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# Theatre Bay Area Names 2015 Awards Winners

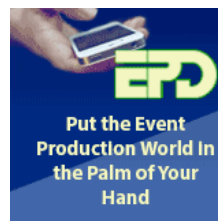
The Theatre Bay Awards celebration took place Monday, Nov. 16 at American Conservatory Theatre's Geary Theatre, honoring the best of more than 300 productions from 87 theatre companies in the Bay Area. In addition to the awards for productions, several individual awards were given out, including the Charles Dean Award, which was presented to award-winning actor, director, playwright and educator Margo Hall. The Charles Dean Award recognizes a Bay Area actor who has dedicated his or her career to Bay Area theatre.

Written by Jacob Coakley  
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### THEATRE BAY AREA ANNOUNCES 2015 TBA AWARDS RECIPIENTS

**Second Annual TBA Awards Celebration Was Held on Monday, November 16 at American Conservatory Theater's Historic Geary Theater.**

(San Francisco, CA) - **Theatre Bay Area** announced the **2015 TBA Awards** recipients at the second annual **TBA Awards Celebration** on **Monday, November 16** at **American Conservatory Theater's** historic **Geary Theater**. Produced by **David Gluck** and **Nick A. Olivero**, the **TBA Awards Celebration** featured an opening musical parody written by **Allison Page**, artistic director of renowned comedy troupe **Killing My Lobster**; performances from the three companies that received last year's TBA Award for Outstanding Production of a Musical: ("When You're an Addams" from *The Addams Family* by **San Jose Stage Company**, "Dance at the Gym (Mambo)" from *West Side Story* by **Broadway By the Bay** and "Suddenly Seymour" from *Little Shop of Horrors* by **Altarena Playhouse**); a nine-piece live band seated on stage, led by musical director **San Kana**; and a special musical tribute led by **Amy Lizardo** and **Teresa Attridge**. The event was generously hosted by **American Conservatory Theater** in their historic **Geary Theater**, followed by an after-party at **PianoFight**.

This year, **350 TBA Awards adjudicators** cast ballots on **306 productions** produced by **87 companies**. Of the finalists, **123 performed in San Francisco**, **100 performed in the East Bay**, **83 performed in the South Bay** and **37 performed in the North Bay**. The complete list of recipients is below.

In addition to honoring the finalists and recipients in each category, Theatre Bay Area presented its three Legacy Awards—in honor of A.C.T. Associate Artistic Director **Mark Rucker** (Artist); to consultant, philanthropist and executive director of Handful Players **Judith Cohen** (Philanthropist) and to the public charter school **Oakland School for the Arts** (Organization). **TBA Legacy Awards** honor extraordinary contributions to the Bay Area theatre community and reflect the recipients' body of work over time or a significant milestone in their professional journeys.

The **Charles Dean Award** was presented to award-winning actor, director, playwright and

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educator **Margo Hall**. The **Charles Dean Award** recognizes a Bay Area actor who has dedicated his or her career to Bay Area theatre. The award comes with a \$10,000 cash prize endowed by the Robinson Family Fund for the Arts and is administered by Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Awardees are chosen by a panel of local theatre community adjudicators and presented annually at the TBA Awards.

**Margo Hall** is an award-winning actor, director, playwright, educator and founding member of the Campo Santo collective. Selected acting credits include: *A Raisin in the Sun*, *A Winter's Tale*, *American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose* and *SPUNK* at California Shakespeare Theater; *Once in a Lifetime* and *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* at American Conservatory Theater; *Fences* and *Seven Guitars* at Marin Theatre Company; *Trouble in Mind* at Aurora Theatre; *This World in a Woman's Hands* at Shotgun Players; and *Be Bop Baby* at Z Space. Directing credits include: *Hotel Angulo*, *Simpatico* and the world premiere of *Joyride* by Luis Saguar for Campo Santo; and *The Story*, a SF Playhouse/Lorraine Hansberry coproduction. Margo completed her first writing project in April 2005 with the world premiere of *The People's Temple* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, which won the Glickman award for best new play in the Bay Area for 2005. She has worked as an educator at Chabot Community College, A.C.T., Berkeley Repertory School of Theatre, and more.

The **TBA Awards** are designed to honor excellence in professionally oriented theatre through a peer-based, Bay Area-wide adjudication process. Each year, all season long, **TBA Awards** adjudicators attend eligible productions across the Bay area. Every week of the awards cycle, the adjudicators put forward productions that they feel should be recommended to the community at large, and the staff at **Theatre Bay Area** publishes this information for its members and the general public. All of the votes throughout the year are then tabulated to determine each year's finalists and award recipients.

In order to create an equitable system of evaluation, the **TBA Awards** program has defined a set of three evaluation tiers for most award categories. These tiers are primarily defined by budget size and their Actors' Equity Association affiliation.

A complete list of the **2015 TBA Awards Recipients** is below.

#### OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION OF A MUSICAL

**Tier 1: *Party People*** at Berkeley Repertory Theatre  
**Tier 2: *H.M.S. Pinafore*** at Lamplighters Music Theatre  
**Tier 3 *Dogfight*** at OMG, I Love That Show! Productions

#### OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION OF A PLAY

**Tier 1: *Old Hats*** at American Conservatory Theater  
**Tier 2: *Clybourne Park*** at 6th Street Playhouse  
**Tier 3 *The Brothers Size*** at Ubuntu Theater Project

#### OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION OF AN ANTHOLOGY PLAY

***WTFamily*** at Left Coast Theatre Co.

#### OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION OF A SOLO PLAY

**Brian Copeland** for *The Waiting Period* at Altarena Playhouse/The Marsh

#### OUTSTANDING WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

***Triangle*** Librettist: Curtis Moore, Joshua Scher Lyricist & Librettist: Thomas Mizer Composer: Curtis Moore

#### OUTSTANDING WORLD PREMIERE PLAY

***Enemies: Foreign and Domestic*** by Patricia Milton at Central Works

#### OUTSTANDING DIRECTION OF A MUSICAL

**Tier 1: *Liesl Tommy*** for *Party People* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre  
**Tier 2: *Jon Tracy*** for *Fiddler on the Roof* at Berkeley Playhouse  
**Tier 3: *Carl Jordan*** for *Avenue Q* at Novato Theater Company

#### OUTSTANDING DIRECTION OF A PLAY

**Tier 1: *Josh Costello*** for *Ideation* at San Francisco Playhouse  
**Tier 2: *Carl Jordan*** for *Clybourne Park* at 6th Street Playhouse  
**Tier 3: *Molly Aaronson-Gelb*** for *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915* at Just Theater

#### OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHY

**Tier 1: *Millicent Johnnie*** for *Party People* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre  
**Tier 2: *Nicole Helfer*** for *West Side Story* at Broadway By the Bay  
**Tier 3: *Alex Rodriguez*** for *Heathers: The Musical* at Ray of Light Theatre

#### OUTSTANDING MUSIC DIRECTION

**Tier 1 *Dan Wheatman*** for *Fire on the Mountain* at TheatreWorks  
**Tier 2: *David Möscher*** for *H.M.S. Pinafore* at Lamplighters Music Theatre  
**Tier 3: *Sean Kana*** for *Dogfight* at OMG, I Love That Show! Productions

#### OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE ACTOR IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE IN A MUSICAL

**Tier 1: *Megan McGinnis*** for *Triangle* at TheatreWorks



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**Tier 2: Jocelyn Pickett** for *Violet* at Tabard Theatre Company

**Tier 3: Elizabeth A. Curtis** for *Dogfight* at OMG, I Love That Show! Productions

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE ACTOR IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE IN A PLAY**

**Tier 1: Katherine R. Turner** for *The Convert* at Marin Theatre Company

**Tier 2: Cathleen Riddley** for *The Amen Corner* at AlterTheater Ensemble

**Tier 3: Celia Maurice** for *The Birthday Party* at Off Broadway West Theatre Company

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A MALE ACTOR IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE IN A MUSICAL**

**Tier 1: Zachary Prince** for *Triangle* at TheatreWorks

**Tier 2: Adam Campbell** for *Les Misérables* at Broadway By the Bay

**Tier 3: Nikita Burshteyn** for *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Stage 1 Theatre

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A MALE ACTOR IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE IN A PLAY**

**Tier 1: Bill Irwin** for *Old Hats* at American Conservatory Theater

**Tier 2: Ron Campbell** for *Don Quixote* at Marin Shakespeare Company

**Tier 3: Justin Gillman** for *The Pillowman* at The Breadbox

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE ACTOR IN A FEATURED ROLE IN A MUSICAL**

**Tier 1: Marissa McGowan** for *A Little Night Music* at American Conservatory Theater

**Tier 2: Teresa Attridge** for *Avenue Q* at New Conservatory Theatre Center

**Tier 3: Laura Arthur** for *Heathers: The Musical* at Ray of Light Theatre

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE ACTOR IN A FEATURED ROLE IN A PLAY**

**Tier 1: Tory Ross** for *Fallen Angels* at TheatreWorks

**Tier 2: Erica Smith** for *The Amen Corner* at AlterTheater Ensemble

**Tier 3: Bonnie DeChant** for *Barefoot in the Park* at Altarena Playhouse

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A MALE ACTOR IN A FEATURED ROLE IN A MUSICAL**

**Tier 1: Spencer Kiely** for *Sweeney Todd* at TheatreWorks

**Tier 2: Chris Morrell** for *Avenue Q* at New Conservatory Theatre Center

**Tier 3: Ray D'Ambrosio** for *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Stage 1 Theatre

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A MALE ACTOR IN A FEATURED ROLE IN A PLAY**

**Tier 1: Joseph Estlack** for *Stupid F#king Bird* at San Francisco Playhouse

**Tier 2: Aaron Murphy** for *The Foreigner* at Contra Costa Civic Theatre

**Tier 3: Nathaniel Justiniano** for *Ondine at Sutro* at We Players

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY THE ENSEMBLE OF A MUSICAL**

**Tier 1: Triangle** at TheatreWorks

**Tier 2: Freedomland** at San Francisco Mime Troupe

**Tier 3: Heathers: The Musical** at Ray of Light Theatre

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY THE ENSEMBLE OF A PLAY**

**Tier 1: Old Hats** at American Conservatory Theater

**Tier 2: Clybourne Park** at 6th Street Playhouse

**Tier 3: The Brothers Size** at Ubuntu Theater Project

**OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN**

**Tier 1: G.W. Mercier** for *Head of Passes* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre

**Tier 2: Kuo-Hao Lo** for *Die Mommie Die!* at New Conservatory Theatre Center

**Tier 3: Ron Gasparinetti** for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at Los Altos Stage Company

**OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN**

**Tier 1: Sonya Berlovitz** for *Molière's Tartuffe* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre

**Tier 2: Melissa Wortman** for *Candide* at Lamplighters Music Theatre

**Tier 3: Brooke Jennings** for *Ondine at Sutro* at We Players

**OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN**

**Tier 1: Paul Toben** for *Triangle* at TheatreWorks

**Tier 2: Christian Mejia** for *Die Mommie Die!* at New Conservatory Theatre Center

**Tier 3: Amanda Ortmyer** for *The Pillowman* at The Breadbox

**OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN**

**Tier 1: Brendan Aanes** for *Triangle* at TheatreWorks

**Tier 2: George Psarras** for *Truce: A Christmas Wish from the Great War* at City Lights Theater Company

**Tier 3: Liz Ryder** for *The Pillowman* at The Breadbox

**OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL UNDERSCORE FOR A PLAY**

**Grant Olding** for *One Man, Two Guvnors* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre

**OUTSTANDING VIDEO DESIGN**

**Alexander Nichols** for *Party People* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre

**OUTSTANDING CREATIVE SPECIALTY**

Outstanding Direction of a Play Score: **Cathleen Riddley** for *The Amen Corner* at AlterTheater Ensemble

**ABOUT THEATRE BAY AREA**

Since 1976, Theatre Bay Area has worked continuously to unite, strengthen, promote and advance

the theatre community in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is our conviction that the performing arts are an essential public good, critical to a healthy and truly democratic society and invaluable as a source of personal enrichment and growth. TBA boasts the largest membership of any regional theatre service organization in North America, and serves as a national model.

Theatre Bay Area's present membership demonstrates the depth and breadth of the theatrical art throughout the nine Bay Area counties: more than 300 theatre and dance companies, from multi-million dollar organizations to grassroots community groups; some 2,500 individuals, including actors, directors, designers, dance artists, playwrights, dramaturgs, technicians and theatre patrons; and nearly 50 organizational members, from libraries and universities to theatre industry professional services. Last month, TBA launched a new membership for audience members, that provides discounted tickets to a wide swath of performances produced by our member companies --- and more than nearly 100 Bay Area theatergoers have already joined.

As we enter our 40th anniversary year, we're approaching our work with refined focus—to equip the field for success, increase audience engagement, continue advocacy efforts and recognize the tremendous achievements of our theatre community.

*The 2015 TBA Awards Celebration would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors: American Conservatory Theater, PianoFight, TodayTix, Actors' Equity Association, IATSE Local 16, IATSE USA 829, SDC, Vendini and macys.com.*

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