

THE 2023
THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA



ROBERT MERRITT
AWARDS

WE ARE IN MI'KMA'KI

THE UNCEDED, UNSURRENDERED TERRITORY OF THE MI'KMAQ PEOPLE.

THE 2023 MERRITT AWARDS ARE TAKING PLACE IN PUNAMU'KWATÍ'JK, THE PLACE OF THE TOMCOD (OR SALMON), WHICH SITS NEXT TO KJIPUKTUK, THE GREAT HARBOUR.

THIS TERRITORY IS COVERED BY THE "TREATIES OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP" WHICH MI'KMAQ AND WOLASTOQIYIK PEOPLES FIRST SIGNED WITH THE BRITISH CROWN IN 1725. THESE TREATIES DID NOT DEAL WITH THE SURRENDER OF LAND AND RESOURCES, BUT INSTEAD RECOGNIZED MI'KMAQ AND WOLASTOQIYIK TITLE AND ESTABLISHED THE RULES FOR WHAT WAS TO BE AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONS.

VISIT [PLACENAMES.MAPDEV.CA](https://placenames.mapdev.ca) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NAME OF THE PLACE THAT YOU ARE ON AND WHAT IT MEANS. WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE.

TNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CO-CHAIRS:	Chris O'Neill and Colleen MacIsaac
TREASURER:	Reema Fuller
SECRETARY:	Logan Robins
DIRECTORS:	Franziska Glen, Kirandeep Kaur, Alex Mills, Elsa Pihl, Ingrid Risk, Kristi Wenaus, & David Zinck.

CO-CHAIRS' MESSAGE

On behalf of the Theatre Nova Scotia Board of Directors, we want to welcome you to the Robert Merritt Awards for professional theatre in Nova Scotia.

It's been an amazing year. In the theatre community, we did have heartaches and headaches as shows were delayed or cancelled due to illnesses and weather, but we also had triumphs as live, in-person theatre was able to roar back onto Nova Scotian stages. We had to invent a new normal instead of just going back to the way things were done before the pandemic, and most of all, we showed our resilience, our passion, and our determination.

From front-of-house staff and volunteers switching on a dime to technical staff and administrators keeping us all safe, to actors, directors, and designers rolling with the punches and bringing their best, to stage managers managing, managing, managing - the people who make theatre are tremendous individuals, and together we are a phenomenal community. It's been a beautiful return to the stage.

We welcomed our new Executive Director, Mark Ferraro-Hauck, and are thrilled that he is taking on this role as a passionate community leader here in Mi'kma'ki. We held steady thanks to the remarkable perseverance of Administrator Marcus Wong, who has seen us through this transformation. We are confident in this new leadership, and we know that you will all get to appreciate this team as much as we do. We look forward to sharing with you the exciting vision they are developing for how TNS can become even more vital to our members and our province.

Our province. We just saw the announcement of a doubling of the funding for both the Nova Scotia Arts Council and Culture Division's operating programs, which will mean not only will it increase the sustainability of the existing operating companies - which have been frozen for more than a decade - but will also welcome new theatres into the program. This will ensure more voices that reflect the wealth of Nova Scotian cultures and communities are reflected on our stages. We can't wait to see what blossoms with this much-needed support.

The advocacy that led to this generational change was in large part due to theatres coming together and making a big tent with other artists from across the province. This solidarity and interdisciplinary mutual support are vital. We want to continue this work through TNS and with our colleagues, and we look forward to continuing to make the future brighter for all theatre artists and audiences in Nova Scotia.

A huge thank you to our Merritt Producers Kat McCormack and Dan Bray, who, in their inaugural year producing the show, are working with an organization in transition and pulling it all off with flair. And thank you for being here tonight, in person or online, as part of an amazing constellation of theatre makers and audience members who are making this province a better place to live.

-CHRIS O'NEILL & COLLEEN MacISAAC

Proud to Support Theatre in Nova Scotia



**Lisa
Lachance**

MLA
Halifax Citadel-
Sable Island

902 220-3021

**Claudia
Chender**

MLA
Dartmouth
South

902 406-2301

**Suzy
Hansen**

MLA
Halifax
Needham

902 455-7300

**Susan
Leblanc**

MLA
Dartmouth
North

902 463-6670

**Gary
Burrill**

MLA
Halifax
Chebucto

902 454-8365

JURORS

The Robert Merritt Awards have recognized excellence in Nova Scotia theatre since 2002. Each year, a volunteer jury attends 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 and to witness the many adventures theatre professionals embark on through their chosen type of performance.

Theatre Nova Scotia wishes to thank the 2022 Merritt Jury, whose tremendous commitment and herculean effort made this evening possible:

AMANDA CAMPBELL

STEVEY HUNTER

NANCY KENNY

LARA LEWIS

SARA MACINESS

DAVID ZINCK

THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark Ferraro-Hauck

ADMINISTRATOR

Marcus Wong

PERFORM! COORDINATOR

Pamela Halstead

Support4Culture helps bring live theatre to Cape Breton Island.



NOVA SCOTIA
Gaming
support
4 culture

Christy MacRae-Ziss & Hannah Ziss
Co-Artistic Producers
Theatre Baddeck

2023 MERRITTS TEAM

PRODUCERS: Dan Bray & Kat McCormack

LAND WELCOME: Raymond Sewell

EMERGING ARTIST SHOWCASE PRODUCER: Stevey Hunter

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Jessica Lewis

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Tessa Pেকেles

ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR: Sara Graham

TECHNICIANS: Thomas Rice, Brenda Duran & Mark Bachynski

ASL INTERPRETERS: Carri Blunden & Tyler Megarry

PROJECTION DESIGNER: Dan Bray

PROJECTION ASSISTANT: Christian Ludwig Hansen

PROGRAM DESIGNER: Colleen MacIsaac

DJ: Ben McMillan (DJ Sneaky B)

MERRITT MINDERS: Ben Burchell, Emily Lux, Daniel Nwobi & Daisy Rayne

SHOWCASE ARTISTS:

Deryl Ameyna - Sound Design
Mackenzie Cornfield - Projection Design
Sabrina Stace - Costume Design
Brenda Duran - Set Design
Oliver Dorfling - Costume Design
Lucas Arab - Set/Prop Design

PRESENTERS *(in order of appearance):*

Stevey Hunter, Liam Fair, Julia Williams, Kailin Glasgow, Zoë Comeau, Olivier Blais, Katerina Bakolias, Drew Douris-O'Hara, Lou Campbell, Kiana Josette, Jacob Sampson, Lindsay Kyte, Lily Falk, Christine Oakey, Robin Munro, Rachel Woods, Lee-Anne Poole, Louisa Adamson, Elsa Pihl, Laura Vingoe-Cram, Tara Taylor, Colleen MacIsaac, Mary Fay Coady, Sébastien Labelle, Josh MacDonald, Ann-Marie Kerr, Henricus Gielis, Riley Reign, Ali Joy Richardson, Koumbie, Taylor Olson, Gina Thornhill, Ailsa Galbreath, Kathleen Dorian, James MacLean, Raeesa Lalani, Matthew Lumley, August Van Meekeren, Hal Rotman, Tip Finless, Eric Eysers, Ian Buettel, Sarah Jackson, Hannah Ziss, Wesley Colford, Rooks Field-Green & Richie Wilcox.

ACT ONE

WORDS FROM THE TNS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO THE LAND

WORDS FROM EVENT PARTNER SUPPORT 4 CULTURE

WELCOME FROM THE PRODUCERS

OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN

OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHY

OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION

OUTSTANDING MUSICAL DIRECTION

OUTSTANDING PROJECTION DESIGN

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (2 WINNERS)

OUTSTANDING NEW NOVA SCOTIAN ADAPTATION

OUTSTANDING STAGE MANAGER

OUTSTANDING TECHNICIAN

IN MEMORIAM

WES DANIELS AWARD

THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA LEGACY AWARD

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS

TNS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

NEPTUNE THEATRE'S RBC CHRYSALIS EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

THANK YOU TO NANCY HENRY

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A LEADING ROLE (2 WINNERS)

OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL SCORE OR COMPOSITION

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN

OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION

FOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS MESSAGE

OUTSTANDING EMERGING PRODUCTION

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ENSEMBLE

OUTSTANDING NEW NOVA SCOTIAN PLAY

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION

MERRITT AFTERPARTY

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

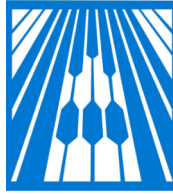
AWARD SPONSORS



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

FOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF
PERFORMING ARTS

OUTSTANDING
COSTUME DESIGN



AIEL
Atlantic Illumination
Entertainment Lighting

OUTSTANDING
PROJECTION DESIGN



OUTSTANDING
MUSICAL DIRECTION

ACTRA Maritimes

OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE IN A
LEADING ROLE



NEPTUNE THEATRE'S
RBC CHRYSALIS
EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

**Mount
Allison**
UNIVERSITY

OUTSTANDING
STAGE
MANAGER



OUTSTANDING
TECHNICIAN



OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE IN A
SUPPORTING ROLE

CHRISTIE
LITES

OUTSTANDING
LIGHTING DESIGN

AWARD SPONSORS



OUTSTANDING
SCENIC DESIGN



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

OUTSTANDING
ORIGINAL SCORE
OR COMPOSITION



*Atlantic Presenters
Association*

OUTSTANDING
PRODUCTION



THEATRE NOVA
SCOTIA LEGACY
AWARD



ROYAL HOTEL

IN-KIND SPONSOR

THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE
SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA



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WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
THEATRE IN NOVA SCOTIA AND
LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

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