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# ROGER REES AWARDS

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us at the 16th annual Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance. Tonight's performers are a testament to the talent, dedication, and support of teachers and families who recognize the performing arts as essential to a well-rounded education.

The Broadway Education Alliance is proud to present the Roger Rees Awards to elevate high school theater across the Greater New York region. We are a group of Broadway producers and arts education supporters committed to advancing this program because it provides a pathway for aspiring artists to become industry professionals on and off the stage. Equally important, it is an entertaining and engaging way for New Yorkers to play a role in cultivating Broadway's future.

Please consider joining our growing community of Roger Rees Award Ambassadors to celebrate the educators and students who help make New York the cultural capital of the world. You too can make a lasting contribution to artists, audiences and the Broadway artform. Please write to us at [RRAdmin@bealliance.org](mailto:RRAdmin@bealliance.org) to learn more.

Thank you for being part of our shared mission.



CHERINE  
ANDERSON



SUSAN  
ARNDT



THOMAS  
ARNDT



ANANT  
DAS



MERRIE L.  
DAVIS



DOUGLAS  
DENOFF



ALLISON  
FRENCH



NATHANIEL  
HILL



CARMEN A.  
QUINONES



MEGAN ANN  
RASMUSSEN



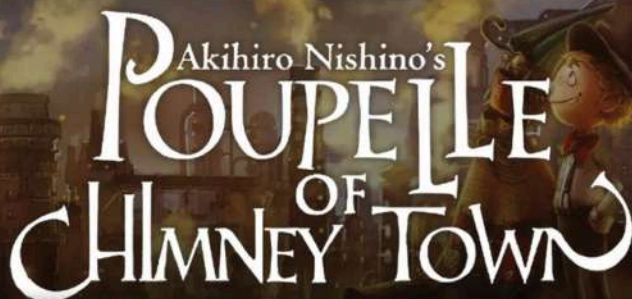
FIONA HOWE  
RUDIN



JUAN TELLEZ  
SANDOVAL



KIRSTEN  
WRINKLE



Akihiro Nishino's  
**POUPELLE  
OF  
CHIMNEY TOWN**

Congratulations  
2026 Roger Rees Nominees!

“Only those that look up  
can see the stars.”

May you never forget  
the gaze you held today!

*Chimney Town the Musical*  
Akihiro Nishino, Ko Mori, Megan Ann Rasmussen

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ON A PHENOMENAL SEASON!  
YOU'RE ALL  
ONE OF A KIND  
NO CATEGORY

SIX



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NOMINEES

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JUAN TELLEZ SANDOVAL  
*ROGER REES AWARDS AMBASSADOR*

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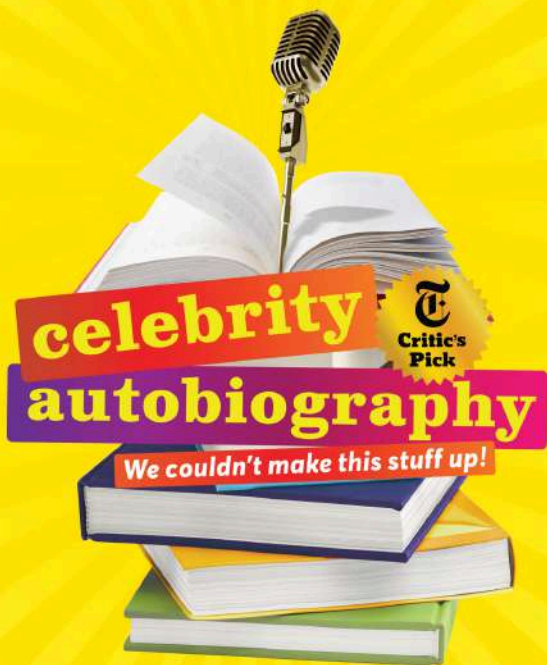
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# ROGER REES AWARDS



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REES  
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FOR EXCELLENCE  
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# ROGER REES AWARDS

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

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Elena Ash	Alexandra Atkin	Christine Barney	Damian & Erin Kenny Bazadona
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Julie McDonald	Nobile People	Brian Sliwinski	Vickie Thomas
Daniel Turetsky			

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Jered Fournier	Allison French	Jim Hoare	Jerome Kane	Stephanie Klapper
Seth Laidlaw	George Lence	Cristyne Nicholas	Ruthie Pincus	Tia Powell-Harris
Theone Rinaudo	Nicole Rosky	Matthew Aaron Stern		



**THE BROADWAY  
ASSOCIATION**

proudly salutes  
The Roger Rees Awards on

*16 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](http://broadwayassociation.org)

# ROGER REES AWARDS

## THE ROGER REES AWARDS

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OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMER  
WINNERS

2025



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MANNING



JACK  
CEGLIE



ASHLEE  
FUCARINO



ISAIAH  
BASTON



TATUM  
HOPKINS



CALVIN  
LINDO

2024

2022



SOPHIA  
O'BRIEN



LIAM  
GINSBURG



KATRIANA  
KOPPE



MATEO  
LIZCANO



MEREDITH  
HELLER



JAKE  
SCHAUDER

2021

2020

2019



EKELE  
UKEGBU



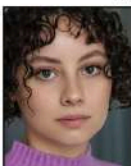
JEREMY  
FUENTES



ALYSSA  
MCDONALD



ANDREW BARTH  
FELDMAN



MADDIE  
RUBIN



DEAN TYLER  
K

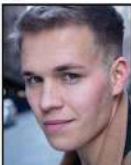
2018

2017

2016



SARAFINA  
MORENCY



ZANDER  
PACELLA



MARLA  
LOUISSAINT



RYAN  
RODINO



SARAH  
LIDDY



STEVEN  
TELSEY

2015

2014

2013



HALLE  
MASTROBERARDINO



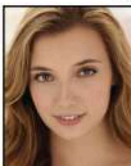
HAROLD  
ERIC



KYRA  
LEEDS



JOSHUA  
SCHWARTZ



EMILY  
LOEWUS

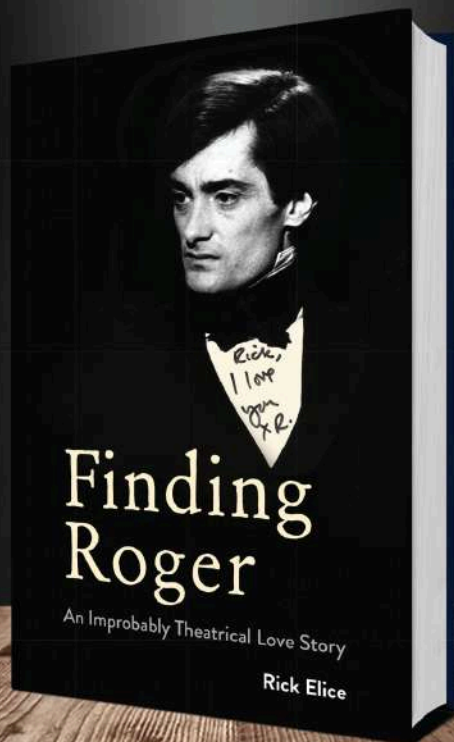


KEVIN W.  
CROWLEY

2012

2011

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](http://RogerReesAwards.com) where you will find a detailed account of his accomplishments written by his partner, Rick Elice.

# ROGER REES AWARDS

The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance promotes the value of theater arts education in high schools located throughout the Greater New York area. The Broadway Education Alliance would like to celebrate the dedicated educators, administrators, and teams at the following schools who work tirelessly throughout the year to keep their students performing.

## 2025-2026 GREATER NEW YORK REGION PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

### BRONX

**Aramis Soler**  
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**Ian Subsara**  
Fordham HS for the Arts

**Thomas O'Sullivan**  
Fordham Prep

**Benjamin Posner**  
Horace Mann School

**Laura Desmond**  
Riverdale Country School

### DUTCHESS

**Danielle Brescia**  
Arlington HS

**Lori LaDue**  
Beacon HS

**Amy Martin**  
Franklin Delano Roosevelt HS

**Emilio Giordano**  
John Jay HS

**Najah Muhammad**  
Roy C. Ketcham HS

**Kristin Oakley**  
Spackenkill HS

### KINGS (BROOKLYN)

**Hayley Adler**  
Brooklyn HS of the Arts

**Gayle Zeitlin**  
Edward R. Murrow HS

**Mariko Watt**  
Poly Prep Country Day School

**WT McRae**  
The Berkeley Carroll School

### NASSAU

**Gabriella Franza**  
Baldwin HS

**Michael Bruno**  
Chaminade HS

**Benjamin Pesenti**  
Elmont Memorial HS

**Jessica Mischke**  
Farmingdale HS

**John Smykowski**  
Floral Park Memorial HS

**Lynn Fusco**  
Freeport HS

**Akira Regan**  
Garden City HS

**Lisa Levenberg**  
General Douglas MacArthur HS

**Jared Ross**  
Glen Cove HS

**Catherine Wright**  
H. Frank Carey HS

**Xavier Rodriguez**  
Hempstead HS

**Anissa Arnold  
& Brooke DiSpirito**  
Herricks HS

**Caitlin Cassidy**  
Hicksville HS

**Elizabeth Owens**  
Jericho HS

**Dr. Pamela Levy**  
John L. Miller Great Neck North HS

**AnnMarie Buonaspina**  
Locust Valley HS

**Julia Lang-Shapiro**  
Long Beach HS

**Chris Brick**  
Long Island HS for the Arts

**Adrianna Schaefer**  
Lynbrook HS

**Joseph Owens  
& Dolores Mazzilli**  
Manhasset HS

**Lauren Foster-Holzed**  
Paul D. Schreiber HS

**Ryan Lane**  
Plainedge HS

**Christina Cinnamo**  
Roslyn HS

**Kelly Miller  
& Theone Rinaudo**  
Sacred Heart Academy

**James Crichton**  
Sanford H. Callhoun HS

**Chris Doherty**  
Sewanhaka HS

**Russell M. Dembin  
& Doreen Fryling**  
South Side HS

**Gene Connor**  
Syosset HS

**John D'Onofrio Watts**  
The Wheatley School

**Michelle Shmuel**  
W. T. Clarke HS

**Kimberly Davis**  
Wantagh HS

**Ilana Meredith**  
William A. Shine Great Neck South HS

### NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

**Kary Haddad**  
Columbia Grammar and Prep

To learn more about participating in The Roger Rees Awards visit  
[www.RogerReesAwards.com](http://www.RogerReesAwards.com)

# ROGER REES AWARDS

**Rebecca Ashley**  
Convent of the Sacred Heart

**Jamie Cacciola-Price**  
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts

**Liane Byrne**  
Hunter College HS

**Lisa Nowicki**  
Léman Manhattan Prep

**Kim Roberts**  
New Explorations into Science,  
Technology and Math HS (NEST+m)

**Teri Gindi**  
Professional Performing Arts School

**Maura Malloy**  
Regis HS

**Brooke Berry-Wolf**  
Talent Unlimited HS

**Jasmine Pai**  
Trinity School

**Luis Mora  
& Brett Tubbs**  
Washington Heights  
Expeditionary Learning School

**Nicole DiMarco**  
Xavier HS

**John Viscardi**  
York Prep

## ORANGE

**Michael Kaplan**  
Monroe-Woodbury HS

**Amanda Clifford**  
Newburgh Free Academy

**Derek DeVoe  
& Justin Glodich**  
Valley Central HS

## PUTNAM

**Peter Ballantoni**  
Carmel HS

## QUEENS

**Donna Mejia**  
St Francis Prep HS

**Mia Melchiorri**  
The Scholars' Academy

**William Lacker**  
Townsend Harris HS

## RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

**Melissa Tierney**  
Monsignor Farrell HS

**Emily Woods**  
Susan E Wagner HS

## ROCKLAND

**Virginia Stellato**  
North Rockland HS

**Felicia Gell**  
Nyack HS

**Rai Arsa Artha**  
Ramapo HS

**Randy Schwartz**  
Suffern HS

## SUFFOLK

**Margaret Campos**  
Bay Shore Senior HS

**Mark Stuckey**  
Commack HS

**Kathryn Schreck**  
East Hampton HS

**Bethany Affelt**  
East Islip HS

**Chris Brick**  
Half Hollow Hills HS East

**Jordan Hue  
& Patrice Wahl**  
Hauppauge HS

**Michael Schwendemann**  
Huntington HS

**Michael Hershkowitz**  
Islip HS

**Amy Connor**  
Mount Sinai HS

**Jared Glazer  
& Domenick Napoli**  
North Babylon HS

**Bethany Dellapolla**  
Pierson Middle-HS

**Michael Canestraro**  
The Knox School

**Mary Ann Cafiero**  
West Babylon Senior HS

## WESTCHESTER

**Frank Portanova**  
Archbishop Stepinac HS

**Christina Colangelo**  
Blind Brook HS

**Douglas Coates**  
Byram Hills HS

**Georgia DeFalco**  
Dobbs Ferry HS

**Halle Mastroberardino**  
Harrison HS

**Erica Denler**  
Hendrick Hudson School District

**Jessica Beattie**  
Horace Greeley HS

**Jordan Singer**  
Iona Preparatory Upper School

**Thomas Beck**  
Pelham Memorial HS

**Nadia Rizzo**  
Pleasantville HS

**Noelle Viñas  
& Kate Henerey**  
Rye Country Day School

**Cyndi Feinman**  
Rye Neck HS

**Kevin Viviano  
& Barbara Malecki**  
Scarsdale HS

**Caty Cooper**  
School of the Holy Child

**Natalie Arneson**  
Sleepy Hollow HS

**Jordan Singer**  
Walter Panas HS

**Hillary Johnson**  
Woodlands Middle HS

To learn more about participating in The Roger Rees Awards visit  
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CHORAL AWARD  
and

CONGRATULATES

the students being recognized for their  
excellence both on and off stage.

*"We are committed to supporting programs that  
make arts education accessible."* - Andrew Goren

**2026**

**GOREN FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHORAL GROUP PERFORMANCE**

presented to



**Brooklyn High School of the Arts Select Choir  
Kristina Allocco, Director**

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ADVISORY TAX AUDIT



## The *Plus* Factor Is... Power in the Performance

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

**PROUD TO SUPPORT  
THE BROADWAY EDUCATION ALLIANCE**



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Gabriel Jaffe from Paul D. Schreiber High School reports for BroadwayWorld from the red carpet on the opening night of *Schmigadoon!*.

## ROGER REES AWARDS TURNS SPOTLIGHT ON NON-PERFORMANCE CAREERS IN THE ARTS

BY GERARD RAYMOND

With the Roger Rees Awards turning sweet sixteen this year, the musical theater awards program celebrating high school talent in the Greater New York region can proudly claim its place in the cultural fabric of the city. Five previous Roger Rees Award alumni starred on Broadway this theater season alone. Now, as the program grows, the accolade has become far more than recognition for standout performances in high school musical theater.

"How do we best reflect the scope of careers that are available to students in the theater?" asks Susan Lee, founder of the Broadway Education Alliance. Her goal when setting up the awards was to ensure that high schoolers from the New York region get the chance to compete at the National High School Musical Theatre

Awards. She is also the producer of the Roger Rees Awards program which, she explains, now incorporates several non-performance categories tailored to promoting skills beyond the footlights.

The expanded focus introduces theater-struck students to aspects of the industry that may be invisible to them—and opens doors they may not have realized existed. "When I was young," Lee recalls, "we might have known about fashion, but didn't know anything necessarily about costume design, or we might know about architecture but nothing about set design. So many high school students want to be actors because that is what they see, but there are many more disciplines that can be high-paying and transferrable jobs." The Broadway Education Alliance, she notes,

# ROGER REES AWARDS

Broadway Education Alliance Inc. In association with



Presents

## THE 2026 ROGER REES AWARDS STAGE MANAGEMENT FELLOWS

**LILIANA LEAND, Junior**

Rye Country Day School, Rye, New York

**HENRY QUINN, Senior**

Regis High School, New York, New York

**NASH VICKERS, Junior**

Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale, New York

Fellows serve as assistant stage managers for the Roger Rees Awards showcase, receive a one-year membership to the Stage Managers Association, and access to the 2026 Broadway Stage Management Symposium.

### Selection Team

Casey Sammarco, SMA Director of Education and Professor of Stage Management at Florida State University

Sam Shapiro, Production Stage Manager, Roger Rees Awards

For more information on the SMA, visit [www.stagemanagers.org](http://www.stagemanagers.org)

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The Educational, Enrichment & Networking  
Event for All Stage Managers



“It was extraordinary! I am still in awe about how much I learned in such a short period of time and the amazing people I was able to connect with from all over the country and world. – Norman Anthony Small, Symposium Attendee & Broadway Stage Manager



**NEW YORK CITY – MAY 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>**



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# ROGER REES AWARDS

is uniquely positioned to connect students with the industry's best resources. "Because we are in Broadway's backyard and have best-in-class partners, we can offer students extraordinary access to real hands-on experience."

Working in partnership with Roger Rees Awards media partner, BroadwayWorld Editor-in-Chief Nicole Rosky, the program sponsors a search for a high school student journalist to co-host the website's annual online pre-show with veteran theater reporter, Richard Ridge. "Our ongoing collaboration with the Broadway Education Alliance has been an incredibly rewarding opportunity to mentor and uplift emerging art journalists. At BroadwayWorld, we're thrilled to

opportunities for young theater students—and, in many ways, it's an initiative with impact beyond the world of the theater.

"Stage managers are the collaborative specialists of storytelling," explains Casey L. Sammarco, an Assistant Teaching Professor of Stage Management at Florida State University, who is a valuable resource for the new fellowship. "If you think of a Ferris wheel, we are at the center, with all the spokes spinning around us. We are the facilitators. We contribute through observation, problem solving, and our ability to zoom in while also seeing the big picture."

It's not hard to see how skills honed in stage management can serve as training that makes a young

## "Stage managers are the collaborative specialists of storytelling"

help foster the passion and perspective of the next generation through the Roger Rees Awards."

In partnership with the New York City Center, participants are now eligible for Roger Rees awards for Costume and Scenic Design. "When we are looking for different career pathways in the arts, the design awards are a great way to spotlight talent in the communities and in the schools," says Seth Laidlaw, Director of Planning & Operations for Education & Community Engagement at New York City Center. "We hope that we can then start a relationship with City Center as an institution that can provide programming opportunities and other access points to tech and design work."

This year's design category competitors were given the option of creating work for their own high school musical production, or submitting designs inspired by City Center's upcoming revival of Jerry Herman's *La Cage Aux Folles*. The winners will gain rare access to the show's design team as the musical gears up for production this summer, along with the thrilling opportunity to explore props and scenic works backstage. "In the long term," Laidlaw adds, "it will be really cool to see a student through the Roger Rees Awards—through any of the award categories—meet them at this point in their life and then see them in the future as a part of an *Encores!* production at City Center, working alongside with us. That's the dream." Launched last year, the Roger Rees Stage Management Fellowship opens up a whole new range of

student marketable. "I think it is incredibly important to provide early visibility into the opportunities that exist," Sammarco says, "so that young professionals in theater training programs better understand how they might build a livelihood in this industry. There is so much you can do—moving into administration or marketing. The possibilities are endless."

"I think this particular fellowship is really unique because of the hands-on experimentation and the mentorship that comes along with it," Sammarco continues. "Our award winners get to work right alongside Sam Shapiro, the stage manager of the Roger Rees Awards Showcase." That means students aren't just in the room where it happens, serving as assistant stage managers in a professional production—they are also learning the intricacies of putting on an event, in itself a distinct branch of stage management.

"Several stage managers go into dance, opera, corporate events, sports and award shows," Sammarco notes. "So the beauty of this opportunity is that you get a little bit of it all. What I'm most excited about with the Roger Rees Awards and Broadway Education Alliance is the exposure to so many different paths. How lucky we are to have organizations that want to highlight that bigger picture, interdisciplinary respect as early as possible."

For more information on careers in the theater, visit [Careers.Broadway](http://Careers.Broadway).

# LA CAGE

*aux Folles*



*Wayne Brady*



*Billy Porter*

**JUN 17 - 28**

Book by **Harvey Fierstein**  
Music & Lyrics by **Jerry Herman**  
Based on the play by **Jean Poiret**  
Choreographer **Edgar Codineaux**  
Tap Choreographer **Dormeshia**  
Featuring **The Encores! Orchestra**  
Guest Music Director **Joseph Joubert**  
Director **Robert O'Hara**

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comedy tells a story of  
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Casting and programming  
subject to change.

La Cage Aux Folles is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

Show art by Ben Wiseman

# ROGER REES AWARDS



Proudly Presents

## THE 2026 ROGER REES AWARDS SCENIC AND COSTUME DESIGNER SHOWCASE RECOGNIZING EMERGING TALENT IN THEATRICAL DESIGN FOR THE STAGE.

### CELEBRATING STUDENT COSTUME DESIGNERS

**VAL HE, Junior**  
Rye Country Day School

**SEUNGRAN ESELLE LIM, Junior**  
Saint Francis Prep HS

**STELLA STORIC, Junior**  
Wantagh HS

Students were selected based on their unique costume designs, including relevant research and mood boards, inspired by either their high school musical or New York City Center's Encores! production of *La Cage aux Folles*.

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 2026 NEW YORK CITY CENTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN MUSICAL THEATER PERFORMANCE

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

**Mary-Mitchell Campbell**, Artistic Advisor

**Rick Hip-Flores**, Music Director & Conductor

**Jason Belanger and Alejandro Senior**, Assistant Music Directors

**Nick Navari and Zachary Sloan**, BerkleeNYC Music Assistants

Featuring

**Alto Sax**  
**Tobin Sorbello**, Frosh.  
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts

**Cello**  
**Liam Stenbar**, Soph.  
Talent Unlimited HS

**Clarinet**  
**Anderson Fan**, Sr.  
Edward Murrow HS

**Drums**  
**Ella Robustelli**, Sr.  
Edward Murrow HS

**Electric Bass**  
**Rory Zuckerman**, Sr.  
South Side HS

**Flute**  
**Autumn Redd**, Sr.  
Fiorello H. LaGuardia HS  
of Music & Art and Perf. Arts

**French Horn**  
**Jonathan Richman**, Soph.  
St Francis Prep HS

**Guitar**  
**Anaiah Williams**, Jr.  
Columbia Grammar  
and Prep School

**Keyboard 1**  
**Helen Ye**, Soph.  
Brooklyn Tech HS

**Keyboard 2**  
**Jameson Knable**, Soph.  
Fiorello H. LaGuardia HS  
of Music & Art and Perf. Arts

**Percussion**  
**Eloise Roberts**, Soph.  
New Explorations into Science,  
Technology and Math HSI (NEST+m)

**Tenor Sax**  
**Maki Dela Pena**, Jr.  
Edward Murrow HS

**Trombone**  
**Alexander Baluyut**, Sr.  
John L Miller Great Neck North HS

**Trumpet 1**  
**Kavithan Mahatheva**  
Edward Murrow HS

**Trumpet 2**  
**Henry Gault**, Sr.  
Talent Unlimited HS

**Viola**  
**Marlo Feldman**, Jr.  
Trinity School

**Violin**  
**Aiden Braut**, Jr.  
Suffern Senior High School

**Violin**  
**Joshua Swenson**, Jr.  
Fordham Prep School

The New York City Center Youth Orchestra is made possible thanks to the generous support of  
The Deanna Bittker Charitable Foundation

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Guide



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## ROGER REES AWARDS HOST



ANDREW  
KEENAN-BOLGER

**ANDREW KEENAN-BOLGER** is a veteran of both the stage and screen best known for creating memorable roles in such Broadway shows as *Tuck Everlasting* and *Newsies* (Drama League Award Nominations). Andrew most recently starred in the Off-Broadway musical *Titanique* as Victor Garber/Luigi and starred in the Off-Broadway play *Scarlett Dreams*. Previously on stage, Andrew starred in Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen's *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* at New World Stages. On screen, he can be seen in the film *On Swift Horses* opposite Jacob Elordi and Daisy Edgar-Jones. Television credits include *The Other Two* (HBO Max), *The Undoing* (HBO), *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (Amazon), and *Looking* (HBO). Andrew is also a writer and director, best known as co-creator of the star-studded streaming series *Submissions Only*. Andrew's debut Young Adult novel, *Limelight*, was recently released from Penguin Random House and can be found wherever books are sold.

## CREATIVE TEAM



THEO LENCICKI

**THEO LENCICKI** (Director/Choreographer) 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 every year.



RICK HIP-FLORES

**RICK HIP-FLORES** (Music Director & Conductor) is currently Associate Music Supervisor for *MJ Worldwide*. He was previously the Musical Director of *Natasha, Pierre and Great Comet of 1812*, and *Bad Cinderella* on Broadway, and music supervisor of *In Transit*, Broadway's first a cappella musical; Associate Musical Director of *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*. Additionally, Rick has conducted ten other Broadway shows including *A Beautiful Noise*, *Juliet*, *Fun Home*, *Come From Away*, *A Bronx Tale*, *Groundhog Day*, *Beautiful*, *Rocky*, and the *Radio City Rockettes*. Rick's arrangements and orchestrations have been performed by the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, and Radio City Music Hall. His original musicals: *The Audition*, *Peace, Love, and Cupcakes* and *The Great Christmas Cookie Bake-Off* are produced worldwide.

To learn more about participating in The Roger Rees Awards visit  
[www.RogerReesAwards.com](http://www.RogerReesAwards.com)

# ROGER REES AWARDS

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**Aladdin**  
ON BROADWAY

**Disney**  
**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
THE MUSICAL  
ON TOUR

# ROGER REES AWARDS

## THE BROADWAY EDUCATION ALLIANCE AND DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

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### THE ROGER REES AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

SPONSORED BY & **JULIET**

Hosted by

**ANDREW KEENAN-BOLGER**

Starring

#### ROGER REES AWARD NOMINEES

Dominique Alvarez Cherish Amoako Jack Chambers Zachary Claro Miles Cohen Siena Cottone  
Joel Crump Marcello DiMarzio Winter Donnelly Jonah Sebastian Espinosa Diana Fogel Lily Giese  
Katelyn Gomes Julia Gordon William Herbert Emersyn Hunt Oliver Ipri Ava Johnson Jian Kawai  
Leo Kettells Tatianna Krummenacker Molly Lyons Gloria Manning Matthew Manzo Anthony Mastrangelo  
Julia McAlpine Jeronnie McDougald Aidan McNeil Austin Miller Haley Millowitz Eleni Misetic Olivia Potorti  
Madeline Power Patrick Ruhle Donovan Russell Dylan Sakaria Tosia Sliwski Mary Claire Smyth Jacob Solomon  
Madisyn Spagna Jack Spruiell Dominick Stern Ivette Traveras Alissa Tayeh Leonidas Tirella Michael Troy  
Charlie Turner Audrey Varley Maxwell Vegliando Devin Williams

Outstanding Performer Award Judges

**KIARA BROWN-CLARK JENNY GERSTEN J. HARRISON GHEE ANDREW LIPPA  
MICHEAL SHULMAN MERRI SUGARMAN RACHEL WEBB RICK ELICE (ALTERNATE)**

Featuring

#### NEW YORK CITY CENTER STUDENT YOUTH ORCHESTRA

**RICK HIP-FLORES, CONDUCTOR**

Alexander Baluyet Aiden Braut Anderson Fan Marlo Feldman Henry Gault Jameson Knable Kavithan Mahatheva  
Maki Dela Pena Autumn Redd Jonathan Richman Eloise Roberts Ella Robustelli Tobin Sorbello Liam Stenbar  
Joshua Swenson Anaiah Williams Helen Ye Rory Zuckerman

#### GOREN FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHORAL GROUP PERFORMANCE

**KRISTINA ALLOCCO, CONDUCTOR**

Sabaine Abrams Hezekiah Beckford Jayleen Cartagena Charlotte Harrison Starbeth Hernandez Ella Lee Harris Joyeux Manbode  
Maleek Marsh Sasha Marte Suarez Jariel Martinez Chayenah McCoy Jhaire McDonald Tori Mims Jaelys Molina Elliot Nielsen  
Nyla Oliver Abigail Polanco Allan Ricketts Tatiana Rivera Maylin Rosado Ava Russell Ivelisse Santana Alejandra Solis Ivette Taveras  
Alanah Thompson Kylie Vega Giselle Weems Lailah Williams Maya Williams Xzayla Wilson Micah Wong Keira Young  
and Kenneth Garcia (cello accompanist)

#### ROGER REES AWARDS NEW FACES | 2026

Myli Bruno Peyton Burlew Reed Harris Butts Giana Joe Cabrera Noam Chen Emma DeFilippo Alexandra Frangiskatos  
Tessa Frascogna Lea Fredonis Alexa Galante Sofia Giannotti Soleil Hall Victory Handy Jae den Hastings Kate Kozko  
Madeline Lee Jackson Lehrer Scott McKiernan Harrison McNeill Julianna Miano Myles Molina Rohan Nair Charlotte Nerayoff  
Grace Selvers Pedro Suaid Joannie Taveras Madeline Travis Valentina Vergara Rachael Wade Addison Yan

#### STAGE MANAGEMENT FELLOWS

**LILIANA LEAND HENRY QUINN NASH VICKERS**

and

#### BROADWAY WORLD PRE-SHOW STUDENT CO-HOST

**GABRIEL JAFFE**

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  
**RICK HIP-FLORES**

Director/Choreographer  
**THEO LENCICKI**

The 2025–2026 Roger Rees Awards is presented in collaboration with New York City Center.

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMER JUDGES



KIARA BROWN-CLARK



JENNY GERSTEN



J. HARRISON GHEE

**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 an 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 Vice President & Artistic Director of Musical Theater for New York City Center where she programs and produces the renowned *Encores!* series. She sometimes produces commercially including on Broadway: *Liberation*, *Beetlejuice*, *Just For Us* (also Executive Producer of HBO capture), *Laura Benanti: Nobody Cares* (Edinburgh Fringe), the award-winning "pie shop" production of *Sweeney Todd*, and Gavin Creel's *Walk on Through*. Upcoming, Jonathan Spector's new play, *Birthright* at MCC. Previously, she was Artistic Director of Williamstown Theatre Festival,

Executive Director of Friends of the High Line, Associate Producer of The Public Theater, Creative Producer for Virgin Voyages, and spent her early years at the grassroots theater mentoring organization, The 52nd Street Project.

**J. HARRISON GHEE** is a Tony and Grammy Award-winning actor. Ghee made history as the first non-binary performer to win the Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical for their role as Daphne/Jerry in *Some Like It Hot*. Most recently, Ghee starred as Hermes in *Hadestown* on Broadway, the Off-Broadway hit *Saturday Church* (Black Jesus/Pastor Lewis), and the world premiere of *Midnight In The Garden of Good and Evil* (The Lady Chablis). Other Broadway roles include *Kinky Boots* (Lola), *Mrs. Doubtfire* (Andre Mayhem), *Chicago* (Velma Kelly), and *The Sting* (Johnny Hooker). On television, Ghee has appeared in FOX's *Accused*, Netflix's *Raising Dion*, NBC's *Stumble*, and HBO's *High Maintenance*. Ghee hopes their work inspires others to dream big and go full-out.

**ANDREW LIPPA** has written Broadway and off-Broadway musicals, songs for film and television, and works for the concert stage. He wrote and composed the theatrical oratorio *I Am Harvey Milk*, which received its New York premiere at Lincoln Center starring Kristin Chenoweth and Mr. Lipka as *Harvey Milk*. He also wrote the Drama Desk-nominated music and lyrics for *Big Fish*, the Tony-nominated music and lyrics *The Addams Family* (performed in over 40 countries), and the music for Aaron Sorkin's Broadway play *The Farnsworth Invention*. His song "Evil Like Me," from Disney's *Descendants*, earned Mr. Lipka a gold record. Other musicals include the Drama Desk Award-winning *The Wild Party* (book/music/lyrics); *A Little Princess* (music); *John & Jen* (music/book); *Asphalt Beach* (music and lyrics); *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (additional music/lyrics and arrangements); and *The Man In*

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMER JUDGES



ANDREW LIPKA



MICHAEL SHULMAN



MERRI SUGARMAN



RACHEL WEBB

*The Ceiling* (music and lyrics). He has written songs for Kristin Chenoweth (and conducted her concerts at The Met, Carnegie Hall, others), Renée Fleming, Vanessa Williams, Nathan Lane, Idina Menzel, and more. He is currently working on multiple stage and film projects. Accolades include Tony, Grammy, and Emmy nominations, the Gilman/Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation Award, ASCAP's Richard Rodgers/New Horizons Award, The Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Mr. Lipka is President of the Board of The Dramatists Guild Foundation, serves on the Council of the Dramatists Guild of America, graduated from The University of Michigan, is an ordained Interfaith minister, and was born in Leeds, England.

**MICHAEL SHULMAN** is an American film, stage, television actor and founder of Sand & Snow Entertainment, a stage and screen production company dedicated to artist-driven, uplifting work that stirs conversation, especially with younger generations. He has an extensive background in theater having appeared in many Broadway productions including *Les Misérables* and *Assassins*. He has also appeared on television in *Party of Five* and the HBO special *Someone Had to Be Benny*. Shulman is now a multi-Tony Award-winning producer for his many Broadway productions including *The Lehman Trilogy*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Hamilton*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Elephant Man* and many others. This season he produced that acclaimed revival *ART* starring Bobby Cannavale, James Corden and Neil Patrick Harris. He is currently developing *Basura*, a new musical inspired the Orquesta De Reciclados De Cateura, with music & lyrics by Gloria Estefan and Emily Estefan.

**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 The Papermill 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.

**RACHEL WEBB**, multi-hyphenate performer and powerhouse vocalist, is best known for starring as Juliet in the first national tour of *Juliet*, following her appearance in the original Broadway company. Rachel co-starred in the world premiere of *Purple Rain*, the musical adaptation of Prince's most famous movie and album, in the role of Apollonia. She toured alongside Kristin Chenoweth in *For the Girls*. Rachel has spent a lot of time honing her craft, her love for musical theatre, and learning from many institutions and programs across the United States, including The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL), NAACP Act-So, and The YoungArts Foundation. She is a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and Texas State University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. Follow Rachel on Instagram @rachelimwebb, [www.rachelswebb.com](http://www.rachelswebb.com) (<http://www.rachelswebb.com/>)

# ROGER REES AWARDS

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN A MUSICAL



**DOMINIQUE ALVAREZ**  
Eponine,  
*Les Misérables*  
Rye Country Day School



**CHERISH AMOAKO**  
Cheshire Cat,  
*Alice by Heart*  
Hunter College HS



**JACK CHAMBERS**  
Jean Valjean,  
*Les Misérables*  
Manhasset HS



**ZACHARY CLARO**  
Mr. Applegate,  
*Damn Yankees*  
Monsignor Farrell HS



**MILES COHEN**  
Nathan Detroit,  
*Guys and Dolls*  
Herricks HS



**SIENA COTTONE**  
Rosabud,  
*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*  
The Knox School



**JOEL CRUMP**  
Joe Hardy,  
*Damn Yankees*  
Léman Manhattan Prep School



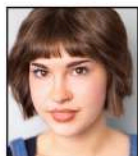
**MARCELLO DIMARZIO**  
Joe Hardy,  
*Damn Yankees*  
Monsignor Farrell HS



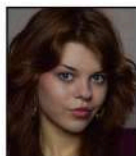
**WINTER DONNELLY**  
Beverly Bass,  
*Come From Away*  
Archbishop Stepinac HS



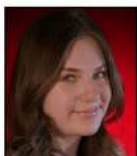
**JONAH ESPINOSA**  
Jekyll/Hyde,  
*Jekyll & Hyde*  
Beacon HS



**DIANA FOGEL**  
Sandra Bloom,  
*Big Fish*  
Long Island HS for the Arts



**LILY GIESE**  
Dee Dee Allen,  
*The Prom*; Frank Sinatra  
School of the Arts



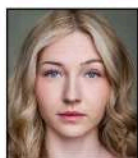
**KATELYN GOMES**  
Catherine,  
*Pippin*  
Susan E Wagner HS



**JULIA GORDON**  
Karen,  
*Mean Girls*  
Commack HS



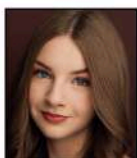
**WILLIAM HERBERT**  
SpongeBob SquarePants,  
*The SpongeBob Musical*  
Farmingdale HS



**EMERSYN HUNT**  
Beverly Bass,  
*Come From Away*  
Professional Performing Arts School



**OLIVER IPRI**  
Nicely-Nicely Johnson,  
*Guys and Dolls*  
Pleasantville HS



**AVA JOHNSON**  
Velma Kelly,  
*Chicago: Teen Edition*  
York Prep School



**JIAN KAWAI**  
Barry Glickman,  
*The Prom*  
Rye Neck HS



**LEO KETTELS**  
Barry Glickman,  
*The Prom*  
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts



**TATIANNA KRUMMENACKER**  
Witch,  
*Into the Woods*  
Bay Shore Senior HS



**MOLLY LYONS**  
Jo March,  
*Little Women*  
Beacon HS



**GLORIA MANNING**  
Hannah,  
*Come From Away*; Professional  
Performing Arts School



**MATTHEW MANZO**  
Baker,  
*Into the Woods*  
Mount Sinai HS



**ANTHONY MASTRANGELO**  
Lt. Frank Cioffi,  
*Curtains*  
West Babylon Senior HS

# ROGER REES AWARDS

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN A MUSICAL



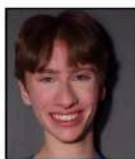
**JULIA McALPINE**  
Mary Flynn,  
*Merrily We Roll Along*  
John Jay HS



**JERONNIE McDUGALD**  
Baker,  
*Into the Woods*  
Bay Shore Senior HS



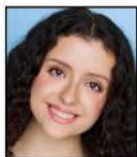
**AIDAN McNEIL**  
Quasimodo,  
*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*  
Plainedge HS



**AUSTIN MILLER**  
Olaf,  
*Disney's Frozen the Musical*  
Arlington HS



**HALEY MALLOWITZ**  
Madam Thenarier  
*Les Misérables*  
Rye Country Day School



**ELENA MISETICH**  
Eponine,  
*Les Misérables*  
Manhasset High School



**OLIVIA POTORTI**  
Jane  
*In Transit*  
Brooklyn HS of the Arts



**MADELINE POWER**  
Rusty,  
*Footloose*  
Garden City HS



**PATRICK RUHLE**  
Judas,  
*Godspell*  
Chaminade HS



**DONOVAN RUSSELL**  
Percy; *The Lightning Thief*  
*The Percy Jackson Story*; Woodlands  
Middle HS



**DYLAN SAKARIA**  
Jean Valjean,  
*Les Misérables*  
Roslyn HS



**TOSIA SLIWSKI**  
Regina George,  
*Mean Girls*  
Commack HS



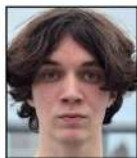
**MARY CLAIRE SMYTH**  
Penelope Pennywise,  
*Urinetown*  
The Scholars' Academy



**JACOB SOLOMON**  
Nick Bottom,  
*Something Rotten*  
Hauppauge HS



**MADISYN SPAGNA**  
Sophie,  
*Mamma Mia!*  
Roy C. Ketcham HS



**JACK SPRUIELL**  
Maritus,  
*Les Misérables*  
Regis HS



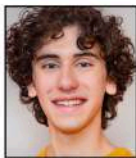
**DOMINICK STERN**  
Pippin,  
*Pippin*  
Dobbs Ferry HS



**IVETTE TAVERAS**  
Alli,  
*In Transit*  
Brooklyn HS of the Arts



**ALISSA TAYEH**  
Leading Player,  
*Pippin*  
Susan E Wegner HS



**LEONIDAS TIRELLA**  
Willy Wonka; *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*  
St Francis Prep HS



**MICHAEL TROY**  
Albert Peterson,  
*Bye Bye Birdie*  
Suffern HS



**CHARLIE TURNER**  
JoJo,  
*Seussical*  
Floral Park Memorial HS



**AUDREY VARLEY**  
Roxie Hart,  
*Chicago: Teen Edition*  
York Prep School



**MAXWELL VEGLIANDO**  
Agatha Trunchbull,  
*Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*  
Newburgh Free Academy

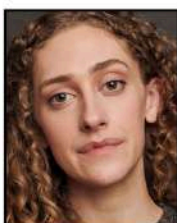


**DEVIN WILLIAMS**  
Squidward Q. Tentacles,  
*The SpongeBob Musical*  
Farmingdale HS

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMER COACHES



BRITNEY COLEMAN



MICAELA DIAMOND



MARK EVANS



JOSEPH MORALES

**BRITNEY COLEMAN** is a native of Ann Arbor, MI, Britney has been seen on Broadway in *Company*, *Tootsie*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and *Sunset Boulevard*. First National Tours: *Company*, *Beetlejuice* and *Beautiful*. TV: CIA. Favorite regional theaters include The MUNY, The Old Globe, TUTS, Westport Country Playhouse, Asolo Rep, Sacramento Music Circus. Featured soloist with The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. She's coached students at The University of Michigan, Actor Therapy, Broadway Plus and Sing for Hope. [www.britneycoleman.com](http://www.britneycoleman.com)

**MICAELA DIAMOND** is a Tony and Grammy Award nominated actor for her star turn as Lucille Frank in *Parade* on Broadway. Micaela made her Broadway debut as Babe, the youngest Cher, in *The Cher Show*. She has also appeared in *The Seat of Our Pants* at the Public Theater, Stephen Sondheim's final musical, *Here We Are*, Leonard Bernstein's opera *Mass* at the Kennedy Center, Williamstown Theatre Festival's *Row*, and Ethan Coen's *A Play Is A Poem* in Los Angeles. TV/Film: Ryan Murphy's *Grotesquerie* (Hulu), *Elsbeth*, *Jesus Christ Superstar Live* (Hulu), *Tick, Tick... Boom!* (Netflix), and *Up Here* (Hulu).

**MARK EVANS** Founder & Director of Mark Evans Studio, a New York City acting studio built on craft, community, and connection, empowering actors to grow, collaborate, and succeed in the industry at all stages of their career. Broadway: *Waitress* (Dr. Pomatter), *Mrs. Doubtfire* (Stuart Dunmire), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Chris Bean), *Tammy Faye* (Billy Graham), *The Book Of Mormon* First National tour (Elder Price). West End: *Ghost The Musical* (Sam Wheat), *Wicked* (Fiyero), *High School Musical* (Troy Bolton), *Oklahoma!* (Curly), *Rocky Horror...* (Brad). Off Broadway: *Titanique* (Cal), *Pygmalion* (Henry Higgins), *Finian's Rainbow* (Og) and others. TV/Film: *The Night Agent* (Netflix), *Instinct* (CBS), *Macaroni* (S4C), *The Tower Of Silence* (Pal Marium), *Lake Placid 3* (Syfy), *Dead Hungry* (Grain). Recordings: *The Journey Home*, *Mrs. Doubtfire* OBC. Associate Director: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Off Broadway) [MarkEvansStudios.com](http://MarkEvansStudios.com) IG: @MarkEvansStudio

**JOSEPH MORALES** is an actor and director based in New York City. Credits include Alexander Hamilton in *Hamilton* (Broadway National Tour and original Chicago company), Usnavi in *In the Heights* (Broadway First National Tour), *If/Then* with Idina Menzel, *Bombay Dreams* (Broadway First National Tour), and *Rock of Ages* (original Los Angeles company). Television: *Chicago Med*, *Colony*, *American Classic*. Most recently, Joseph made his directing debut with the world premiere musical *Piney Needlesmith* and the *Road Less Traveled* in Honolulu, Hawaii. Joseph is deeply grateful and honored to coach the next generation of performers. The future is bright! @josephamorales

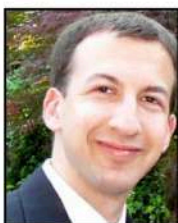


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## OUTSTANDING PERFORMER MUSIC DIRECTORS



STEVEN CUEVAS



ISAAC HARLAN



NOAH LANDIS



CHRISTINE RILEY

**STEVEN CUEVAS** (he/him) is a Filipino American music director, musician, orchestrator, and arranger based in NYC. He is currently the Associate Music Director of the Off-Broadway revival of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Broadway: *Mamma Mia!*; *Operation Mincemeat*; *The Lion King*; *The Notebook*; *The Who's Tommy*; *Days of Wine and Roses*; *New York, New York*; *Dancin'*; *& Juliet*; *Moulin Rouge!*; *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*; *Once On This Island*; *Anastasia*; *Kinky Boots*. Select Off-Broadway: *Teeth*, *The Connector*, *Hell's Kitchen*, *Kinky Boots*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Closer Than Ever*. Tours: *Tina*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *Once On This Island*, *Kinky Boots*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Spring Awakening*. Regional: *Eighty-Sixed* (Diversionsary Theatre), *Macbeth in Stride* (A.R.T.). Recordings: *Straight Forward*, *Once On This Island*, *How the Grinch...*, *Monstersongs*. Orchestrations: *Gold Mountain*. Proud member: Local 802 AFM, AEA, Recording Academy. @StevenMCuevas

**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, Brandon Victor Dixon, and Darius de Haas, 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 New York University, 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.

**NOAH LANDIS** is a New York-based music director, conductor, pianist, and orchestrator. Broadway/NYC credits include *Hamilton*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Chess*, *Christinas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes*, and *The Jimmy Awards* (the National High School Musical Theatre Awards). National Tours: *Hamilton* (Angelica Tour), *A Bronx Tale* (1st National), *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Regional: *In The Heights* (Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire, IL; Gateway Playhouse, Long Island; Cleveland Playhouse), *A Little Night Music* (Ogunquit Playhouse), *Damn Yankees*, *Man of La Mancha*, *How To Succeed...* (Marriott Theatre). He is a proud graduate of Northwestern University. IG: @thenoahland

**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 Bachelor of Music degree from Ithaca College and a Masters of Music from Arizona State University.

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**A special thanks to CSA for supporting NEW FACES I 2026 and to the following members who served as Adjudicators.**

Kelley Allen  
Dave Bennett  
Rebecca Carfagna  
Michael Druck  
Carly Granovsky  
Blaine Johnston  
Stephanie Klapper  
Isis Masoud  
Torian Miller  
Alexa Pereira  
Hamzah Saman  
Margery Simkin  
Walter Ware III

Julina Baber  
Becca Burgess  
Robin Carus  
Missy Finnell  
Spencer Gualdoni  
Sunday Kennedy  
Anthony Kraus  
Becca McCracken  
Donna Morong  
Eve Pomerance  
Susanne Scheel  
Leigh Ann Smith  
Claire Yenson

Beth Bengé  
Kathy Campbell  
Danielle Demchick  
Helen Geier  
Elizabeth Hay  
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Additional thanks to the following schools for awarding scholarships to NEW FACES Honorees:

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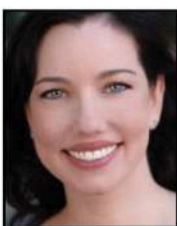
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## NEW FACES | 2026

### MASTERCLASS COACHES



KARLA GARCIA



MAURA MALLOY



CELESTE SIMONE



DREW WUTKE


**KARLA GARCIA** (Dance) is an Emmy Award Winning choreographer, was the first woman of color to choreograph the Tony Awards. Her work is seen in the 76th Annual Ceremony in the Opening Number and the Tribute to Joel Grey and John Kander. Recent credits include Director and Choreographer of *A Chorus Line* in Manila, Philippines (Theater Group Asia); Choreographer of *Romy and Michele The Musical* (Off-Broadway); choreographer for the Atlantic Theatre and Broadway productions of *Days of Wine and Roses* and *The Connector* (MCC). Other choreography credits include *Tick, Tick... Boom!* in Tokyo, Japan (Toho productions) and *Senior Class* at the Olney Theatre (Helen Hayes nomination). Her work can also be seen on Season 3 of the Starz Network series *Power Book III: Raising Kanaan*, additional scenes in the Netflix film *Tick, Tick... Boom!*, directed by Lin Manuel Miranda; Encores Off-Center production of *Gone Missing: Somewhere* at the Geva Theatre; *Rent* at Theatre Aspen; Duncan Sheik and Kyle Jarrow's *Noir* at the Alley Theatre, and *In The Heights* at VA Rep (Artsie for Best Choreography). As a performer, she's done two national tours, several films and television shows, and four Broadway shows, including *Hamilton*. She is currently the Choreographer for the Lin Manuel directed movie musical *Octet*.

**MAURA MALLOY** (Acting) is thrilled to be returning to the New Faces 2026 coaching team! Director/Choreographer credits include *Into the Woods*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Macbeth*. Maura has expertise in arts integration with K-12 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*, contemporary plays and Shakespeare's works. Professional training: Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, Royal National Theatre, London. Member: AEA, DEA, NYC Arts in Education Roundtable.

**CELESTE SIMONE** (Vocal) is a voice teacher and performance coach in the entertainment industry for over

forty-five years. With a career spanning Broadway, television, film, and international stages, Celeste works virtually with students all over the world and in person. Her roster of prominent students and includes Kristin Chenoweth, Chita Rivera, Amy Irving (Academy Award nominee), Didi Conn, Elaine Joyce Simon. Adam Chandler-Berat, Mark Ballas, Eleri Ward, Michael Cohen (Henry Danger), Ben Rosenfeld (Boardwalk Empire, Amazing Mrs. Meisel), Jordan Rudess (Dream Theater), Kimberly Locke (American Idol). As a vocal coach for major productions, she worked on the film *The Phantom of the Opera* alongside Andrew Lloyd Webber and Joel Schumacher, and Zach Braff's *Alex Inc*. Celeste's students have appeared on Broadway in *The Queen of Versailles*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *Hamilton*, *The Lion King*, *The Notebook*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Chicago*, *Gypsy*, *Nine*, *Wicked*, *Spamalot*, *Tarzan*, *The Color Purple*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Jersey Boys*, *Newsies*, *Kinky Boots*, *Matilda*, *Beauty and The Beast*, and *The Producers*. Beyond Broadway, her students headline first national tours such as, *Mean Girls*, *Les Misérables*, *The Band's Visit* and *A Beautiful Noise*. For more information, visit: [www.celestevoice.com](http://www.celestevoice.com)

**DREW WUTKE** (Music Director/Piano) NYC multidisciplinary artist and music director, supervisor and composer for Tony, Grammy, Oscar, Emmy, and Pulitzer Prize winners at venues all over the world, including Lincoln Center, Joe's Pub, West End. Most recently composed/performed/music directed *Tartuffe* Off-Broadway starring André DeShields and Amber Iman. *Harlem Nocturne* with Marc Shaiman/André De Shields; Pulitzer/Tony-winner Michael R. Jackson's Lincoln Center LCT3 concert residency; Stephanie Blythe/Blythely Oratorio (*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, and is Mr DeShields' personal music director. *Classic Whitney: Alive!* concert series at Joe's Pub starring Kevin Smith Kirkwood. *Mae West* bio-musical; *Grunge*; plus a Florence/Machine piece. Resident Music Director at Jen Waldman Studio; first award-winning pianist at legendary Marie's Crisis piano bar where he still plays. @drewwutke



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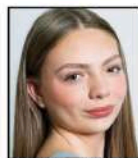
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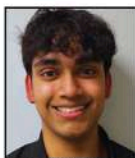
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*Mark Evans*  
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(composer of *Godspell*, *Pippin*, *Wicked*), *BroadwayWorld*

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"Waving Through a Window" from Dear Evan Hansen Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

"Go the Distance" from Hercules Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by David Zippel

"Freak Flag" from Shrek the Musical Music by Jeanine Tesori, Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire

"I'd Rather Be Me" from Mean Girls Music by Jeff Richmond, Lyrics by Nell Benjamin

"This Is Me" from The Greatest Showman Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

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Associate Director	Ryan Rodiño
Assistant Stage Managers	Liliana Leand, Henry Quinn, Nash Vickers
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Box Office Associate	David Armstrong

### ROGER REES AWARDS NEXT STEP: NOMINEE SELECTION PHASE

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Adjudicator, Marymount Manhattan College	Michael Mendez
Adjudicator, Long Island University Post	Cosmo Mallardi
Adjudicator, Rockland Community College	Dr. Christina Schaudel
Music Director	Shane Parus

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### LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, POST CAMPUS

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Director of Musical Theatre	David Hugo
Artistic Director, Post Theatre Company / Chair of the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Arts Management	Valerie Clayman Pye

### MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

Associate Professor of Theater Arts	Christine Riley, Michael Mendez, and Emily Clark
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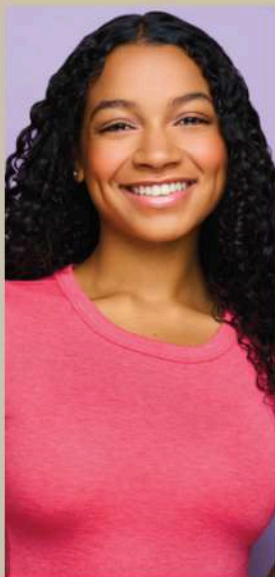
### ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Academic Advisor, Adjunct Professor of Theater and Cinema Studies	Dr. Christina Schaudel
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PPAS Student Volunteers	Brandon D'Elia, Story Handy, Elle Levkovich, Mylee Mercado, Ava Saraceni

# ROGER REES AWARDS



Joannie Taveras

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*Congratulations Joannie on this incredible opportunity! We are so proud of you and all your hard work. Keep chasing your dreams. We can't wait to see you shine on Broadway one day.*

*The sky is the limit!*

*With all our love  
Mom, Dad & Angelina*

Maddsabelle,

There are moments in life that feel almost too big for words, and this is one of them. We are so incredibly proud of you. It's not just about seeing you on that stage, it's about knowing everything it took for you to get there. Every long rehearsal, every moment of doubt you pushed through, every ounce of heart you gave to what you love. It all lives in this moment.

Watching you perform and seeing you come alive in what you love is such a gift. There's a light in you on that stage that can't be taught. It's who you are.

Pop-Pop always knew that deep in his heart, this was what you were meant to do. Somehow, it feels like he's right there with you, sharing in this moment and beaming with pride.

We hope you take this all in. The excitement, the joy, the meaning of it, because you deserve every second of it. We love you more than words can ever say,

Mom, Dad, Tyler, Dylan, Mema & Pop-Pop

# ROGER REES AWARDS



To our beautiful daughter, Alissa Tayeh

Watching you grow into the performer and person you are today has been one of the greatest joys of our lives.

Your dedication, talent, resilience, and passion for theater continue to inspire everyone around you.

From every rehearsal to every standing ovation, you have earned every moment through hard work and heart.

No matter where this journey takes you, we will always be your biggest supporters. Keep shining, keep believing in yourself, and never stop doing what you love.

We are endlessly proud of you.

Love always,

Mom & Dad



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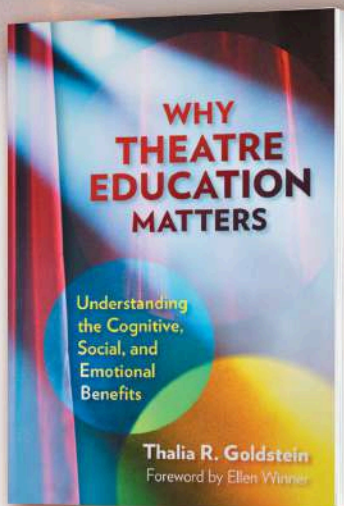
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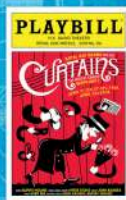
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