

THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA 2020

Robert Merritt
AWARDS



Nova Scotia: **Creativity and Community**

Alba Nuadh: Cruthachalachd
agus Coimhearsnachd

Kisite'tmumk Tla'sitew
Telo'ltimkewey No'pa Sko'sia

Nouvelle-Écosse : Créativité et
communauté

novascotia.ca/culture



NOVA SCOTIA

Robert Merritt AWARDS 2020

Welcome to the Theatre Nova Scotia annual Robert Merritt Awards celebration. This event honours the work of our professional company members who invited us to share in their creations throughout 2019. Our members, and the artists they engaged for these productions, invested their talents, their intelligence, their vision, their strength and their passion into all of their work.

Tonight we honour all those efforts. It is also a time when our stages have become suddenly dark as the global community responds to an unprecedented health crisis. It leaves our artistic community anxious and vulnerable. You already recognize the power in telling stories, in baring your souls, in sharing your imaginations and in focusing on human connections. It is precisely your talents, intelligence, vision, strength and passion that will ensure that we will weather the storm—together.

The Merritt Awards take place in late March to complement World Theatre Day on March 27th. Theatre Nova Scotia is proud to help champion our provincial contribution to the craft of theatre. We take inspiration from the 2020 Canadian message by Geneviève Pelletier: "Theatre is a living art form where anything is possible, but is also full of mystery, and of the unknown. Theatre is an Art of engagement, that invites movements, new experiences: an invitation we can accept, or not, as we see fit. Together, let's transform the stage into a world of echoes, a world where laughter, pain, brutality, gentleness and complexity can all spring forth."

Elizabeth Murphy, Board Chair and Nancy Morgan, Executive Director



1113 Marginal Rd, Halifax, NS B3H 4P7
902-425-3876 | www.theatrens.ca

Executive Director: Nancy Morgan
Administrator & Bookkeeper: Kyle Vingoe-Cram
Communications Coordinator: Erin Taylor
PERFORM! Coordinator: Pamela Halstead

2020 TEAM

Host	Mystery*
Musical Host	Mystery
Producer	Ken Schwartz
Stage Manager	Tessa Pেকেles*
Voice of God	Kathryn McCormack*
Virtual Red Carpet Host.....	Avery Jean Brennan
Technical Support.....	Garrett Barker
Ceremony Editing	Erin Taylor
Photo Montage Production	Kyle Vingoe-Cram
Executive Producer.....	Nancy Morgan

*Appears courtesy of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

The 2020 Merritt team was amazing. They faced every challenge by suggesting a new solution. They adapted at rapid fire speed when those solutions became impossible and then found new ones. They worked tirelessly, going far beyond what would have ever been reasonably expected in any circumstances, let alone pandemic circumstances. They added new ideas amidst the madness and made them a reality. I don't think it ever occurred to this group that they weren't going to pull this off—somehow. They would not quit. But most notably, they worked as a cohesive team. Everyone moved through this whirlwind with creativity, thoughtfulness, caring, tenacity and a fantastic sense of humour, and all while processing the worry, sadness and uncertainty of the world around them. Each of you is extraordinary.

Presenters (in order of appearance):

Elizabeth Murphy
Bob MacKinnon
Lindsay Kyte
Jeremy Webb
Ken Schwartz
Bruce Klinger
Garrett Barker
Andrew Chandler

Special Thanks:

Kerri Trainor, Cole Harbour Trophies, CBC Mainstreet Halifax, Alexander Smart, Alex Higgins, Trina Annand, Paetra Addison, Devin Casaro, Rob Power, Culture Link, Angela MacAdam, Cat MacKeigan, Andrew Chandler, Ryan Rogerson, Wendy Lill, David Zinck, Andrea Nemetz, Rebecca Wolfe, Mauralea Austin, Veronique MacKenzie, Jolene Pattison, Poet Comeau, Lake City Cider, Renae Perry, Compass Distillers, Justin Zinck, Garrison Brewing, Grace MacDonald, Sherry Smith, Strategic Arts Management, Avery Jean Brennan, Bruce Klinger, Kimberly Bungay, Pamela Halstead

Countless messages from the community that told us how much you appreciated our efforts were wonderful and helped propel the whole team to the finish line.

We would like to acknowledge that the Merritt Awards take place in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

Adhesive Tapes for the Performance Industry

- *Cable Tape*
- *Electrical Tape*
- *Glow Tape*
- *Masking Tape*
- *Spike Tape*
- *Duct Tape*
- *Gaffer Tape*
- *Gun Tape*
- *Painter's Tape*
- *Stage Tape*

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ACT ONE

Award for Outstanding Lighting Design

Award for Outstanding Stage Manager

Award for Outstanding Costume Design

Award for Outstanding Performance
in a Leading Role

Special Presentation

Award for Outstanding Sound Design

Award for Outstanding Scenic Design

Award for Outstanding Technician

Chrysalis Emerging Artist Award

In Memoriam

Wes Daniels Design Award

Theatre Nova Scotia Legacy Award

'Phone a Friend' INTERMISSION

Theatre Nova Scotia Board of Directors

Elizabeth Murphy—Chair, Andrew Chandler—Vice Chair
Alex Mills—Treasurer, Logan Robins & David Zinck—Co-Secretaries
Andrea Boyd, Audrey Eastwood, Todd Hiscock

ACT ONE AWARD SPONSORS

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN



OUTSTANDING STAGE MANAGER



OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A LEADING ROLE



OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN



OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN



OUTSTANDING TECHNICIAN



CHRYSLIS AWARD



WES DANIELS DESIGN AWARD



THEATRE NS LEGACY AWARD



ACT TWO

Award for Outstanding Original Score or Composition

Award for Outstanding Direction

Award for Outstanding Choreography

Award for Outstanding Musical Direction

Award for Outstanding Performance
in a Supporting Role

Award for Outstanding New Play by a Nova Scotian Playwright

Award for Outstanding Production by a New or Emerging
Company

Award for Outstanding Production

*Theatre Nova Scotia Scholarship recipients
on page 11 of the program*

Theatre Nova Scotia wishes to thank the 2019 Merritt Jury,
whose tremendous commitment and herculean effort made
this evening's awards possible:

Amanda Campbell
Paula English
Henricus Gielis

Samantha Horak
James MacLean
Anna Shepard

ACT TWO AWARD SPONSORS

OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL COMPOSITION OR SCORE



OUTSTANDING DIRECTION

LYLE TILLEY DAVIDSON
Chartered Accountants



OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHY



OUTSTANDING MUSICAL DIRECTION



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A SUPPORTING ROLE



OUTSTANDING NEW PLAY BY A NOVA SCOTIAN PLAYWRIGHT



OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION BY A NEW OR EMERGING COMPANY



OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION



MERRITT PROGRAM SPONSOR



BEVERAGE SPONSORS CEREMONY SPONSOR



LAKE CITY
CIDER



AIEL

Theatre Nova Scotia Scholarship 2020 Recipients

Logan Robins will embark on a mentorship with Shakespeare by the Sea's Artistic Co-Producer, Jesse MacLean. Logan is a Kijipuktuk/Halifax-based theatre maker with a passion for directing, puppeteering, writing, producing and everything in between. Focusing on environmental themes and community collaborations, Logan can most often be found creating something new and sharing his love of theatre with the world.

Ursula Calder recently attended a Physical Theatre Creation Workshop led by Andy Massingham at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. Ursula has performed with Zuppa, LunaSea, and Mermaid Theatre. She is a recent graduate of Dalhousie's Fountain School of Performing Arts.

Apply next year by Jan 15, 2021



SHOW. AND SHINE. ⚡ SKERRCRAFT.COM DESIGN



The following TNS Member Organizations have received support from the Nova Scotia Gaming Support4Culture Program:

2b theatre
Eastern Front Theatre
Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Highland Arts Theatre
Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia
Mulgrave Road Theatre
Shakespeare by the Sea
Ship's Company Theatre
Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
The Villians Theatre
Zuppa Theatre

Theatre Nova Scotia gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of Nova Scotia

