

THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA PRESENTS

2022

ROBERT MERRIT
AWARDS


20th Anniversary



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We would like to acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq and its people. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We recognize the heritage of this land and it's people to express gratitude to those who reside here, and to honour the Indigenous people who have lived and worked on this land historically and presently.



Congratulations
Theatre Makers
Nominees
Award Winners

from the team at Arts Nova Scotia

Arts
NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

CO-CHAIRS' MESSAGE



Welcome, all! It has been so inspiring to see the incredible work artists in this region have been creating, despite the extra hardships that our community has been facing during the pandemic. We are grateful to be able to gather tonight - in person AND virtually! - to celebrate the amazing work theatre creators in our region of Mi'kma'ki have brought to life over the past two years.

This evening, we are reminded how our spirits can be buoyed when we come together and support each other. Theatre can cover such a wide range of forms and practices, and it is wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate these diverse and beautiful creations.

Making theatre and bringing it to an audience is no easy feat. We want to congratulate ALL the hard working artists, technicians, producers, administrators, and creators who have achieved the tremendously daunting task of bringing theatrical work into the world.

Tonight, have fun, take care of each other, and CELEBRATE! You've earned it!

~ Chris O'Neill & Colleen MacIsaac

TNS Board of Directors:

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EVENT PARTNER



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**LIGHT
HOUSE**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It's no secret that Nova Scotia is filled to the brim with talent and creativity.

Since 2002, the Robert Merritt Awards has celebrated this work by recognizing our theatre directors, performers, designers, playwrights, producers, stage managers, and technicians.

While 2020 and 2021 were years like we've never seen before, we persevered - you persevered. There were over 16 companies, 34 productions, 618 performances, 300 artist contracts, including actors, designers, choreographers, composers, directors, playwrights, technicians, and stage managers, plus the administrators & arts managers who continued to work tireless hours in the background. As the 2022- 2021, Merritt jury succinctly described it, we've had "a lot of good theatre in a difficult time."

Nova Scotia's theatre sector has so much to offer and so much talent embedded within. Tonight, as we look back to celebrate the last two years, let's also remember the previous 20 years plus and look forward to the next 20 plus and all the celebrations yet to come. To building diversity, representation, and community: Happy Merritts, everyone!

~ Cat MacKeigan



Theatre Nova Scotia Staff

Executive Director: Cat MacKeigan

Administrative Assistant: Marcus Wong

Communications Coordinator: Avery Johnson

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PRODUCER'S MESSAGE



As this year's Associate Producer, I'm honoured to have curated the Emerging Artists Showcase, which I'm calling "in Process." It highlights the literal process we go through while creating our art and the process we need to discover who we are as artists. We have so many incredible emerging/early career artists within Nova Scotia who are already creating amazing work. Our Nova Scotia theatre community is stacked with emerging talent, from costume, projection, sound, prop, and set designers to directors, writers, and performers.

Today I am honoured to be showcasing the work of some talented artists. Along with the showcase and ceremony, stick around for the Merritt After Party, with fantastic performers from our community.

I hope you enjoy and admire the work of these wonderful artists as much as I do. Happy Merritts everyone!

~ Stevey Hunter

- Our Producer (Ken Schwartz) has given his section in this program to our Associate Producer

2022 TEAM

Producer: Ken Schwartz

Associate Producer: Stevey Hunter

Stage Manager: Robin Munro*

Land Welcome: Cathy Martin

ASL Interpreter: Mae Striteman & Tyler Megarry

Projection Designer: Christian Hansen

DJ: DJ Duvet

Voice of God: Madeleine Tench

Merritt Minder: Claire Chateauneuf

Showcase Artists:

Alex McDougall, Everette Fournier, Jackson Fairfax Perry,

Kaelen MacDonald, Rooks Field Green & Ryan Wilcox

Presenters (in order of appearance):

Ryan Wilcox, Jeremy Webb, Rooks Field -Green, Laurie Fleet,

Christian Ludwig Hansen, Breton Lalama, Ken Schwartz,

Garrett Barker, Logan Robbins, Dan Bray, Alison Crosby, Lily Falk,

Richie Wilcox, Jacob Sampson, Andrea Boyd,

Wesley Giffen & Riley McGill

After Party Cast:

Host: Tyler Craig (Anna Mona-Pia)

Performers: Brenda Duran, Alex McDougall (X),

Breton Lalama (Hughman Trash), Kevin Lemieux (Brooke Rivers),

Courtney Stanley (Richard Rockhard) & Zomi Tombing

* The participation of this Artist is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance, Opera, Theatre Policy (DOT).

ACT ONE



Outstanding Costume Design

Neptune Theatre's RBC Chrysalis Award

Outstanding Independent Production

Outstanding Projection Design

Outstanding Musical Direction

Theatre Nova Scotia Professional Development Scholarship

Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role

Outstanding Stage Manager

Outstanding Direction

In Memoriam

Outstanding Technician

Theatre Nova Scotia Legacy Award

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT TWO



Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role

Outstanding Original Score or Composition

Outstanding New Nova Scotia Adaptation (Playwright)

Outstanding Lighting Design

Outstanding Choreography

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble

Outstanding New Nova Scotian Play (Playwright)

Outstanding Scenic Design

Outstanding Sound Design

Outstanding Production

MERRITT AFTER PARTY

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

CEREMONY SPONSOR

A portrait of Andy Fillmore, a bald man with a friendly smile, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is standing in front of a blurred city street background with brick buildings and parked cars.

**ANDY
FILLMORE**

Member of Parliament
Halifax

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Recognizing Nova Scotia's outstanding theatre talent



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JURORS



The Robert Merritt Awards have been recognizing excellence in Nova Scotia theatre since 2002. Each year, a volunteer jury of theatre professionals attend professional theatre productions that have been nominated for awards consideration across Nova Scotia.

This creates an opportunity for our members to survey the wide landscape of our provincial theatre scene. They get to witness the many adventures theatre professionals embark on through their chosen type of performance.

Typically, the volunteer Merritt jury of peer theatre professionals sits for one year, travelling the province to attend the submitted productions and consider them for Merritt nomination. Thank you two-fold to our last jury, who extended their terms to a second year, covering 2020 and 2021:

Elissa Barnard, Koumbie, Rachel Lloyd & Susan Stackhouse

AWARD SPONSORS



Neptune Theatre's RBC
Chrysalis Award



Outstanding Independent
Production



Outstanding Original Score
or Composition



Fountain School of
Performing Arts
Outstanding Costume
Design



Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre
Outstanding New Nova
Scotia Adaptation
(Playwright)
&
Outstanding New Nova
Scotian Play (Playwright)



ACADIA THEATRE COMPANY
ACADIA UNIVERSITY
Outstanding Performance
by an Actor in a
Leading Role



BACKMAN VIDCOM
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Outstanding Sound Design



T.N.S. Professional
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NOVA SCOTIA
Outstanding Choreography

Support4Culture helps
artist Tara Taylor
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support4culture.ca

Tara Taylor, Artist
East Preston, Nova Scotia