



# Robert Merritt AWARDS

## 2025 Award Finalists

Category:	Outstanding New Nova Scotian Play	
Production	Playwright	Producing Company
<i>Deepwater</i>	Dan Bray	The Villains Theatre
<i>Mimikej</i>	Sarah Prosper & Shawnee Paul	Highland Arts Theatre
<i>Red Like Fruit</i>	Hannah Moscovitch	2b theatre company
<i>Still Dancing</i>	Melissa Mullen	Ship's Company Theatre
<i>Winter Moons</i>	shalan joudry and <i>Winter Moons</i> team	Nestuita'si Storytelling

Category:	Outstanding New Nova Scotian Adaptation	
Production	Playwright	Producing Company
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	William Shakespeare, adapted by Jeremy Webb	Neptune Theatre
<i>Chased by the Bear</i>	Allen Cole and Ken Schwartz	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
<i>Fish and Dicks: Case Files from the Digby Neck &amp; Islands Fish-Gutting Service &amp; Detective Agency</i>	Kathy France	Caravan Theatre
<i>Shakespeare's Twelfth Night</i>	Drew Douris-O'Hara, Music and Lyrics by Eliza Rhinelandier with Shanoa Phillips	Shakespeare By The Sea
<i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>	Catherine Banks	HomeFirst Theatre and Two Planks and a Passion Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Choreography	
Choreographer	Production	Producing Company
Abady Alzahrani	<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST
Genny Sermonia	<i>Disney's Frozen</i>	Neptune Theatre
Julie Tomaino	<i>The Full Monty</i>	Neptune Theatre
Sarah Prosper	<i>Mimikej</i>	Highland Arts Theatre
Stephen Greig	<i>Funny Girl</i>	Highland Arts Theatre

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Outstanding Costume Design</b>	
<b>Costume Designer</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Producing Company</b>
Elizabeth Perry	<i>Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Kaelen MacDonald	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Neptune Theatre
Kaelen MacDonald	<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company
Kaelen MacDonald	<i>Rosencrantz &amp; Guildenstern Are Dead</i>	Neptune Theatre
Oliver Dorais Fleming	<i>The Last Show On Earth(tm)!</i>	Neptune Theatre

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Outstanding Direction</b>	
<b>Director</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Producing Company</b>
Andrea Boyd	<i>Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Burgandy Code, with assistant direction by Colleen Arcturus MacIsaac	<i>Deepwater</i>	The Villains Theatre
Guillermo Verdecchia	<i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>	HomeFirst Theatre and Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Jake Planinc	<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company
Ken Schwartz	<i>Chased by the Bear</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Outstanding Fight Direction</b>	
<b>Fight Director</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Producing Company</b>
Drew Douris-O'Hara with Dylan Brentwood	<i>Shakespeare's Twelfth Night</i>	Shakespeare By The Sea
Dylan Brentwood	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Neptune Theatre
Karen Bassett	<i>Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Karen Bassett	<i>Rosencrantz &amp; Guildenstern Are Dead</i>	Neptune Theatre
Karen Bassett	<i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>	HomeFirst Theatre and Two Planks and a Passion Theatre

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Outstanding Lighting Design</b>	
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Producing Company</b>
Holly Meyer-Dymny	<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST
Ingrid Risk	<i>Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Leigh Ann Vardy	<i>Rosencrantz &amp; Guildenstern Are Dead</i>	Neptune Theatre
MacKenzie Cornfield	<i>Winter Moons</i>	Nestuita'si Storytelling
potatoCakes_digital (Emily Soussana & Andrew Scriver)	<i>The Fly Fisher's Companion</i>	Theatre Baddeck

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Outstanding Musical Direction</b>	
<b>Musical Director</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Producing Company</b>
Allen Cole	<i>Chased by the Bear</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Avery-Jean Brennan	<i>Dear Rita</i>	Neptune Theatre
shalan joudry and <i>Winter Moons</i> team	<i>Winter Moons</i>	Nestuita'si Storytelling
Shanoa Phillips with Eliza Rhinelande	<i>Shakespeare's Twelfth Night</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
Shawnee Paul	<i>Mimikej</i>	Highland Arts Theatre

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Outstanding Original Score or Composition</b>	
<b>Composer</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Producing Company</b>
Allen Cole / Ken Schwartz	<i>Chased by the Bear</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Eliza Rhinelande with Shanoa Phillips	<i>Shakespeare's Twelfth Night</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
Jackson Fairfax-Perry	<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST
Shawnee Paul	<i>Mimikej</i>	Highland Arts Theatre
Traditional Mi'kmaw songs, and Original Music created by Rose Meuse, shalan joudry, and Sarah Prosper	<i>Winter Moons</i>	Nestuita'si Storytelling

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Outstanding Projection Design</b>	
<b>Projection Designer</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Producing Company</b>
Aaron Collier	<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST
Andrew Moro	<i>Winter Moons</i>	Nestuita'si Storytelling
Jordan Palmer & Joe Micallef	<i>Disney's Frozen</i>	Neptune Theatre
MacKenzie Cornfield	<i>Deepwater</i>	The Villains Theatre
potatoCakes_digital (Emily Soussana & Andrew Scriver)	<i>The Company Store</i>	Theatre Baddeck

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Outstanding Scenic Design</b>	
<b>Scenic Designer</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Producing Company</b>
Andrea Evans	<i>The Company Store</i>	Theatre Baddeck
Andrew Cull	<i>Rosencrantz &amp; Guildenstern Are Dead</i>	Neptune Theatre
Holly Meyer-Dymny	<i>Winter Moons</i>	Nestuita'si Storytelling
Vickie Marston	<i>Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Wesley Babcock	<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company

Category:	Outstanding Sound Design	
Sound Designer	Production	Producing Company
Aaron Collier	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Neptune Theatre
Jackson Fairfax-Perry	<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST
Jackson Fairfax-Perry	<i>Deepwater</i>	The Villains Theatre
Paul Morgan Donald	<i>Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
potatoCakes_digital (Emily Soussana & Andrew Scriver)	<i>The Fly Fisher's Companion</i>	Theatre Baddeck

Category:	Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role	
Performer - Role	Production	Producing Company
Amaka Umeh - The Queen of Hearts	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	Shakespeare By The Sea
Amaka Umeh - Viola / Cesario	<i>Shakespeare's Twelfth Night</i>	Shakespeare By The Sea
Amy Reitsma - May	<i>Deepwater</i>	The Villains Theatre
Bill Carr - Don	<i>The Fly Fisher's Companion</i>	Theatre Baddeck
Hugh Thompson - Jacob Mercer	<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company
James MacLean - Bottom	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Neptune Theatre
Kih Becke - Hermione	<i>Chased by the Bear</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Liliona Quarmyne - Questa	<i>Deepwater</i>	The Villains Theatre
Shelley Thompson - Mary Mercer	<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company
Stephanie MacDonald - Sherlock Holmes	<i>Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role	
Role - Performer	Production	Producing Company
Allister MacDonald - Lestrade / Elliot Monk / Moriarty	<i>Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Lily Falk - Sophia	<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST
Mary Fay Coady - Martha	<i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>	HomeFirst Theatre and Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Mauralea Austin - Maeve	<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST
Patrick Jeffrey - The White Rabbit	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	Shakespeare By The Sea
Ryan Rogerson - Joseph	<i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>	HomeFirst Theatre and Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Ryan Rogerson - TIME	<i>Chased by the Bear</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Sarah Prosper - Ntuksuinu	<i>Winter Moons</i>	Nestuita'si Storytelling
Sébastien Labelle - Harold	<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company
Sharleen Kalayil - Minnie Jackson	<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company

Category:	Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble	
Production	Producing Company	
<i>Chased by the Bear</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre	
<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST	
<i>Dear Rita</i>	Neptune Theatre	
<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company	
<i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>	HomeFirst Theatre and Two Planks and a Passion Theatre	

Category:	Outstanding Production	
Production	Producing Company	
<i>Chased by the Bear</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre	
<i>Disney's Frozen</i>	Neptune Theatre	
<i>Leaving Home</i>	Matchstick Theatre Company	
<i>Rosencrantz &amp; Guildenstern Are Dead</i>	Neptune Theatre	
<i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>	HomeFirst Theatre and Two Planks and a Passion Theatre	

Category:	Outstanding Independent Production	
Production	Producing Company	
<i>DANCE NATION</i>	Keep Good (theatre) Company in association with HEIST	
<i>Deepwater</i>	The Villains Theatre	
<i>Mimikej</i>	Highland Arts Theatre	
<i>Stealing Sam</i>	The Lunenburg Theatre Collective	
<i>Winter Moons</i>	Nestuita'si Storytelling	

Category:	Outstanding Emerging Production	
Production	Producing Company	
<i>Deeper</i>	The Unnatural Disaster Theatre Co.	
<i>Lifespan of a Mattress</i>	Think of The Worst Theatre with support from The Villains Theatre	