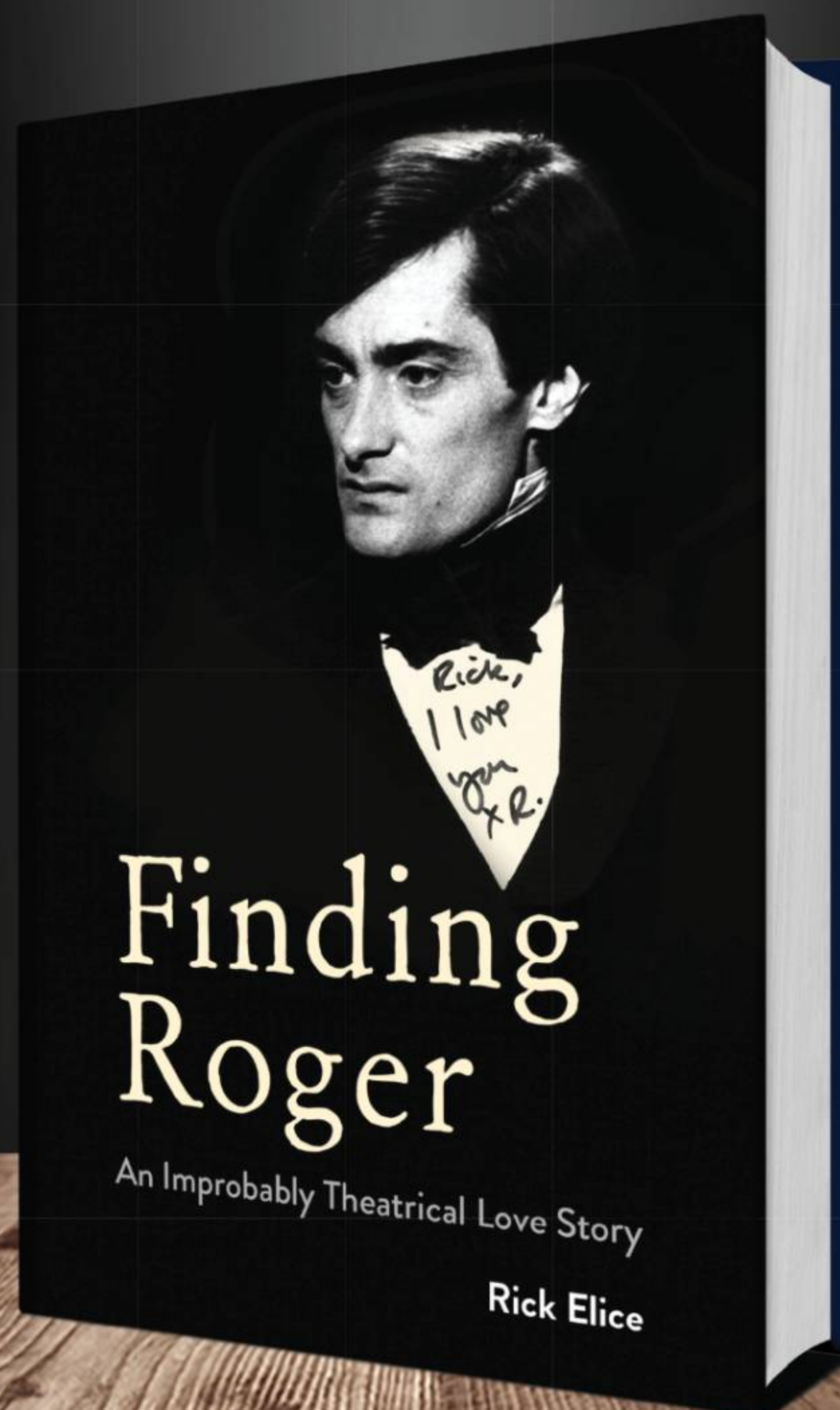
Nadia Rizzo
Pleasantville High School

Jordan Singer
Iona Preparatory Upper School

Jordan Singer
Walter Panas High School

Borough representation in the awards program changes annually.
To register your school for the 2025 - 2026 Roger Rees Awards, please visit RogerReesAwards.com.

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



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

withum⁺

ADVISORY TAX AUDIT



POWER IN THE PLUS™

Your Vision *Plus*
Our Innovation
Equals
A Winning Performance



Congratulations to this year's Roger Rees Award
nominees for their outstanding achievement in theatre.

PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE BROADWAY EDUCATION ALLIANCE



withum.com/theatre



CONGRATULATIONS
ON A PHENOMENAL SEASON!

YOU'RE ALL
ONE OF A KIND
NO CATEGORY

SIX



WRITTEN BY 2022 TONY AWARD® WINNERS
TOBY MARLOW & LUCY MOSS

BROADWAY • ON TOUR

SIXONBROADWAY.COM



PHOTOS BY RACHEL NEVILLE

BROADWAY DIRECT

Congratulations to
this year's nominees!

Tickets, news, and all things Broadway.
BROADWAYDIRECT.COM

CELEBRATING NYC



**THE ROGER REES AWARDS
CELEBRATES NEW YORK
ON BROADWAY**

2025 marks the 400th anniversary of New York City and the 15th anniversary of the Roger Rees Awards. That confluence of milestones is certainly worthy of celebration. And since we're theater kids, how do we celebrate? With a little song and dance, of course!

As the curtain rises, you'll hear a few familiar tunes as all 50 Outstanding Performer nominees take the stage to perform the opening number, accompanied by this year's New York City Center High School Orchestra Award winner, the student orchestra from Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. The song, arranged by Broadway music director Rick Hip-Flores, is a medley of show tunes about the greatest city in the world...New York, New York.

"For four centuries, history has happened here. And in 2025, through our 'Founded By NYC' campaign, we will celebrate all those who came here from around the world over those 400 years to build our great city—the New Yorkers whose vibrant culture, innovation, and abilities continue to make us the envy of the world today," said Mayor Eric Adams in a statement.

The performing arts are integral to the New York City landscape. From world-renowned operas and symphony orchestras to acclaimed ballet companies and our beloved Broadway, the city's many stages draw visitors—and aspiring artists—from around the globe. But the students you'll meet tonight already wake up every day in the city that doesn't sleep. "This opening number is a true celebration of the students, the orchestra, and New York City," says

Broadway Education Alliance Creative Director Theo Lencicki. "We're right in Broadway's back

yard. New York is the dream. And for these kids, the dream is their home."

For the second year, The Roger Rees Awards is teaming up with New York City Center to present the orchestral award. "New York City Center has become an invaluable partner to us," says Lencicki. "Over the past two years, their support has helped us broaden our programming by celebrating talented students across a range of industry disciplines—both on and off the stage."

Hip-Flores is also returning for a second year to conduct the student orchestra. He has conducted 15 Broadway shows—"the vast majority of them have been pop shows, either jukebox musicals or very contemporary-sounding original shows," he says. But he also loves classic musical theater, so his arrangement is a mix of Broadway periods and styles, from "Another Hundred People" by Stephen Sondheim to "Empire State of Mind" by Alicia Keys ("which you can't walk around Times Square without hearing," he jokes). Listen closely for his favorite Easter egg tucked way into the medley, "(We'll Take) Manhattan" by Rodgers and Hart. "I only have one line of it. It's deep in the song, in a particularly busy mash-up section, but I wanted to include it because it was published exactly 100 years ago and it's one of the most iconic New York songs."

Another title is woven into the song—by John Kander and Lin-Manuel Miranda—that perfectly captures the spirit of the evening: "Cheering for Me Now." And to all of tonight's performers, we say: Yes. Yes, we are.

ROGER REES AWARDS



Lisa Drance



Pictured (left to right): Ruthie Pincus (retired educator, Hauppauge High School), Jim Hoare (Executive VP, Theatrical Rights Worldwide), Lisa Drance (Theater Educator, North Babylon High School & 2025 BEA Educator Award recipient), Jeremiah Watts (Senior, theater student at NBHS), Dr. Jonathan Klomp (Principal, NBHS), and Elizabeth O'Brien (Director of Fine and Performing Arts, NBHS)

MACGYVERS AND MIRACLE WORKERS

THE ROGER REES AWARDS CELEBRATES THEATER EDUCATORS WITH THE INAUGURAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATIVE THEATER ARTS EDUCATION

BY JIM HOARE, THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE

For a decade I led a workshop at the International Thespian Festival titled "So, You Think You Want to Be a Theater Teacher," and the turnout each year filled me with hope. I would start by asking students to describe their theater teacher using just one word. Some shared responses: "Dedicated," "Inspirational," "MacGyver," "Innovator," "Advocate," and "Unsupported."

Students are perceptive—they value teachers who believe in them and who are dedicated to excellence. They also notice when those hard-working teachers lack the support they deserve. I asked a student what she meant by "MacGyver," and she explained, "Like the character from the TV show—when we're missing something we need, my theater teacher always finds a creative way to make it, using whatever we have on hand." Theater teachers exemplify dedication, advocacy, and innovation.

For fifteen years, the Roger Rees Awards have celebrated and encouraged student achievement in theater. It's fitting, then, to now shine a spotlight on

the educators who inspire and guide those students—honoring their creativity, dedication, and lasting impact with the Broadway Education Alliance Award for Excellence in Innovative Theater Arts Education presented in collaboration with Theatrical Rights Worldwide and Broadway Inbound. In recognition of this spirit, TRW extends heartfelt congratulations to the first recipient of this prestigious honor, Lisa Drance.

An instructor at North Babylon High School in Suffolk County, Drance and her students have been participants in the Roger Rees Awards since its inception. She is the embodiment of the new educator award, created to recognize those who demonstrate the remarkable ability to identify opportunities, think creatively, and transform ideas into successful programs. These teachers are imaginative, passionate, and a driving force behind positive change within their organization—providing students a stage on which to explore their dreams and a platform for building value within their community.

ROGER REES AWARDS



North Babylon High School's production of *The Miracle Worker*

A high school theater teacher's job is demanding and often emotional. It blends full-time teaching with managing an after-school theater company. Over time, all theater teachers inevitably experience heartbreak, feel frustrated by school bureaucracy, and encounter student apathy or lack of dedication. Yet, these extraordinary educators are deeply moved and motivated enough to come back and do it all over again.

It is a role filled with challenges, but also incredible moments of joy and fulfillment. It goes beyond teaching technique; they must nurture a student's inner artistic voice. While some students may pursue their dreams confidently, others may not, simply because no one told them their spark matters.

Though some students go on to careers in the performing arts, most pursue paths outside the industry. A high school theater program must therefore serve both future artists and those simply seeking a creative outlet. Theater education isn't just for training professionals; it's about fostering creativity, empathy, and expression in all students. The goal is to nurture not only future performers and directors, but also thoughtful, imaginative arts supporters, and the next generation of empathetic, creative adults.

When Grammy Award winner and co-author of *The Color Purple*, Allee Willis, learned that her hometown's Cass High School in Detroit was staging the musical, she eagerly requested tickets through TRW. However, just days before opening, she called in a panic after watching the Sunday tech rehearsal, describing it as a disaster with missed light cues, faulty mics, and chaotic scene changes. She insisted, "You

need to shut the show down."

Despite her concerns, my response was calm and confident: the show would go on. Allee was asked not to return until Friday night's performance, where she would attend as the guest of honor.

The following Monday, Allee called again, this time in awe: "I don't get it. How did that chaotic rehearsal on Sunday become a profoundly beautiful production that brought me to tears by Friday? It was a miracle!" The answer? What takes three to four weeks on Broadway must be accomplished in just three to four days in high school theater—all while teachers are still handling classes, grading, and cafeteria duty. Allee's response captured the heart of the profession: "Then high school theater teachers are miracle workers," said Allee.

Theater educators take great pride in the successes of their former students. However, many are now expressing growing concerns about being overworked, under-supported, and disheartened by political decisions affecting education. Therefore, this is an important time to support and advocate for arts educators everywhere. Theater teachers are miracle workers. They create a space for creativity, vulnerability, and growth in ways that stay with students for life. They often see potential before the student sees it, and they give them the courage to take the stage and to find their voice, both literally and metaphorically.

If there is a teacher who created a safe place for you to get your story started, let them know. While your words of gratitude may not be expected, they will be appreciated. Never doubt the power of encouraging words.

40 & UNDER? ENJOY \$28 TICKETS!

Get \$28 tickets
(fees included)
to shows at New York
City Center. Register
for **free** online.

**SAME-DAY
STUDENT RUSH**

Get \$23 tickets (fees included)
with photo ID, subject to
availability.



Visit
NYCityCenter.org/AccessClub
to learn more and sign up!

**ACCESS
CITY CENTER
CLUB**



**NEW
YORK
CITY
CENTER**

MAJOR SUPPORT



**Jerome L. Greene
Foundation Fund**
at The Trust

Anna Zavelson in Encores!
The Light in the Piazza;
photo by Joan Marcus



ROGER REES AWARDS



Proudly Presents

THE 2025 ROGER REES AWARDS SCENIC AND COSTUME DESIGNER SHOWCASE

RECOGNIZING EMERGING TALENT IN THE AREA OF THEATRICAL DESIGN FOR THE STAGE.

CELEBRATING STUDENT DESIGNERS

COSTUME

MADELEINE GALLOWAY
Sleepy Hollow HSI, Senior

MADELINE GROSS
Poly Prep Country Day School, Junior

SCARLETT COLOMBINI
Rye Neck HS, Junior

SCENIC

AMELIA GROSSI ROMANO
Scarsdale HS, Senior

Students were selected based on their unique scenic and costume designs, including relevant research and mood boards, inspired by either their high school musical or by City Center’s Encores! production of *Urinetown*.



THE 2025 ROGER REES AWARDS ORCHESTRA

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN MUSICAL THEATER PERFORMANCE

CELEBRATING

FIGURELLO H. LAGUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC & ART AND PERFORMING ARTS

Kimberly Roof Arazosa, Conductor
Dr. Valentina Shohdy, Conductor
Rick Hip-Flores, Guest Conductor for the Roger Rees Awards

Violin
Brian Liu
Kohana Henson
Abigail Hua
Glenda Peraj
Kelvin Lee

Viola
Alma Esser
Arielle Remy
Kelvin Lee

Cello
Margot Pantoga
Simon Marenstein
Amalia da Campos

Bass
Liana Logan
Flute/Piccolo
Autumn Redd
Genesis Espinoza

Oboe
Deanna Sherman
Bb/A Clarinet
Valentine Rivain-Sauvage
Stefania Nuovo

Saxophone
Ben Leviathan

Bassoon
Karina Tate
Theodore Neukomm

Horn
Teyha Ali
Zach Cho

Trumpet
Diogo Feldman
Roan O’Neill

Trombone
Lev Estevez

Bass Trombone
Justice Mikles

Percussion
Chase Haimoff
Daniel Kim

Piano
Raphael Cohen

Keyboard
Sophia Coffey

High School Orchestras were reviewed by video submission, based on their quality of orchestral sound and accomplishment in musical theater performance.

These programs were produced by New York City Center’s Education & Community Engagement Department, under the leadership of Tia Powell Harris.

**BroadwayWorld is proud to be
the official media partner for the
15th Annual Roger Rees Awards!**



★ **CONGRATULATIONS** ★
to our Broadway stars-to-be! ★

Learn With BroadwayWorld:



**Scholarship
Database**



**Student
Center**



**College
Guide**



**Next On Stage:
Season 6**



**Theater Camp
Guide**



Learn More

ROGER REES AWARDS



Presents

THE 2025 ROGER REES AWARDS PRE-SHOW

Hosted by

RICHARD RIDGE

Theater Journalist

AND

CHLOE PUSEY

Manhasset High School

Special Guests in Alphabetical Order (subject to change)

KIARA BROWN-CLARK

Actor/Director; Coordinator of Education & Audience Engagement, Disney Theatrical Group

KEVIN DEL AGUILA

Drama Desk Award-winning and Tony Award nominated Actor

LISA DRANCE

Theater Teacher and Director, North Babylon High School

RICK ELICE

Author of *Smash*, *Water for Elephants*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Cher Show*, *The Addams Family*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, as well as "Finding Roger," a memoir of his 34 years with Roger Rees

JENNY GERSTEN

VP & Artistic Director of Musical Theater, New York City Center

JIM HOARE

Executive VP, Education and Community, Theatrical Rights Worldwide Inc.

BETH LEAVEL

Tony® Award-winning Actress

THEO LENCICKI

Director, Choreographer, and Artistic Director of The Roger Rees Awards

MICHAEL MOORE

Theatrical Agent, Founder of Michael Moore Agency

RACHEL REINER

Executive Director, National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (The Jimmy Awards®)
Director of Audience Engagement, The Broadway League Inc.

CONRAD RICAMORA

Tony® Award-nominated Best Featured Actor, *Oh, Mary!*

MARC SHAIMAN

Tony® Award-winning Composer and Lyricist, *Smash*

MERRI SUGARMAN

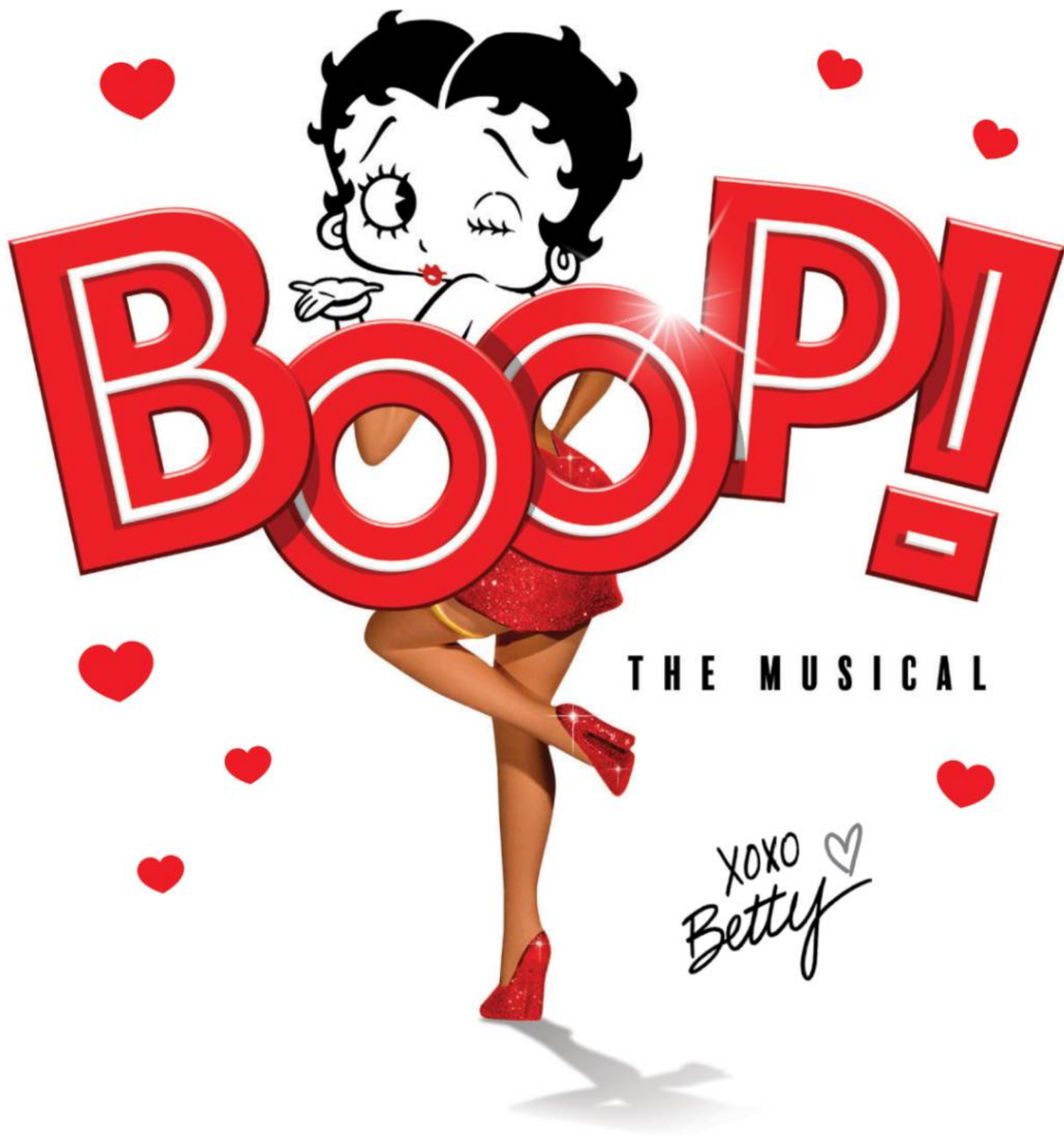
Casting Director, The TRC Company; Author of "From Craft to Career"



RICHARD RIDGE (Pre-Show Host) is the lead correspondent for BroadwayWorld, for which he covers live entertainment on Broadway and beyond and has interviewed hundreds of theatrical luminaries as the host of the popular series *Backstage with Richard Ridge*. He is also the host of SAG/AFTRA Foundation and BroadwayWorld's *Conversations on Broadway* series, which recognizes and celebrates the vibrant theatre community in New York City.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S WINNERS!

WE THINK YOU'RE SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT



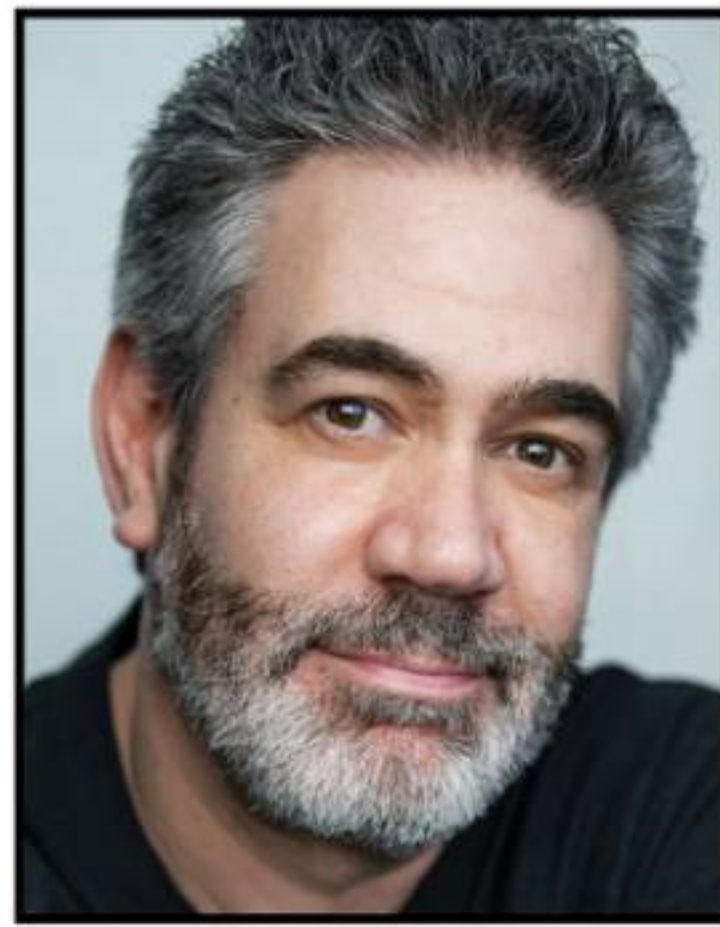
THE MUSICAL

XOXO
Betty

BOOPTHEMUSICAL.COM

ROGER REES AWARDS

ROGER REES AWARDS HOST



KEVIN DEL AGUILA is an Emmy-winning writer, Tony-nominated actor, acclaimed director, and lyricist for the stage and screen. Broadway audiences will recognize him from the original casts of *Some Like It Hot* (Osgood, Drama Desk Award, Tony nomination), *Frozen* (Oaken), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Smee), *Yellow Face* (Actor A) and *Rocky* (everybody in Philadelphia). He's appeared Off-Broadway in *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare in the Park), *Jacques Brel*, and *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* (Encores!), and on the TV shows "Hazbin Hotel," "Peg+Cat," "Law & Order: SVU" and "Deadbeat." Kevin is the book writer of the Off-Broadway hit *Altar Boyz* (Outer Critics Award), and his musical stage adaptations include the DreamWorks film *Madagascar*, the wildly popular *Diary of A Wimpy Kid* books, *Click Clack Moo* (Lortel and Drama Desk nominations), as well as the *Dog Man* and *Cat Kid* Comic Club book series. His lyrics have appeared in songs from the Disney movie *Strange World* and children everywhere have heard Kevin's voice as a singing Troll in the Disney blockbuster *Frozen*. @kevinoftheeagle



Present

THE 2025 ROGER REES AWARDS STUDENT REPORTER
CHLOE PUSEY, Senior, Manhasset High School

Chloe has spent her high school years combining her passion for journalism with her interest in theater production. She has worked as the associate producer, creative director and executive board member of Manhasset High School's broadcast club where she honed her skills in writing, editing, filming and directing. She has served as "the voice" of the school's morning announcement and host for its poetry coffee house events. From the broadcast studio to the backstage area, she is equally excited about working alongside her talented classmates on the schools theatrical productions as the head of the running crew, stage manager and member of the hair and makeup department.

BroadwayWorld is proud to recognize Chloe for her excellent communication and leadership skills as well as feature her as co-host of 2025 Roger Rees Awards Showcase Pre-Show.

ROGER REES AWARDS



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THIS YEAR'S
ROGER REES AWARDS
NOMINEES

— Disney THEATRICAL GROUP —

Disney
THE LION KING
ON BROADWAY & ON TOUR

Disney
Aladdin
ON BROADWAY

Disney
**BEAUTY
BEAST**
ON TOUR

ROGER REES AWARDS

THE BROADWAY EDUCATION ALLIANCE AND DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

Proudly Present



SPONSORED BY **SMASH**

Hosted by
KEVIN DEL AGUILA

Starring
ROGER REES AWARD NOMINEES

Andrew Adams Allison Angell Justin Bocian Jack Ceglie Jack Chambers Haylie Christiano
Miles Cohen Siena Cottone Joel Crump Winter Donnelly Jonah Espinosa Addison Fried
Ashlee Fucarino Matthew Gennings Joshua Gorlin William Herbert Lorenzo Hilliard Logan Kay
Grace Kiamie Mackenzie Kling Tyler Landusky Dylan LeMaire Hannah Levine Elena Lieto
Sophia Manalang Gloria Manning Jeronnie McDougald Evangeline McGinley Harrison McNeill
Sara Nearenberg Caelyn Osbern Lucette Ow Eliana Panoff Kimont Person Haley Polidore
Olivia Potorti Camilla Riggs Jesse Rogers Tatiana Rossello Colin Rubsamen Robert Silverstein
Olive Spence Conor Stack Hanako Stepper Lindsay Stoller Margaret Stuckey Emma Suhr
Leonidas Tirella Emma Van Dorpe Kelsy Vargas

with
LAUREN A. MARCHAND SOPHIA O'BRIEN
and

IORELLO H. LAGUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC & ART AND PERFORMING ARTS ORCHESTRA
RICK HIP-FLORES, Guest Conductor

Outstanding Performer Award Judges
KIARA BROWN-CLARK JENNY GERSTEN BETH LEAVEL MICHAEL MOORE
CONRAD RICAMORA MARC SHAIMAN MERRI SUGARMAN RICK ELICE (ALTERNATE)

Featuring
HARMONY HELPER® AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHORAL GROUP PERFORMANCE
CANTARE OF LAGUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL | Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts
JANA BALLARD, Conductor | CHRISTOPHER PIRO, Accompanist

Gabriella Agosto Summer Arroyo Sarina Augustine Brooke Braun Ella Briggs Theresa Butler Eva Capron Mika Charters
Sheli Chelchinski Sasha Chernaik Nicole Chie Mahima Cunningham Ila Starr Daniels Sarah De Guzman Lola Ducroux
Andrea Enriquez Djahlisa Fenelon Sofia Feola Isabella Gonzalez Alessio Jazmine Guaba Nora Gurpinar Gabrielle Hecht Tala Hughes
Jennifer Iosifov Sophia Ivaldi-Quintanilla Michelle Jennings Elianna Johnson Gabrielle Johnson Alex Jones Ekaterine Kabanashvili
Amy Keck Rachel Kim Dea Krliu Lila Leonard Emma Levi Alyssa Lin Oni Marsalis Angel Martinez Kayla McMahon
Idalis Medina Becca Mitkovsky Laura Montanari Olivia Nelson Mia Nesher Eleanor Neubeck Amy Nicolas Xilina Ortiz
Gabriella Photiou Angela Ren Jazlyn Richey Gabriella Roberts-Nguyễn Isabella Santiago Amelie Siller Elise Silva Sasha Srygley
Asa Sulton Sara Tecle Odelia Torjman Thomas Isabelle Tuesca Grace Vasquez Kassidy White-Brown
Reyana Williams Carmen Yager Zahrah Ziadeh Elene Zurabiani

ROGER REES AWARDS NEW FACES | 2025
Sage Abbey Louis Basso London Byrne Lucas Capelle Carlos Carreras Keilah Clarke PJ Cravinho Madeleine Dion Valentina Ferrante
Lia Filipov Tessa Frascogna Chris Fukuda Samantha Garbowski Clare Gardner Sydney Healey Jiho Lee Skylar Lu
Michael Macaluso Vosgianian Piper Marshall Makaelah Marte Alexis Mawere Carys McGrory Scott McKiernan Akhiir McNeil
Charlotte Nerayoff Jack Poppleton Lily Ruiz Evie Schiff Elena Sherwood Valentina Vergara

Program Manager KATIE WINGLER	Production Stage Manager SAM SHAPIRO	Scores Auditor PAIGE SILVESTER, WITHUM	Associate Producer SETH LAIDLAW
Producer ANANT DAS	Executive Producer SUSAN E. LEE	Music Director CHRISTINE RILEY	Director/Choreographer THEO LENCICKI

The 2024-2025 Roger Rees Awards is presented in collaboration with New York City Center.

ROGER REES AWARDS

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER JUDGES



KIARA BROWN-CLARK



JENNY GERSTEN



BETH LEAVEL

KIARA BROWN-CLARK is a Broadway producer, choreographer, performer, arts administrator, educator, and hospitality business owner, who also happens to be a native New Yorker! She holds a MFA in Dance and Choreography with a concentration in Musical Theatre and a BFA in International Relations from Smith College, and SUNY Geneseo, respectively. As a performer and choreographer, she has worked extensively in NYC and throughout the world with 200+ professional projects spanning her career. Notable professional credits include Disney's *Mary Poppins*, *Dreamgirls: The 25th Anniversary* starring Jennifer Holliday, *Once on This Island*, *The Wiz*, *Cabaret*, *Hair*, *A Chorus Line*, ABC's "Dancing with the Stars," "The View," and "Good Morning America." Kiara is also making magic daily with her Education & Audience Engagement team at Disney Theatrical Group. Exciting projects include: The Disney Musicals in Schools (DMIS) program, managing Disney on Broadway workshops, audience engagement events, and DEI centered activations, in addition to working alongside the Licensing & Creative Development teams on new Disney Junior musicals. Recent honors include being awarded The Broadway League's '23-'24 Rising Stars Fellowship, and a Tony award nomination for co-producing *Cabaret* at the Kit Kat Club on Broadway.

JENNY GERSTEN is the VP & Artistic Director of Musical Theater at New York City Center, responsible for the renowned Encores! series. She sometimes produces commercially, including *Just For Us* on Broadway, the award-winning Off-Broadway "pie shop" production of *Sweeney Todd*, and Gavin Creel's *Walk on Through*. She works with Jessica Hecht on The Campfire Project, an arts program that serves Syrian and Ukrainian refugees overseas. Previously, she was Artistic Director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Executive Director at Friends of the High Line, and Associate Producer of The Public Theater.

BETH LEAVEL can currently be seen on Broadway, starring in Stephen Sondheim's *Old Friends*. She was nominated for a 2019 Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle award for her performance as DeeDee Allen in the critically acclaimed Broadway show *The Prom*. She received Tony, Drama Desk, NY Outer Critics Circle, and L.A. Drama Critics Awards for her performance as the title character in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Beth also received Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle nominations for her role as Florence Greenberg in *Baby It's You!*. Other Broadway roles include The Baroness in *Lempicka*, Mrs. June Adams in *Bandstand*, Emily in *Elf*, Donna in *Mamma Mia!*, Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein*, Dorothy Brock in the revival of *42nd Street*, Tess in the original company of *Crazy For You*, Mrs. Bixby in *The Civil War*, Ellie in Hal Prince's *Show Boat*, and Anytime Annie (her Broadway debut) in *42nd Street*. Numerous TV, most recently *Ghosts of Christmas Always* (Hallmark), "The Walking Dead" (AMC), and "The Bite" (Spectrum). Beth's one-woman cabaret, *It's Not About Me*, has played across the country to rave reviews and sold-out venues. In her spare time, she gives back and teaches master classes for students all over the world. MFA from UNC-G. Proud mom to T.J. and Sam and helplessly in love with Adam Heller. Grateful to my BRS/GAGE family.

MICHAEL MOORE is a theatrical agent with over 30 years of experience in the entertainment industry. He began his career as an actor in New York and Los Angeles. In 2008, Michael became a theatrical literary and booking agent with Paradigm before founding Michael Moore Agency (MMA), which has since grown to include seven full time literary agents, staff, and hundreds of clients. Michael represents writers, composers, directors, designers, choreographers, music directors, and casting directors in all areas of the entertainment industry. Michael produced Roger Rees' critically acclaimed one-man show *What You Will* in

ROGER REES AWARDS

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER JUDGES



MICHAEL MOORE



CONRAD RICAMORA



MARC SHAIMAN



MERRI SUGARMAN

San Francisco at A.C.T., which subsequently played the West End at the Apollo Theatre (the very same theatre where Roger first auditioned for the Royal Shakespeare Company). Michael had the great privilege of representing Roger Rees as his directing agent until Roger's untimely passing in 2015 and misses him dearly.

CONRAD RICAMORA is currently starring in the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway turned Broadway hit *Oh, Mary!* opposite Cole Escola, for which he's been nominated for a Tony, Drama League, Drama Desk, and Lucille Lortel Award for his performance. Ricamora was recently seen as a lead on the Hulu series "How To Die Alone," for which he and the cast won a Film Independent Spirit Award for Best Ensemble, and he can currently be seen opposite Michelle Williams in the FX limited series "Dying for Sex". Ricamora is perhaps best known to wider audiences for his role opposite Viola Davis on ABC's "How To Get Away With Murder" and he previously recurred on the FOX medical drama "The Resident." On the film side, Ricamora portrayed 'Will (aka 'Mr. Darcy')' in the Emmy-nominated, Gotham Award-winning film *Fire Island* with Bowen Yang and Joel Kim Booster. Next up, he will be seen in *The Last Day* for Killer Films opposite Alicia Vikander and Victoria Pedretti. A veteran of New York theater, Ricamora previously starred on Broadway in *Here Lies Love* from David Byrne and FatBoy Slim in a role he originated at the Public Theater. Additional credits include Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* at the West Side Theatre and *The King and I* at Lincoln Center. Ricamora starred in *Soft Power* at the Public Theater, earning him Lortel and Drama Desk Award nominations.

MARC SHAIMAN is currently represented on Broadway as the composer, co-lyricist, co-vocal arranger, and co-producer of *Smash*. He has seven Oscar nominations, for *Mary Poppins Returns*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Patch Adams*, *The First Wives Club*, *The American President* and *South Park*. He is a Tony Award winner

for *Hairspray*; a two-time Grammy winner for *Hairspray* and *Some Like It Hot* and a two-time Emmy winner for "The Oscars" and "Only Murders in the Building." Many other nominations and huzzahs for *Beaches*, *When Harry Met Sally*, *City Slickers*, *The Addams Family*, *Sister Act*, *A Few Good Men*, *The Bucket List*, *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Bette Midler, Harry Connick Jr., Mariah Carey, "SNL"... and "Smash."

MERRI SUGARMAN serves as Senior Casting Director at The TRC Company. She began her career as an actress before moving into casting for television and film on such shows as "News Radio" and the feature film *Playing by Heart*. She soon became the Casting Executive in charge of TV Pilots and Series for Dreamworks Studios before being named 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 has worked on dozens of Broadway, touring, and international companies including *The Who's Tommy*, *Company*, *Ain't Too Proud*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *School of Rock*, *Miss Saigon* and *A Bronx Tale*, as well as Off-Broadway's *Clueless the Musical*, *Trevor the Musical*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She also casts for many theaters regionally including Paper Mill Playhouse, Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Old Globe, Seattle Rep, The Goodman, and The La Jolla Playhouse. Merri's newly published book *From Craft to Career* is now available on Amazon.com.

ROGER REES AWARDS

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER MUSIC DIRECTORS



ISAAC HARLAN



SEAN MAYES



JULIANNE B. MERRILL



DREW WUTKE

ISAAC HARLAN is a Pittsburgh native who studied piano at Penn State University. Since 2010 he has worked in NYC as a pianist, music director and orchestrator. Isaac has played concerts for Norm Lewis, Shoshana Bean, and Brandon Victor Dixon, and has also had the pleasure of working on developing musicals by writers such as Tituss Burgess, Alex Gemignani, Michael McElroy, and Black Thought. He accompanies the younger generation of singers through his work with NYU, YoungArts, and the National High School Musical Theatre Awards. Isaac also works with the Broadway Inspirational Voices, a grammy-nominated gospel choir, as a pianist and orchestrator. In the summer of 2022, he was a featured pianist at Little Island's Music and Dance Festival. Most recently he was orchestrator, conductor and pianist for *Sonnets and Soul*, a new musical which was produced at Howard University.

SEAN MAYES is a New York City and Toronto-based music director, conductor, orchestrator, and author, working internationally across theatre, Broadway, symphonic stages, and opera. He is Worldwide Music Supervisor for Disney's *The Lion King*, Music Director for André De Shields, as well as the Founder and Artistic Director of the Pops of Color Orchestra, New York City's premier Pops orchestra exclusively comprising musicians of color. Select credits include *Black Broadway* (Conductor; American Pops Orchestra, PBS National Broadcast); *RENT: In Concert* (Music Supervisor, National Symphony Orchestra, Kennedy Center); *MJ* (Assistant Conductor, Broadway); *Hadestown* (Associate Conductor, Broadway); *Mandela* (Conductor, Young Vic Theatre, London, UK); *The Color Purple* (Music Director, Canadian Regional Premiere). He composed and conducted *Aportia Chryptych: A Black Opera for Portia White*, which premiered at the Canadian Opera

Company. He is the leading author on equity and representation in musical theatre, with three published titles: *An Inconvenient Black History of British Musical Theatre*, *Reframing the Musical*, and *Conversations in Color*.

JULIANNE B. MERRILL (she/her) is a prolific music director on Broadway whose credits include *A Strange Loop*, *Some Like it Hot*, *Harmony*, *How to Dance in Ohio*, *Smash*, *Real Women Have Curves*. Off-Broadway credits are *Music City*, *The Jonathan Larson Project*, *Big Gay Jamboree*, *Drag: The Musical*, *Communion*, *The Lonely Few*, *White Girl in Danger*. National Tour: *Some Like it Hot*. A recent graduate and now professor at Berklee NYC, Julianne uses the artist name "Patch-Master." @juliannemerrill

DREW WUTKE is a New York City-based multidisciplinary artist/music director for Tony, Grammy, Oscar, Emmy, and Pulitzer Prize winners at venues all over the world including Lincoln Center, Joe's Pub, 54 Below. Selected credits include *Haarlem Nocturne* with André De Shields/Marc Shaiman; Pulitzer/Tony-winner Michael R. Jackson's Lincoln Center LCT3 concert residency; Stephanie Blythe/Blythely Oratonio (Live from Lincoln Center/PBS); Fiasco's award-winning *Into the Woods* (Workshop MD). Solo shows include Kelli O'Hara, John-Andrew Morrison, James Jackson, Mason Park ft Stephen Trask, Natalie Joy Johnson, Billy Gilman. His *Classic Whitley: Alive!* concerts at Joe's Pub starring Broadway's Kevin Smith Kirkwood celebrate a decade Aug 17. His next project is the bio musical *Mae West*, a project using *The Chicks'* catalog. He is also Resident Music Director at Jen Waldman Studio; first award-winning pianist at legendary Marie's Crisis piano bar where he plays weekly. @drewwutke

ROGER REES AWARDS

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER COACHES



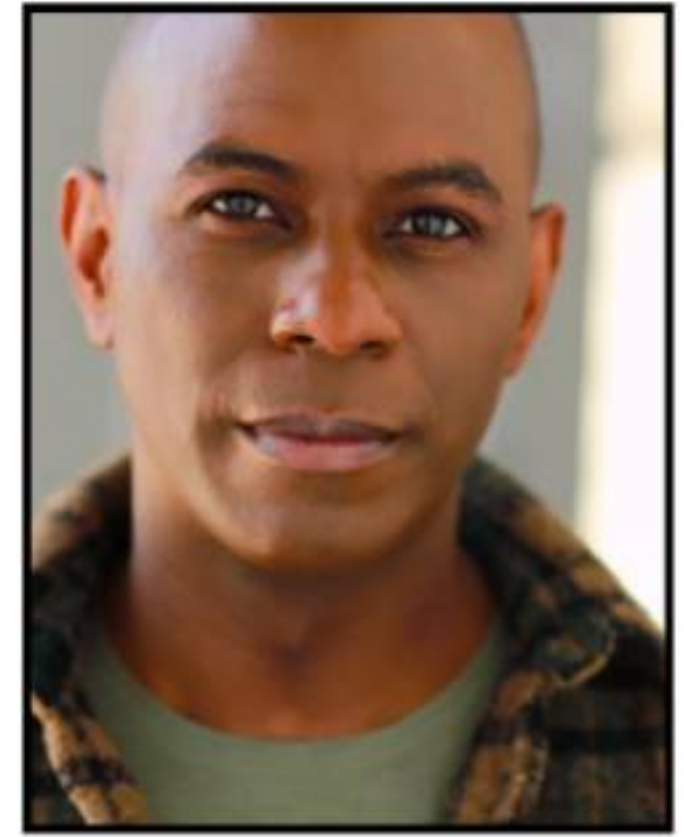
HUNTER RYAN HERDLICKA



JESSIE HOOKER BAILEY



DONNA VIVINO



CORREY WEST

HUNTER RYAN HERDLICKA is a Dallas native and Carnegie Mellon graduate. Hunter starred on Broadway as Henrik in the Tony Award-winning revival of Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, opposite Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angela Lansbury, followed by Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch. Other New York credits include the revival of *Once Upon a Mattress* (the Minstrel) starring Jackie Hoffman and Jerry Herman's *Dear World* (Julian) starring opposite Tyne Daly. Hunter has appeared in around 20 regional productions including *Zoey's Perfect Wedding* (Sammy) at Theaterworks Hartford, *The Tempest* (Ariel) at the Dallas Theater Center, *Candide* (Maximillian) at the Alliance Theatre, *Ragtime* (Younger Brother) at Barrington Stage, et al. As a teacher, Hunter has taught masterclasses and workshops at most of the top universities in the country. He is also a leading private coach specializing in college audition prep, with students in attendance at every major university for Acting or Musical Theatre. @HRHerdlicka

JESSIE HOOKER BAILEY recently completed her Off-Broadway run as the female standby in *The Jonathan Larson Project*, where she stepped in for the first few preview performances with minimal rehearsal. She will soon make her New York City Center debut as Helen in *Wonderful Town*. Favorite credits include: Sarah in *Company* (national tour), Dawn (u/s) in *Waitress* (Broadway), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Broadway debut), Andy (u/s, performed) in the world premiere of *The Devil Wears Prada* musical (Chicago), Sarah in *Ragtime* (Milwaukee Rep), and Rusty in *Footloose* (PCLO). Jessie frequently participates in the development of new musicals and works. Beyond performing, she is a passionate musical theater educator and audition coach. Graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory. Instagram: @jessiehookerbailey

DONNA VIVINO made her Broadway debut at 8 years old, originating the role of Young Cosette in

Les Misérables. Since then, she has built her career playing iconic leading ladies, including Elphaba in *Wicked*, Grizabella in *CATS*, Diana in *Next to Normal*, Mary in *Merrily We Roll Along* and most recently in the original cast of the Alicia Keys' musical *Hell's Kitchen* as Jersey. A veteran of the stage, Donna's extensive additional Broadway and national tour credits include *Hairspray*, *Saturday Night Fever*, and *Fame Becomes Me* opposite Martin Short. She was nominated for a 2024 Grammy Award as a lead vocalist on the album Sondheim Unplugged. On film and television, Donna can be seen in "The Sopranos," "Law & Order," the recent feature film Ezra with Robert Deniro and Bobby Cannavale, and the current season of "FBI: Most Wanted" on CBS. Donna is also founder and artistic director of the youth arts program Broadway Unlimited and runs a private coaching/vocal studio. Instagram: @donnavivino, @bwayunlimited

CORREY WEST made his Broadway debut in *South Pacific* at Lincoln Center and was last seen on Broadway in *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It* with Matthew Broderick. He is featured in Live from Lincoln Center's production of *Show Boat* starring Vanessa Williams as well as PBS's Great Performances Season 50: "Celebrating 50 Years of Broadway's Best" starring Sutton Foster, Chita Rivera, and Donna McKechnie. He performed in the national tours of *The Phantom of the Opera*'s sequel *Love Never Dies* and Roundabout Theatre's *Anything Goes*. Other New York credits include *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, the New York premiere of *Lunch* at the New York Music Festival, a workshop of Susan Stroman's new musical *The Right Girl*, and a reading of the new musical *The Gay Divorcee*. He just finished performing the Broadway tryout of *The Ballad of Johnny and June*, which celebrates the love story of Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash. He is continuing his work on the new musical *American Prophet*, about the life and times of Frederick Douglas.

ROGER REES AWARDS

ROGER REES AWARDS CREATIVE TEAM



THEO LENCICKI

THEO LENCICKI is a professional actor, director, choreographer, and arts educator based in New York City. A graduate of Penn State University, he has performed at many regional and international venues, and across the United States on four national Broadway tours including *Hairspray*, *A Chorus Line*, *Young Frankenstein* and as Riff in *West Side Story*. In addition to performing, Theo is a rostered artist with the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and was recognized for his professional work and arts education advocacy in 2017 as Artist of the Year. He is a choreographer and the associate director for the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Jimmys), sponsored by the Broadway League, and is the Artistic Director for the Broadway Education Alliance/Camp Broadway, offering numerous performance opportunities for young artists including the NY POPS Gala at Carnegie Hall, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, *Before Broadway* Cabaret at 54 Below and *Rocktopia* on Broadway. His dedication to the continued growth and educational value of the Roger Rees Awards goes beyond the stage as more students in the Greater New York region are recognized and celebrated.



CHRISTINE RILEY

CHRISTINE RILEY is a music director and vocal coach in New York as well as an Associate 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). Christine also served as the Music Director for *Lysistrata Jones*, *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.

CELEBRATING NEW YORK MUSIC CREDITS

Medley arranged by Rick Hip-Flores for The Roger Rees Awards Showcase.
Featuring Broadway's iconic songs about New York.

"42nd Street" Music by Harry Warren, Lyrics by Al Dubin

"Another Hundred People" Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

"Cheering for Me Now" Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

"Empire State of Mind"
Music and Lyrics by Janet Sewell, Angela Hunte, Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, Sylvia Robinson,
Burt Keyes, Alicia Keys, Alexander Shuckburgh

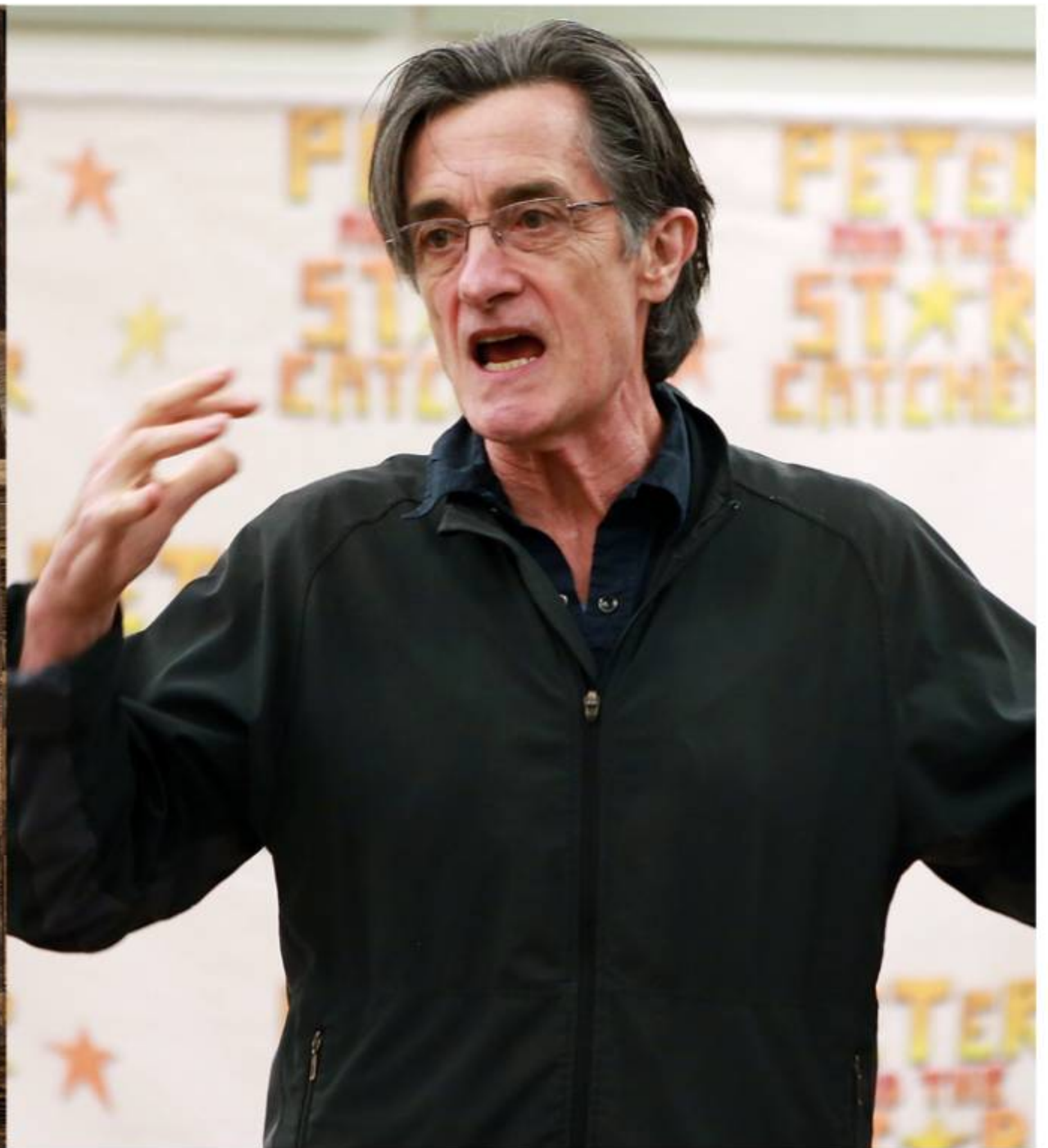
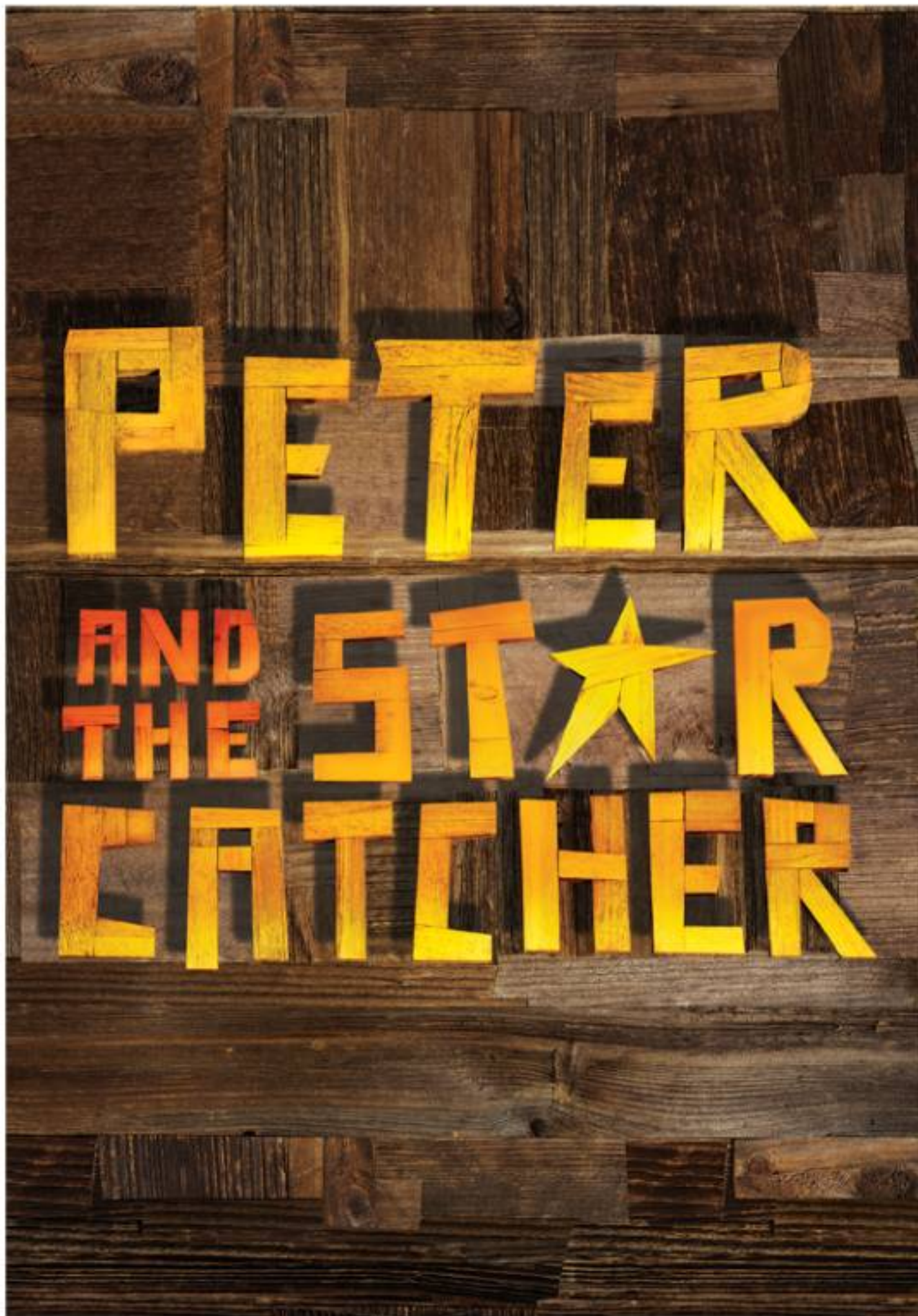
"Manhattan" Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Lorenz Hart

"New York, New York" Music by Leonard Bernstein, Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

"On Broadway" Music and Lyrics by Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller, Barry Mann, and Cynthia Weil

"The Schuyler Sisters" Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

"Theme from New York, New York" Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb



ROGER AND THE STARCATCHER

**THE ROGER REES AWARDS INTRODUCES A NEW STUDENT HONOR
THIS YEAR RECOGNIZING PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER, AND LEADERSHIP.**

In *Peter and the Starcatcher*, a Starcatcher is no ordinary figure—they are the keeper of starstuff, a shimmering, otherworldly substance that descends from the sky, brimming with magic and possibility. But with such power comes great responsibility. Starstuff must never fall into the wrong hands. It needs a guardian. A steward. A champion.

The play holds a particularly cherished place in the hearts of those behind the Roger Rees Awards. Adapted for the stage by Rick Elice from the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, it was brought to life by co-directors Roger Rees and Alex Timbers. The story, bursting with friendship, duty, imagination, and heart, is not only a theatrical treasure—it's a reflection of the spirit Roger embodied and shared.

This season, the Roger Rees Awards introduces a new honor inspired by both the play and the community that nurtured it: The Starcatcher Award. This distinction will be presented to one Outstanding Performer nominee who, over the course of the showcase weekend, exemplified the values at the award's core—friendship, bravery, leadership, and imagination.

"Roger was clearly an extraordinary artist," says Broadway Education Alliance Founder Susan E. Lee. "But throughout his career, he was committed to mentoring the next generation of artists. It was that generosity of spirit that truly set him apart—and that's the legacy we are honoring with the Starcatcher Award."

The recipient will be someone who shines not just on stage, but within the ensemble of nominees. Someone who brings their full self to every rehearsal, leads with warmth, collaborates with heart and let's their imagination soar.

Like the Starcatcher in the story, they will protect their own "starstuff"—that ineffable spark within—and use it to uplift others, inspire their peers, and light the way forward. The Starcatcher Award isn't just a recognition of exceptional performance; it's a celebration of the spirit that connects us all through theater, and a lasting tribute to the remarkable legacy of Roger Rees.

Peter and The Starcatcher is available for license through Music Theatre International. MTIShows.com

ROGER REES AWARDS

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN A MUSICAL



ANDREW ADAMS
Edward Bloom,
Big Fish: School Edition
Fordham Preparatory School



ALLISON ANGELL
Little Red Ridinghood,
Into the Woods
W.T. Clarke High School



JUSTIN BOCIAN
William Shakespeare,
Something Rotten; Plainview-Old
Bethpage John F. Kennedy HS



JACK CEGLIE
Bobby Strong,
Urinetown
Long Island HS for the Arts



JACK CHAMBERS
Perchik,
Fiddler on the Roof
Manhasset High School



HAYLIE CHRISTIANO
Alyssa Greene,
The Prom
Nyack High School



MILES COHEN
Joe Hardy / Joe Boyd,
Damn Yankees
Herricks High School



SIENA COTTONE
Lili,
Carnival
The Knox School



JOEL CRUMP
Laurie, *Little Women*
Léman Manhattan
Preparatory School



WINTER DONNELLY
Alice,
Alice by Heart
Xavier High School



JONAH ESPINOSA
Don Quixote,
Man of LaMancha
Beacon High School



ADDISON FRIED
Polly Baker,
Crazy For You
Bay Shore Senior HS



ASHLEE FUCARINO
Lady of the Lake,
Spamalot: School Edition, Wantagh HS



MATTHEW GENNINGS
Nick Bottom,
Something Rotten
West Babylon Senior HS



JOSHUA GORLIN
Archibald Craven,
The Secret Garden
Monroe-Woodbury High School



WILLIAM HERBERT
Quasimodo, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
Farmingdale HS



LORENZO HILLIARD
Lancelot, *Spamalot: School Edition*
Wantagh HS



LOGAN KAY
Cinderella's Prince, *Into The Woods*; Fiorello H. LaGuardia HS of Music & Art and Performing Arts



GRACE KIAMIE
Sandra Bloom, *Big Fish: School Edition*; Fordham Preparatory School



MACKENZIE KLING
Ariel,
Disney's The Little Mermaid
Mount Sinai HS



TYLER LANDUSKY
Dickon,
The Secret Garden
Monroe-Woodbury HS



DYLAN LEMAIRE
Will Shakespeare
Something Rotten
West Babylon Senior HS



HANNAH LEVINE
Lili,
Carnival!
Sanford H. Calhoun HS



ELENA LIETO
Paulette Puonufonte,
Legally Blonde the Musical; Arlington HS



SOPHIA MANALANG
Cinderella,
Into the Woods
Ardsley High School

ROGER REES AWARDS

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN A MUSICAL



GLORIA MANNING
Natasha, *Natasha, Pierre,*
and the Great Comet of 1812
Professional Performing Arts School



JERONNIE McDOUGALD
Bobby Child
Crazy For You
Bay Shore Senior HS



EVANGELINE MCGINLEY
Irene Molloy,
Hello, Dolly!
Suffern High School



HARRISON McNEILL
Pierre, *Natasha, Pierre,*
and the Great Comet of 1812
Professional Performing Arts School



SARA NEARENBERG
Princess Winnifred the
Woebegone, *Once Upon a*
Mattress; Locust Valley HS



CAELYN OSBERN
Jo March, *Little Women*
Léman Manhattan
Preparatory School



LUCETTE OW
Pennywise
Urinetown
Pelham Memorial HS



ELIANA PANOFF
Dolly Levi,
Hello, Dolly!
Suffern High School



KIMONT PERSON
The Scarecrow,
The Wiz
Valley Stream Central HS



HALEY POLIDORE
Mary Poppins,
Mary Poppins
Roy C. Ketcham High School



OLIVIA POTORTI
Vi Moore, *Footloose*
Brooklyn High School
of the Arts



CAMILLA RIGGS
Anya/Anastasia,
Anastasia
The Stony Brook School



JESSE ROGERS
Melchior, *Spring Awakening*;
New Explorations into Science, Technology
and Math High School (NEST+m)



TATIANA ROSSELLO
Dorothy,
The Wiz
Valley Stream Central HS



COLIN RUBSAMEN
Harold Hill,
The Music Man
Pleasantville High School



ROBERT SILVERSTEIN
Dom Claude Frollo,
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
Farmingdale High School



OLIVE SPENCE
Emma,
The Prom
Edward R. Murrow HS



CONOR STACK
Joseph Pulitzer,
Newsies
South Side High School



HANAKO STEPPER
Ellie,
Freaky Friday
Trinity School



LINDSAY STOLLER
Belle, *Beauty and the Beast*
John L. Miller
Great Neck North HS



MARGARET STUCKEY
Baker's Wife, *Into The Woods*
Fiorello H. LaGuardia HS of Music
& Art and Performing Arts



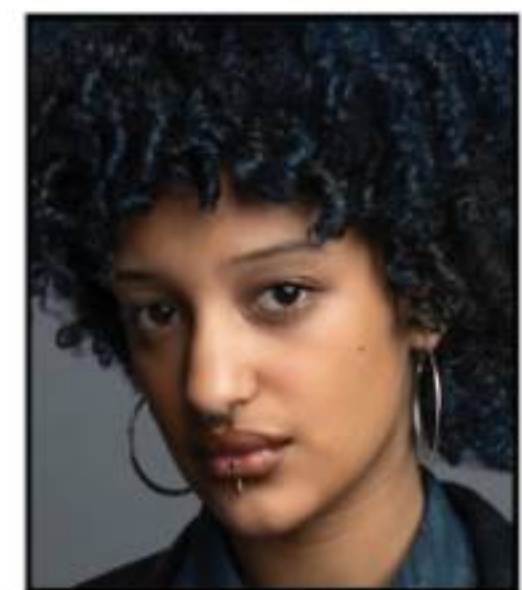
EMMA SUHR
Regina George,
Mean Girls HS Edition
Southampton High School



LEONIDAS TIRELLA
Lumiere,
Beauty and the Beast
St Francis Prep



EMMA VAN DORPE
Emma Nolan,
The Prom
Nyack High School



KELSY VARGAS
Judas,
Jesus Christ Superstar
Talent Unlimited High School



Master the Triple Threat

ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE POTENTIAL BY IMMERSING YOURSELF IN THE STUDY OF ACTING, PERFORMANCE AND VOICE FOR THE STAGE.

Two students will be selected to receive a scholarship to cover the cost of a Rider University Pre-College Program, including Musical Theatre Institute.



[RIDER.EDU/MUSICALTHEATRE](https://www.rider.edu/musicaltheatre)



RIDER UNIVERSITY
**College of
Arts and Sciences**

**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION, MEDIA
AND PERFORMING ARTS**

ROGER REES AWARDS



In Partnership with the Broadway Education Alliance

Presents

THE 2025 ROGER REES AWARDS STAGE MANAGEMENT FELLOWS

SOPHIE ALLEN

Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts

JOHN GALVIN

Monsignor Farrell High School

ABIGAIL MASELLI

Locust Valley High School

This exciting new opportunity offers aspiring theater practitioners the chance to serve as assistant stage managers for the Roger Rees Awards showcase. Each fellow also receive a one-year membership to the Stage Managers Association.

Fellows were nominated by their teacher and selected by Casey Sammarco, Director-at-Large for the SMA and Professor of Stage Management at Florida State University, as well as Sam Shapiro, Production Stage Manager, Roger Rees Awards.

BROADWAY STAGE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

LEARN GROW CONNECT

-  The Education, Enrichment & Networking Event Created for Stage Managers
-  Broadway Stage Managers share their Wisdom, Experience & Expertise
-  Educators Can Access Archive of 150+ Hours of Content for their classroom

 www.broadwaysymposium.com

ROGER REES AWARDS

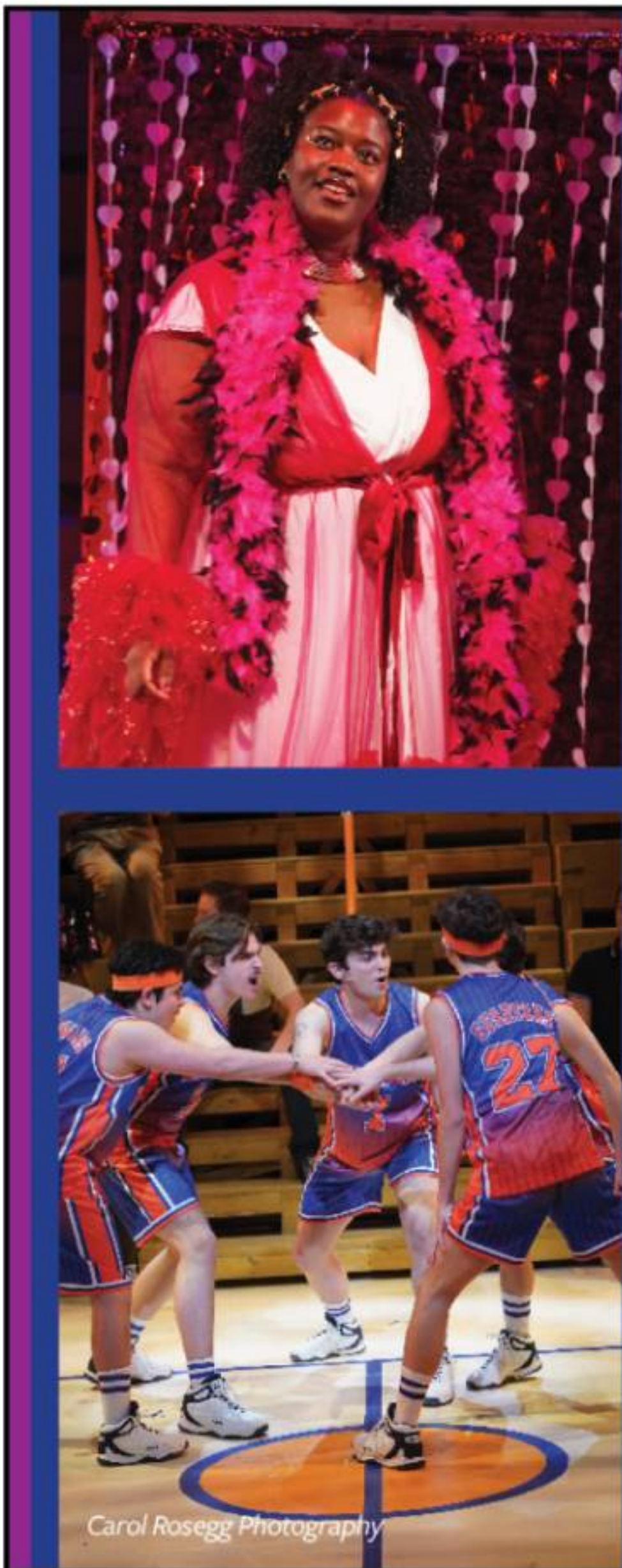


LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY

LIU Post’s Theatre program offers a wide range of opportunities that will connect you to the industry as soon as you arrive. You will be able to:

- Work with professional directors and designers
- Explore physical theatre training
- Learn all aspects of theatre production
- Study under a committed faculty of working professionals
- Connect with our strong alumni network
- Develop and produce new work

BFA ACTING | BFA MUSICAL THEATRE | BA THEATRE ARTS
APPLY TODAY: liu.edu/apply



MarymountManhattan

NEW YORK CITY

Undergraduate Programs

BFA & BA Degrees in Theatre Arts

- Acting
- Musical Theatre
- Stage & Production Management
- Theatre Design & Technology
- Directing
- Theatre History & Performance Texts
- Theatre & New Media
- Writing for the Stage

Learn more:
mmm.edu/theatre

Pre-College Program

Musical Theatre Summer Intensive

Two-week programs with individualized coaching and professional training

Session 1:
June 23 - July 4

Session 2:
July 7 - July 18

Learn more and apply:
mmm.edu/pre-college/musical-theatre

ROGER REES AWARDS



THE VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Unleash your talent. Build your future.



<https://sunyrockland.edu/programs/visual-and-performing-arts/>

ROGER REES AWARDS

NEW FACES | 2025 ADJUDICATORS

Casting Society (CSA) is a global organization of casting professionals dedicated to upholding the highest standards of casting within the entertainment industry. They are committed to furthering education, providing resources and career development for members, mentoring the next generation, cultivating community, and advocating for empathy, equity, and inclusivity throughout the creative process.



Special thanks to CSA for supporting New Faces | Honors 2025 and to the following members who served as Adjudicators.



CHARLOTTE
ARNOUX



BETH
BENGE



HENRY RUSSELL
BERGSTEIN



NORA
BRENNAN



HOLLY
BUCZEK



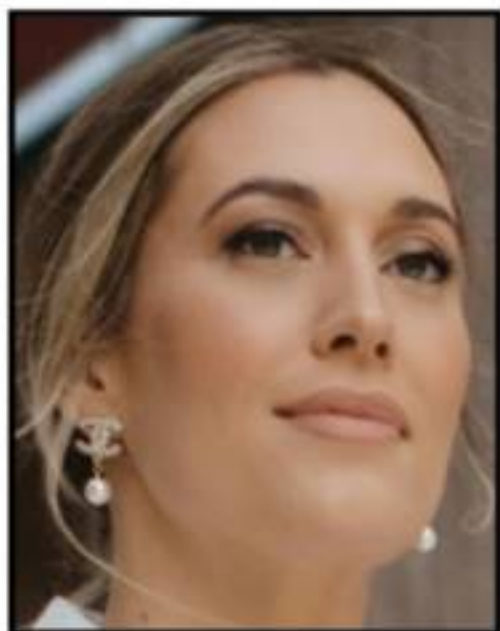
ROBIN
CARUS



NINA
DAY



MISSY
FINNELL



KATIE
GRIFFIN



BLAINE
JOHNSTON



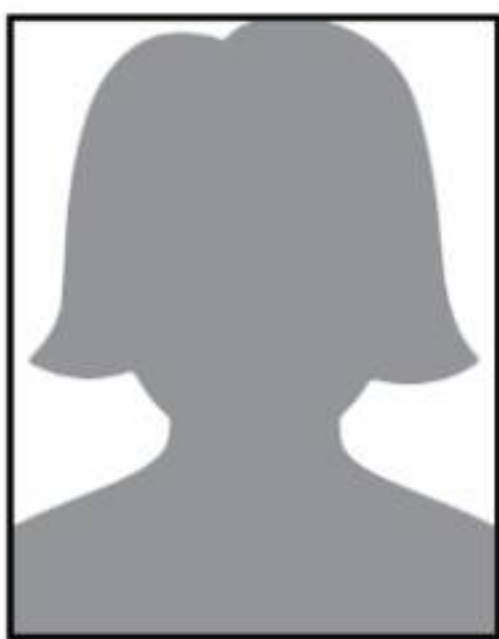
STEPHANIE
KLAPPER



LAUREN
KURNIT



KEN LAZER



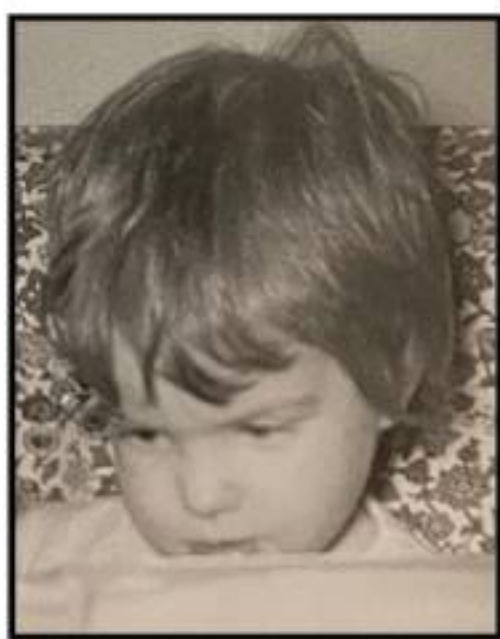
MICHELLE
LEVITT SAVIC



JAMIBETH
MARGOLIS



JOHN
ORT



MARCI
PHILLIPS



DANIELLE PRETSFELDER
DEMCHICK



FRANKIE
RAMIREZ



JENNY RAVITZ
BRIGHTMAN



RACHEL
REISS



TODD
THALER



SERAFINA
TIRANNO-CIMISI



CLAIRE
YENSON

ROGER REES AWARDS

NEW FACES | 2025 HONOREES



SAGE ABBEY
Rye Neck High School



WILLIAM HERBERT
Farmingdale High School



LONDON BYRNE
Professional Performing Arts School



LUCAS CAPELLE
Rye Neck High School



CARLOS CARRERAS
Professional Performing Arts School



KEILAH CLARKE
Professional Performing Arts School



PJ CRAVINHO
Rye Neck High School



MADELEINE DION
Talent Unlimited High School



VALENTINA FERRANTE
Rye Neck High School



LIA FILIPOV
Professional Performing Arts School



TESSA FRASCOGNA
Garden City High School



CHRIS FUKUDA
William A. Shine Great Neck South High School



SAMANTHA GARBOWSKI
Wantagh High School



CLARE GARDNER
Garden City High School



SYDNEY HEALEY
Rye Neck High School



JIHO LEE
Suffern High School



SKYLAR LU
William A. Shine Great Neck South High School



MICHAEL MACALUSO VOSGANIAN
Long Beach High School



PIPER MARSHALL
Nyack High School



MAKAELAH MARTE
Professional Performing Arts School



ALEXIS MAWERE
Manhasset High School



CARYS McGRORY
Rye Neck High School



SCOTT MCKIERNAN
Cardinal Spellman High School



AKHIIR McNEIL
Newburgh Free Academy



CHARLOTTE NERAYOFF
John L. Miller Great Neck North High School



JACK POPPLETON
Manhasset High School



LILY RUIZ
Professional Performing Arts School



EVIE SCHIFF
Scarsdale High School



ELENA SHERWOOD
Suffern High School



VALENTINA VERGARA
East Hampton High School



JOIN THE TKS COMMUNITY AND BECOME A CONFIDENT ACTOR FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

HIGH SCHOOL ACTORS,

READY TO TAKE YOUR ACTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL?



Join the Terry Knickerbocker Studio
NextGen Summer Acting Intensive
July 14th - July 26th, 2025



LEARN MORE



- Experience conservatory-style training with world-class faculty
- Prepare for college acting auditions and explore if this path is right for you
- Sharpen your skills to stand out in high school and future productions
- Gain lasting confidence—on stage and in life
- Build meaningful connections that support your growth as an artist

ROGER REES AWARDS

NEW FACES | 2025 COACHES



CELESTE SIMONE



AMANDA CASTRO



ELIJAH CALDWELL



MAURA MALLOY

CELESTE SIMONE is a renowned voice teacher and performance coach, who has actively worked in show business for more than forty-five years. Current students include Kristin Chenoweth and Amy Irving. She had the honor of working with Chita Rivera until her passing in 2024. Celeste's students can be seen in Broadway shows such as *The Notebook*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Hamilton*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *Wicked*, *The Lion King*, *A Beautiful Noise*, *Mean Girls*, and come fall 2025, two of her students will appear in the new Stephen Schwartz musical *The Queen of Versailles*. Celeste serves on the Board of Directors at the Bel Canto Institute which is in residence in Florence, Italy. She also is on the faculty at ActTeen, Broadway Artists Alliance, Kristin Chenoweth's Broadway Boot Camp and the Roger Rees Awards. www.celestevoice.com

AMANDA CASTRO is currently Associate Choreographer of *Gypsy* on Broadway and featured in Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch." She is a Bessie Award-winning Puerto Rican-American multidisciplinary artist rooted in rhythm. Her recent performances include *Jelly's Last Jam* (New York City Center), *American Dance Platform* (Soles of Duende), *Rhythm is Life* by Dormeshia at the Joyce, and Anita in *West Side Story* at Lyric Opera of Chicago. Originally joining Urban Bush Women in 2013 and recently finishing their 2025 40th Anniversary Tour *This is Risk*, she is a graduate of California Institute of the Arts. Amanda has been fortunate to work with innovative artists in the field and is constantly on the search to be a part of stories that help elevate our collective humanity. www.acastrodance.com

ELIJAH CALDWELL is an Obie Award winner. Original Standby in *A Strange Loop* at Playwrights Horizons. Associate Music Director for *Chicago* Pre-Broadway engagement of *The Devil Wears Prada*. He is a graduate of The UNC Chapel Hill in Classical Piano and Master's Degree in Musical Theatre from NYU. Professor at Marymount Manhattan College and Hunter College. #ThisIsCaldwell IG: @thisiscaldwellofficial www.thisiscaldwell.com

MAURA MALLOY is thrilled to be returning to the New Faces 2025 coaching team! Director/Choreographer credits include *Into the Woods*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Measure for Measure*, *Our Town*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Macbeth*. Maura has expertise in arts integration with K-12 unit curricula and is a certified instructor for trauma-informed practices in the classroom and rehearsal room. She has co-developed many performing arts programs over the last 20 years, specializing in curricula for underserved populations. For NYC High Schools: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Les Misérables*, *Spamalot*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, etc., contemporary plays and Shakespeare's works. Professional training: Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, Royal National Theatre, London. Member: AEA, DEA, NYC Arts in Education Roundtable.

The Goren Family Foundation

sponsor of the
Harmony Helper Choral Award

CONGRATULATES

the students being recognized for their
Excellence in Performance
both on and off stage.

“Arts education provides students with critical life skills including, empathy, critical thinking, self-expression, confidence, and the ability to approach humanity from a holistic viewpoint. These skills are applicable outside of careers in the arts and leave a positive impact on society. The Goren Family Foundation is committed to supporting programs that make arts education accessible for this reason.” - Andrew Goren

ROGER REES AWARDS



PRESENTS

THE 5TH ANNUAL HARMONY HELPER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHORAL GROUP PERFORMANCE 2024-2025 AWARD WINNER



CANTARE OF LAGUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL

Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts

Jana Ballard, Conductor | Christopher Piro, Accompanist

FINALISTS

(in alphabetical order by school name)

Great Neck North Select Singers, John L. Miller Great Neck North High School

Dr. Pamela Levy, Director

Jericho Noteworthy A Capella, Jericho High School

Elizabeth Owens, Director

Lynbrook High School Concert Choir, Lynbrook High School

Barry Wyner, Director

Roslyn Chamber Choir, Roslyn High School


Christina Cinnamo, Director

Rye Neck Musical Theater Choir, Rye Neck High School



Cyndi Feinman, Director

Walter Panas Chamber Choir, Walter Panas High School

Sean Partee, Director

 @HarmonyHelperApp

A SINGER'S BEST FRIEND
www.harmonyhelper.com

  @HarmonyHelper



THE NORWALK CONSERVATORY OF THE ARTS

Connecticut's Premier College for the Performing Arts

The Norwalk Conservatory offers a world-class, 2-year conservatory program with 4 unique majors: Musical Theatre, Musical Theatre Dance, Acting for Stage and Screen, and introducing our newest major: Commercial Dance!



Located in Norwalk, Connecticut,

Our mission is to deliver exceptional arts education to aspiring artists while fostering a positive influence within the local arts community.

www.thenorwalkconservatory.org

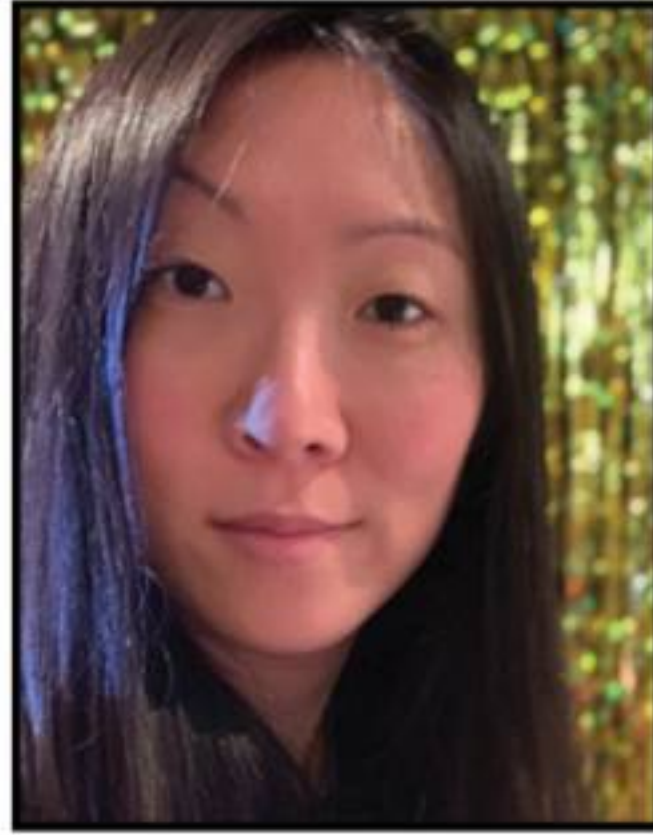
ROGER REES AWARDS

CHORAL AWARD ADJUDICATORS

The Broadway Education Alliance is proud to feature the Harmony Helper® Award for Excellence in Choral Group Performance in the Roger Rees Awards. This 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 of Harmony Helper. As a 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 innovative Harmony Helper app. With his leadership, Harmony Helper is helping singers of all kinds effectively practice and improve singing performance anytime, anywhere, and removing traditional rehearsal barriers so singers can deliver their best performances. Recently, Harmony Helper has joined the RWS Global family.

AMANDA MORTON is a music director and writer who is currently working on Broadway with the *Tommy* revival as assistant conductor and keyboardist. Other Broadway credits include *Gutenberg! The Musical!* and *KPOP*. She is the music supervisor for a new adaptation of *Anne of Green Gables* as well as *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. Recordings: *KPOP*, *Diary of A Wimpy Kid*, and *Gutenberg*. In 2023, she was awarded a Pew Grant in the area of Contemporary Expressions of Culture & Identity. 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 Baboro International Arts Festival for Children in Galway. www.joshtotora.com

To participate in the 2025 – 2026
Roger Rees Awards, please visit RogerReesAwards.com for more info.



@TheRogerReesAwards



@RogerReesAwards

ROGER REES AWARDS



Broadway Boxed Up

The longest running theatre-themed subscription box, bringing the world of Broadway to your doorstep each month.

Use code **RRA** for 20% off your first box
www.BroadwayBoxedUp.com
@BroadwayBoxedUp



11thour Design

11thourDesign.com

*Congratulates this year's
Roger Rees Awards Nominees*



ROGER REES AWARDS

LONG ISLAND STUDIO of MUSIC

Exceptional Music Instruction In Your Home

EXCEPTIONAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION IN YOUR HOME

— www.LongIslandStudioOfMusic.com —

The **Long Island Studio of Music** fosters the love, appreciation and enjoyment of music. Through music instruction and performance, students develop skills, build confidence, find passion and creativity, and acquire a deeper enjoyment of music.

Private music instruction in the comfort of your home for **Piano, Voice, Guitar, Ukulele, Violin, Viola, Cello, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Trumpet, Saxophone, Drums** and **more**. Recital opportunities throughout the year.

- We accept students of all ages and levels — child through adult
- Serving communities throughout Long Island
- Study with Superior Faculty

We specialize in:

- NYSSMA Preparation
- College Audition Preparation
- Audition Techniques & Preparation



Jennifer Barsamian
Co-founder



Jennifer Grimaldi-Toohey
Co-founder

We also offer individual instruction and group classes in:

- Music Theory • Music Composition • Sight-singing and more

Enhance your child's music education beyond their academic school environment!

Call us today to schedule your first lesson at **646.387.6501, 718.809.7116**
or email us at **LISMLessons@gmail.com**

ROGER REES AWARDS



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

ADVANCED INTENSIVE
GRADES 10, 11, 12 - COLLEGE

HAIR

INTERMEDIATE INTENSIVE
GRADES 7, 8, 9



BEGINNER PROGRAM
Grades 3, 4, 5, 6
Featuring choral highlights from:

SESSION 1
WICKED

SESSION 2
THE LION KING



2025 BROADWAY GUEST ARTIST
Tony Award-Winner, 4 time Grammy nominee,
and R&B Songstress who made her Broadway
debut in the original company of HAIR
MELBA MOORE

“... Long Island Musical Theatre Festival is perpetuating a tradition. But of course with its pre-professional training program now, it’s providing a resource that didn’t exist prior to this.”

— **Stephen Schwartz, 2022 LIMTF Broadway Guest Artist**
(composer of Wicked, Pippin, Godspell), BroadwayWorld

July 28 - August 10, 2025

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
1 SOUTH AVE, GARDEN CITY NY

SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL ALL SPOTS ARE FILLED

VISIT [LIMTF.ORG/SUMMER-2025](https://limtf.org/summer-2025) OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

Follow us on socials!  @thelimtf  Long Island Musical Theatre Festival





USDAN SUMMER CAMP FOR THE ARTS



Congratulations to all the nominees
including our students:



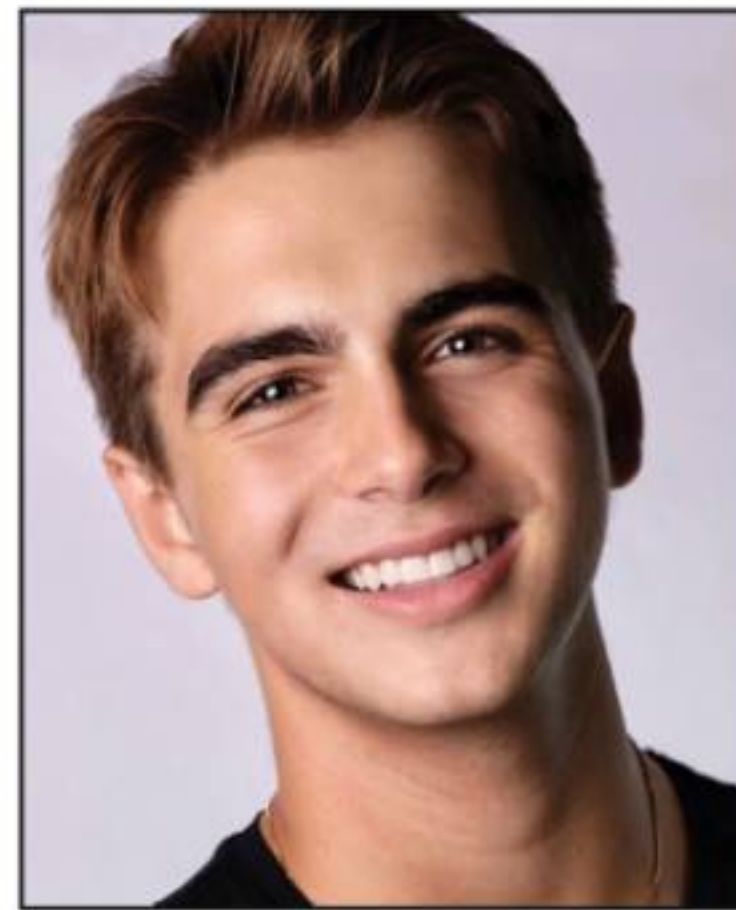
ALLISON ANGELL
MILES COHEN
WILLIAM HERBERT
SARA NEARENBERG



ALLISON ANGELL



MILES COHEN



WILLIAM HERBERT



SARA NEARENBERG



Join our acclaimed summer theater program

Enroll today at usdan.org

631. 643. 7900 | Wheatley Heights, Long Island



ROGER REES AWARDS



Congratulations Madeleine!

Your passion, dedication, and hard work have inspired us every step of the way. Watching you shine on and off the stage fills our hearts with pride and joy. You pour your heart into everything you do, and it shows. We are endlessly proud of you and love you more than words can say.

Love always,
Mom, Dad and Gavin



Congratulations Lindsay!

You lit up the stage as “Princess Belle”!

We are constantly blown away by your talent, your hard work and dedication! We hope you never stop chasing your dreams!

Your biggest fans,

Mom, Dad, Zachary, Grandma, Gammie & Pappy

ROGER REES AWARDS



Bravo, Jack Chambers!

**Thank you to
Manhasset High School
and The Roger Rees
Awards for your support
of our young artists.**



Congratulations!

JESSE ROGERS

Incredibly proud!

Love Mom, Dad & Nina

ROGER REES AWARDS

PRODUCTION TEAM

BROADWAY EDUCATION ALLIANCE INC.

President.	Susan E. Lee
Vice President/Treasurer.	Brian W. Curran
Camp Broadway Program Manager.	Taylor Mattes
Communications Manager.	Jennifer Buritica-Lopez
Accountant.	Marks Paneth & Shron LLC / Mark D'Ambrosi
Agency Representative.	IPEX Artist Agency / Brian Sherman
Banking.	City National Bank / Michelle Gibbons
Insurance Broker.	Bollinger Insurance / Mary Ann Mueller

ROGER REES AWARDS PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Director/Choreographer.	Theo Lencicki
Program Manager.	Katie Wingler
Music Director.	Christine Riley
Production Stage Manager.	Sam Shapiro
Music Supervisor.	Myrna Conn
Assistant Director/Choreographer.	Ryan Rodiño
Rehearsal Assistant.	Halle Mastroberardino
Assistant Stage Managers.	Sophie Allen, Jack Galvin, Abigail Maselli
Hospitality Manager.	Diana Ley
Talent Manager.	Megan Ringeling
Program Editor.	Talaura Harms
Graphic Design.	11thourDesign / Paul Gaschler & Danielle Stecki
Media Relations.	Keith Sherman, Scott Klein / Keith Sherman & Associates
Event Photographer.	Rebecca J. Michelson
New Faces Videography/Film Editing.	Eric Mann / Unreel Films
Preshow Slideshow Designer.	Zachary Baer
Nominee Selection Performance Coach.	Maura Malloy
Nominee Selection Music Director.	J. Oconor Navarro

NEW YORK CITY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Vice President, Education & Community Engagement.	Tia Powell Harris
Director of Planning & Operations, Education & Community Engagement	Seth Laidlaw
Senior Manager, Career Pathways & Community Engagement.	Sarah Kutnowsky

LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY POST

General Manger of Post Theatre Company.	David Apichell
Head of Voice & Speech, LIU Post.	Jillian Courtney
Director of Musical Theatre, LIU Post.	David Hugo
Voice Faculty, LIU Post.	Michelle Mallardi
Artistic Director, Post Theatre Company / Chair of Department of Theatre, Dance, and Arts Management, LIU Post.	Valerie Clayman Pye

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

Associate Professor of Theater Arts.	Christine Riley
Associate Professor of Theater Arts.	Michael Mendez
Assistant Professor of Theater Arts.	Emily Clark

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

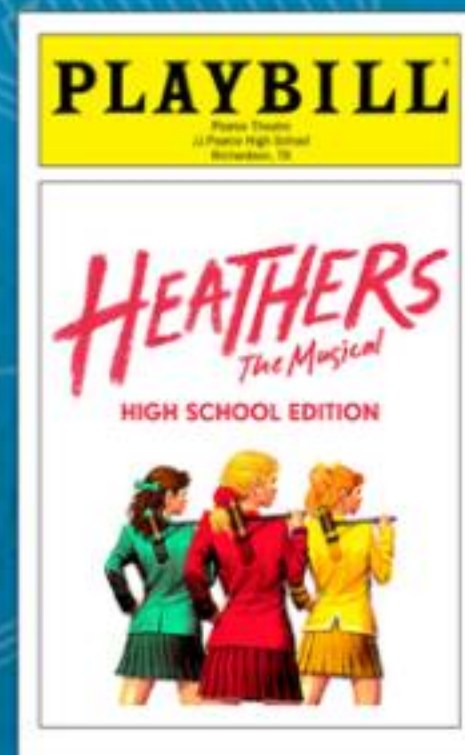
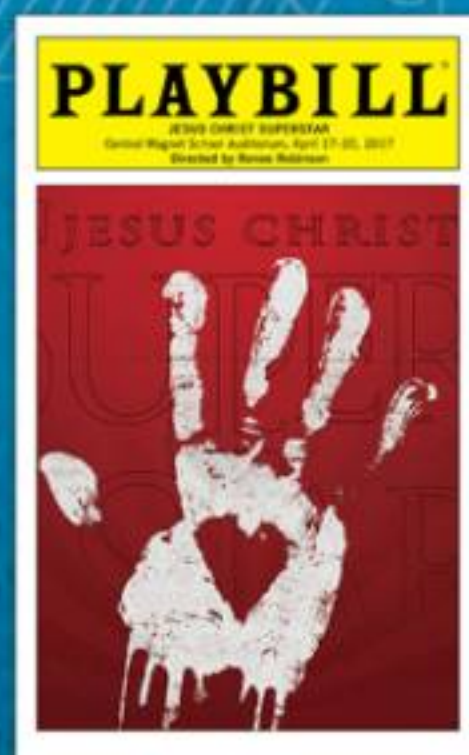
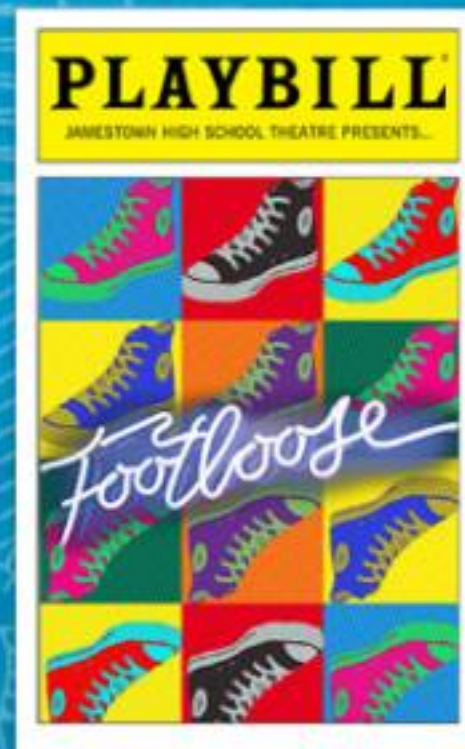
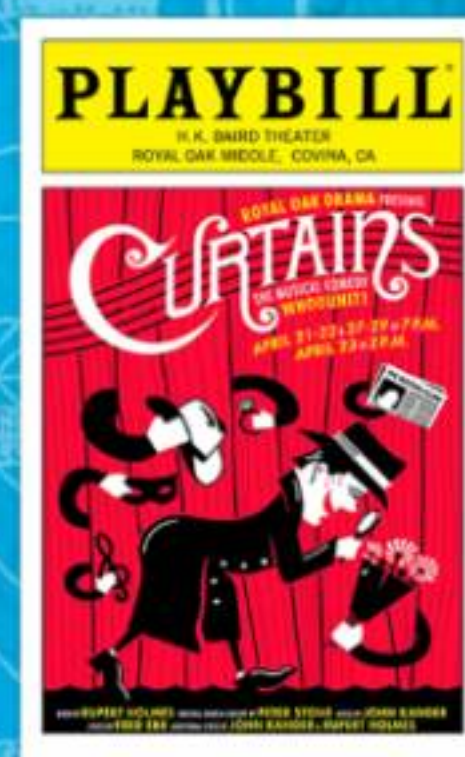
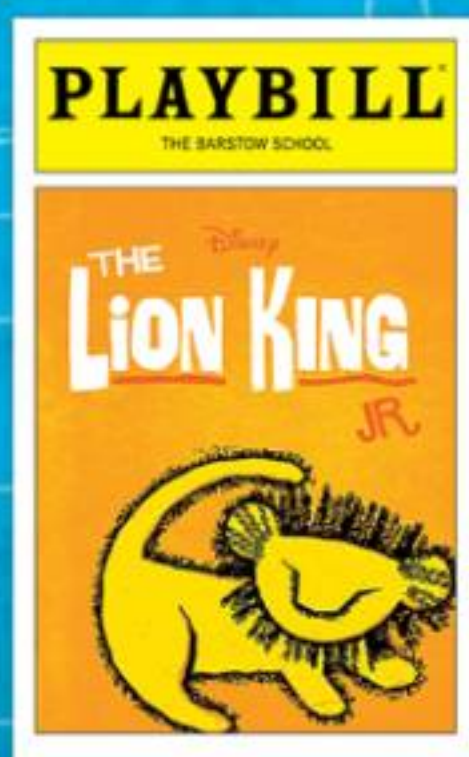
Interim Dean, School of AEHSS/SUNY Distinguished Professor.	Patricia Maloney-Titland
Director - Cultural Arts Theatre/SAFD Certified Teacher.	Christopher Plummer
Academic Advisor, Adjunct Professor of Theatre and Cinema Studies.	Dr. Christina Schaudel
Theatrical Stage Combat Teaching Assistants/RCC Alumni.	Brandon Ali, Emily Gerges, Frank McCue

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL

Principal.	Leah Dyer
Assistant Principal.	Wells Huang
Assistant Principal.	Charles Vassallo
Community Coordinator.	Marty Gasper
Parent Coordinator.	Teri Gindi
PPAS Volunteers.	Santiago Aristizabal, Olivia Bucknor, Hailey Fernandez, Tyra Tchibozo, Tristan Williams

PLAYBILLder®

Create
your own
PLAYBILL®
today!



PLAYBILLDER.com

PLAYBILLder® EXPRESS POWERED BY
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL • SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.
THE MUSICAL COMPANY • RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN
TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY • THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICES • JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD
THE REALLY USEFUL GROUP

BROADWAY'S NEXT GENERATION!

Two students from our program will join teens from **across the U.S.** to compete for top honors in a **one-night-only showcase** at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards®.

JIMMY AWARDS™

JUNE 23, 2025

Stream online or join us at Broadway's  Minskoff Theatre

Viewing and ticket info:

JimmyAwards.com

    @JimmyAwards

Presented by

 **THE
BROADWAY
LEAGUE®**
FOUNDATION

