

THE 2024  
THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA



ROBERT MERRITT  
AWARDS



# WE ARE IN MI'KMA'KI THE UNCEDED, UNSURRENDERED TERRITORY OF THE MI'KMAQ PEOPLE.

THE 2024 MERRITT AWARDS ARE TAKING PLACE IN PUNAMU'KWATI'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 SIGNED WITH THE BRITISH CROWN BETWEEN 1725 AND 1779. 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](http://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 Elsa Pihl  
TREASURER: Elsa Pihl  
SECRETARY: Logan Robins and David Zinck  
DIRECTORS: Sean K.Burke, Franziska Glen, Mary Hanneman, Briana Lynch-Rankin, Colleen Arcturus MacIsaac, Ingrid Risk, Ryan Sadler, & Kristi Wenaus.

# JURORS

The Robert Merritt Awards have been recognizing 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 2023 Merritt Jury, whose tremendous commitment and herculean effort made this evening possible:

ELISSA BARNARD  
KATHY FRANCE  
STEPHANIE MACDONALD  
LINDA MACISAAC  
TESSA MENDEL  
LEE-ANNE POOLE  
RICHIE WILCOX

## THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA STAFF

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark Ferraro-Hauck

### ADMINISTRATOR

Marcus Wong Jun Wei

### PERFORM! COORDINATOR

Pamela Halstead

### MARKETING ASSOCIATE

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Jarod Monk

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includes  
everyone**

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# 2024 MERRITTS TEAM

PRODUCERS: Dan Bray & Kat McCormack

LAND WELCOME: Raymond Sewell

MUSICAL PERFORMER: Katherine Norris

EMERGING ARTIST SHOWCASE PRODUCER: Brenda Duran

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Jessica Lewis

ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR: Sara Graham

TECHNICIANS: Mark Bachynski, Bob Daly, Brenda Duran, & Thomas Rice

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND EVENT SUPPORT: Colleen Arcturus Maclsaac

ASL INTERPRETERS: Carolyn Carter, Tyler Megarry, & Julia Roy

DJ: Ben McMillan (DJ Sneaky B)

PHOTOBOOTH: True North Event Services

MERRITT MINDERS: Meagan Benwell, Laura Rafuse, Christian Vallis,  
& Jake Wilke

## EMERGING DESIGNER SHOWCASE ARTISTS:

Christian Ludwig Hansen

Mackenzie Cornfield

Diego Cavedon Dias

Alison Crosby

Jackson Fairfax-Perry

Laura Spencer

## PRESENTERS

*(in order of appearance):*

Colleen Arcturus Maclsaac, Jeremy Webb, Stoo Metz, Meg Hubley, Jackson Fairfax-Perry, Tracy Fanous, Jade Douris-O'Hara, Sophie Shade, Misha Bakshi, Paul Fawcett, Milo Meuse, Charlotte Chadwick, Lucy Pinks, Laura Keyes, Garry Williams, Lara Lewis, Logan Robins, Amanda Campbell, Garrett Barker, Mary Hanneman, Jacob Sampson, Matt Walker, Sara Graham, Franziska Glen, Laura Caswell, Leah Pritchard, Gabrielle Papillon, Sean Burke, Sheilagh Woods, Diego Cavedon Dias, Brenda Duran, Ryan Rogerson, David Light, Stewart Legere, Jessica Brown, Liona Quarmyne, Sarah Prosper, Sue Leblanc, Sébastien Labelle, Stephanie MacDonald, Riley McGill, Tessa Mendel, Martha Irving, Sylvia Bell, Noella Murphy, and the Fountain School of Performing Arts Class of 2025.

# ACT ONE

THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA CO-CHAIR MESSAGE

THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE LAND

WORDS FROM EVENT PARTNER SUPPORT 4 CULTURE

WELCOME FROM THE PRODUCERS

NEPTUNE THEATRE'S RBC CHRYSALIS EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHY

OUTSTANDING PROJECTION DESIGN

OUTSTANDING MUSICAL DIRECTION

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ENSEMBLE

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (2 WINNERS)

OUTSTANDING NEW NOVA SCOTIAN ADAPTATION

IN MEMORIAM

THEATRE NOVA SCOTIA LEGACY AWARD

APRIL HUBBARD CREATIVE ACCESS AWARD

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

# ACT TWO

MUSICAL ACT

TNS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

WES DANIELS DESIGN AWARD

OUTSTANDING STAGE MANAGER

OUTSTANDING TECHNICIAN

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN

OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN

OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN

OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL SCORE OR COMPOSITION

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A LEADING ROLE (2 WINNERS)

OUTSTANDING NEW NOVA SCOTIAN PLAY

OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION

MERRITT AFTERPARTY IN THE ROTUNDA

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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SCENIC DESIGN



NEPTUNE THEATRE'S  
RBC CHRYSALIS  
EMERGING ARTIST  
AWARD

**ACTRA**  
Maritimes

OUTSTANDING  
DIRECTOR

**CHRISTIE**  
LITES

OUTSTANDING  
PRODUCTION



OUTSTANDING  
TECHNICIAN



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ADAPTATION



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
UNIVERSITY

OUTSTANDING  
ORIGINAL SCORE  
OR COMPOSITION



OUTSTANDING  
PERFORMANCE BY  
AN ENSEMBLE



NOVA SCOTIA

OUTSTANDING  
CHOREOGRAPHY



ACADIA THEATRE COMPANY  
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OUTSTANDING  
COSTUME DESIGN



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INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

OUTSTANDING  
SOUND DESIGN



OUTSTANDING  
INDEPENDENT  
PRODUCTION &  
OUTSTANDING  
PROJECTION DESIGN



THEATRE NOVA  
SCOTIA LEGACY  
AWARD



OUTSTANDING  
PERFORMANCE  
IN A LEADING ROLE

*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