

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:
Chris Kanarick
chris@peakpublicity.com
O: 646.893.4777

38TH ANNUAL LUCILLE LORTEL AWARD **RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED**

“Wolf Play” receives the most awards with 5 – including Outstanding Play, Director, and Ensemble.

“Titanique” leads the musical categories with 3 – including Outstanding Musical and Outstanding Lead Performer in a Musical for Marla Mindelle.

New York, NY (May 7, 2023) – The 2023 Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway were handed out this evening to recipients in 15 categories, with four honorary awards also bestowed. The Awards were distributed in a ceremony at NYU Skirball hosted by stars of stage and screen: **Kevin Cahoon** (Tony nominee, “Shucked”), **D’Arcy Carden** (“The Thanksgiving Play”), **Crystal Lucas-Perry** (Tony nominee, “Ain’t No Mo”), **Bonnie Milligan** (Tony nominee, “Kimberly Akimbo”), **Arian Moayed** (Tony nominee, “A Doll’s House”), and **Tamara Tunie** (The New Group’s “Bernarda’s Daughters”). The Lucille Lortel Awards are produced by the Off-Broadway League and Lucille Lortel Theatre, with additional support provided by TDF.

“Wolf Play” was the big winner with a total of five Lortel Awards including *Outstanding Play, Director, Ensemble, Scenic Design, and Sound Design*. “Titanique,” the Celine Dion-inspired comedy musical took home three awards including *Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Lead Performer in a Musical, and Outstanding Costume Design*. Oskar Eustis accepted the *Outstanding Revival* award for The Public Theatre’s production of “A Raisin in the Sun.” In a surprise moment, the *Edith Oliver Service to Off-Broadway Award* was presented by Off-Broadway League President, **Casey York**, and Lucille Lortel Theatre Executive Director, **George Forbes**, to **Victoria Bailey**, who has served for 20+ years as Executive Director of TDF.

Special honorees this year included *Lifetime Achievement Award* recipient **Stephen McKinley Henderson**, *Playwrights’ Sidewalk* posthumous inductee **Ntozake Shange**, and **A.R.T./New York**, honored for their *Body of Work*.

The Off-Broadway League’s Lortel Awards Producing & Administration Committee (Jeremy Adams, Tisa Chang, Carol Fishman, George Forbes, Danielle Karliner Naish, Kenneth Naanep, Ralph Peña, Catherine Russell, Lindsey Sag, and Casey York) and the Lucille Lortel Theatre (George Forbes, Jeffrey Shubart, Nancy Hurvitz, Alana Canty-Samuel, Maura Le Viness, and Karla Liriano) produce the Lortel Awards Ceremony. Acclaimed writer/director Michael Heitzman returns to direct the Lortel Awards for the twelfth consecutive year. Representatives of the Off-Broadway League, Actors’ Equity Association, Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, United Scenic Artists, the Lucille Lortel Theatre, in addition to theatre journalists, academics and other Off-Broadway professionals, serve on the Voting Committee.

For updates and news visit www.lortelaward.com. Follow the Lortel Awards (#LortelAwards) on Twitter ([@Lucille Lortel Theatre \(@Lortel Theatre\)](https://twitter.com/LortelTheatre)), Instagram ([Lucille Lortel Theatre \(@lorteltheatre\)](https://www.instagram.com/lorteltheatre/)), and Facebook ([Lucille Lortel Theatre | New York NY](https://www.facebook.com/LortelTheatreNewYorkNY/)); and subscribe to the Lortel Awards [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) channel.

Photos from the 38th Annual Lucille Lortel Awards are available at:

SELECTS: <https://dam.gettyimages.com/assignments/38th-annual-lucille-lortel-awards>

FULL TAKE: <https://dam.gettyimages.com/paid-assignments-full-takes/38th-annual-lucille-lortel-awards>

The 2023 Lucille Lortel Awards Official Program is available at:

<https://lortelaward.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-Lortel-Awards-Program.pdf>

NOMINEES AND RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS

***Please note: all nominees are listed with the award recipient in BOLD.**

Outstanding Play

A Case for the Existence of God
Produced by Signature Theatre
Written by Samuel D. Hunter

Dark Disabled Stories
Produced by The Bushwick Starr, presented by The Public Theater
Written by Ryan J. Haddad

Downstate
Produced by Playwrights Horizons
Written by Bruce Norris

Epiphany
Produced by Lincoln Center Theater
Written by Brian Watkins

Wolf Play
Produced by MCC Theater, a Soho Rep production, in collaboration with Ma-Yi Theater Company
Written by Hansol Jung

Outstanding Musical

Dreaming Zenzile
Produced by New York Theatre Workshop & National Black Theatre
Written by Somi Kakoma

Harmony
Produced by National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene in association with Ken Davenport & Sandi Moran, Garry C. Kief, Amuse Inc., Patty Baker, Tom & Michael D'Angora, Susan DuBow, Michelle Kaplan, Mapleseed Productions, Harold Matzner and Neil Gooding Productions
Music by Barry Manilow, Book and Lyrics by Bruce Sussman

SUFFS
Produced by The Public Theater
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Shaina Taub

Titanique

Produced by Eva Price, James L. Nederlander, Diamond Dog Entertainment LLC, Benj Pasek, Blumenthal Performing Arts, Penny Rousouli, Jodi & Howard Tenenbaum, Philip Byron, Marcia Ellis, Iris Smith, Stellar Live, Inc.

Book by Marla Mindelle, Constantine Rousouli and Tye Blue, Music by Various Authors

Weightless

Produced by WP Theater

Written by The Kilbanes

Outstanding Revival

A Bright New Boise

Produced by Signature Theatre

Written by Samuel D. Hunter

Endgame

Produced by Irish Repertory Theatre

Written by Samuel Beckett

A Man of No Importance

Produced by Classic Stage Company

Book by Terrence McNally, Music by Stephen Flaherty, Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Merrily We Roll Along

Produced by New York Theatre Workshop

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by George Furth

A Raisin in the Sun

Produced by The Public Theater

Written by Lorraine Hansberry

Outstanding Director

Zi Alikhan – *On That Day in Amsterdam*

David Cromer – *A Case for the Existence of God*

Robert O'Hara – *A Raisin in the Sun*

Whitney White – *soft*

Dustin Wills – *Wolf Play*

Outstanding Choreographer

Andy Blankenbuehler – *Only Gold*

Warren Carlyle – *Harmony*

Edgar Godineaux – *The Harder They Come*

Jerry Mitchell – *Kinky Boots*

Ellenore Scott – *Titanique*

Outstanding Lead Performer in a Play

Kyle Beltran – *A Case For the Existence of God*

Marylouise Burke – *Epiphany*

K. Todd Freeman – *Downstate*

Ryan J. Haddad – *Dark Disabled Stories*

Bill Irwin – *Endgame*

Tonya Pinkins – *A Raisin in the Sun*

John Douglas Thompson – *Endgame*

Outstanding Featured Performer in a Play

Mia Barron – *The Coast Starlight*

Susanna Guzmán – *Downstate*
Ryan J. Haddad – *american (tele)visions*
Dickie Hearts – *Dark Disabled Stories*
Patrice Johnson Chevannes – *Endgame*
Maureen Sebastian – *The Best We Could (a family tragedy)*
Eddie Torres – *Downstate*

Outstanding Lead Performer in a Musical

Nicholas Barasch – *The Butcher Boy*
Callum Francis – *Kinky Boots*
Natey Jones – *The Harder They Come*
Somi Kakoma – *Dreaming Zenzile*
Lindsay Mendez – *Merrily We Roll Along*
Marla Mindelle – *Titanique*
Jim Parsons – *A Man of No Importance*

Outstanding Featured Performer in a Musical

Krystal Joy Brown – *Merrily We Roll Along*
Darren Goldstein – *The Bedwetter*
Nikki M. James – *SUFFS*
Jacob Ming-Trent – *The Harder They Come*
John Riddle – *Titanique*
Reg Rogers – *Merrily We Roll Along*
A.J. Shively – *A Man of No Importance*

Outstanding Ensemble

The Nosebleed

Drae Campbell, Ashil Lee, Chris Manley, Aya Ogawa, Saori Tsukada, Kaili Y. Turner

soft

Leon Addison Brown, Biko Eisen-Martin, Dharon Jones, Essence Lotus, Travis Raeburn, Shakur Tolliver, Dario Vazquez, Ed Ventura

Wolf Play

Christopher Bannow, Esco Jouléy, Brian Quijada, Nicole Villamil, Mitchell Winter

Outstanding Scenic Design

John Lee Beatty – *Epiphany*
You-Shin Chen – *Wolf Play*
dots – *You Will Get Sick*
Arnulfo Maldonado – *A Case for the Existence of God*
Clint Ramos – *The Far Country*

Outstanding Costume Design

Enver Chakartash – *THE TREES*
Sarah Laux – *Wish You Were Here*
Orla Long – *Endgame*
Qween Jean – *Soft*
Alejo Vietti – *Titanique*

Outstanding Lighting Design

Isabella Byrd – *Epiphany*

Jiyoun Chang – *The Far Country*

Tyler Micoleau – *A Case for the Existence of God*

Barbara Samuels – *Wolf Play*

Cha See – *On That Day in Amsterdam*

Outstanding Sound Design

Mikhail Fiksel – *How To Defend Yourself*

Daniel Kluger – *Epiphany*

Kate Marvin – *Wolf Play*

Theater Mitu – *american (tele)visions*

Sinan Refik Zafar – *LETTERS FROM MAX, a ritual*

Outstanding Projection Design

Alex Basco Koch – *The Orchard*

Yee Eun Nam – *ONCE UPON A (korean) TIME*

Kameron Neal – *Dark Disabled Stories*

Theater Mitu – *american (tele)visions*

S Katy Tucker – *LETTERS FROM MAX, a ritual*

HONORARY AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award

Stephen McKinley Henderson

Playwrights' Sidewalk Inductee

Ntozake Shange

Body of Work

A.R.T./New York

AWARD RECIPIENTS BY SHOW

Wolf Play	5
Titanique	3
The Coast Starlight	1
Dark Disabled Stories	1
Downstate	1
Epiphany	1
A Man of No Importance	1
Only Gold	1
A Raisin in the Sun	1

ABOUT THE LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS

The Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway were created in 1985 by the Off-Broadway League and are produced by the Off-Broadway League and the Lucille Lortel Theatre. The Lortel Awards recognize

excellence in Off-Broadway by honoring the invaluable contribution of artists to the theatre community. Representatives of the Off-Broadway League, Actors' Equity Association, Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, United Scenic Artists, the Lucille Lortel Theatre, in addition to theatre journalists, academics and other Off-Broadway professionals, serve on the Voting Committee. Awards may be given in the following categories: Play, Musical, Solo Show, Revival, Alternative Theatrical Experience, Director, Choreographer, Lead Performer in a Play and Musical, Featured Performer in a Play and Musical, Ensemble, Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound, and Projection Design. The following honorary awards may also be given: Lifetime Achievement Award, Body of Work (awarded to an institution), Edith Oliver Service to Off-Broadway Award, and induction onto the Playwrights' Sidewalk in front of the historic Lucille Lortel Theatre in New York City. For more information, please see www.lortelaward.com.

ABOUT THE OFF-BROADWAY LEAGUE

The Off-Broadway League was founded in 1959 to foster theatrical productions produced in Off-Broadway theatres (productions in Manhattan in venues with 76-499 seats), to assist in the voluntary exchange of information among its members, and to serve as a collective voice of its membership in pursuit of these goals. In recent years the League has grown to represent an average of 150 individual members and theatres and 100 non-for-profit and commercial shows per season.

ABOUT THE LUCILLE LORTEL THEATRE

The Lucille Lortel Theatre's mission is to foster both new and established artists, increase awareness and appreciation of Off-Broadway, and uphold fair and equitable business and artistic practices in service of creating a larger, more diverse community of theatre makers and audiences. The Theatre most recently produced "Dangerous Acts" in partnership with Howard University, currently streaming on All-Arts' House Seats program. This season the company also produced *Four Saints in Three Acts*, performed by David Greenspan, and co-produced Kate Berlant's sold-out one woman show *Kate*, both New York Times Critic's Picks. Its programs include NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, now in its fourth season, Fellowships in NYC Theatre at Bennington College, The Lortel Theatre Music Theatre Lab: Immigrant Experiences at The New School, Lucille Lortel Awards and Playwrights' Sidewalk, Internet Off-Broadway Database (IOBDB.com), and Non-Profit Theatre Strategic and Management Services. Under the direction of its two new Artistic Directors, Caridad Svich and Michael Heitzman, the company will be announcing more new programs in support of playwrights, composers and other theatre artists in the near future. For more information, please visit www.lortel.org.

ABOUT TDF

Founded in 1968, TDF (formerly known as Theatre Development Fund) is a not-for-profit service organization dedicated to bringing the power of the performing arts to everyone. TDF's mission is to sustain live theatre and dance by engaging a broad and diverse audience and eliminating barriers to attendance. We fulfill our mission with a variety of programs that expand access, cultivate communities, and support the makers of the performing arts. We are known for our theatregoing programs, including the TKTS by TDF Discount Booths and TDF Membership program; Accessibility programs (including open captioning, audio description, Autism Friendly Performances and the Veterans Theatregoing Program), Education & Community Engagement programs (serving more than 12,000 New York City students annually and thousands of underserved individuals), as well as the TDF Costume Collection Rental and Research Programs. During the COVID-19 theatre shutdown, we continued to serve our constituents by creating virtual adaptations of our programs via Zoom and other streaming platforms. TDF envisions a world where the transformative experience of attending live theatre and dance is essential, relevant, accessible and inspirational. To learn more about TDF, go to tdf.org. Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @tdfnyc.

ABOUT NYU SKIRBALL

NYU Skirball, located in the heart of Greenwich Village, is one of New York City's major presenters of international work, and has been the premier venue for cultural and performing arts events in lower Manhattan since 2003. The 800-seat theater, led by **Director Jay Wegman**, provides a home for internationally renowned artists, innovators, and thinkers and presents ground-breaking events ranging from re-inventions of the classics to cutting-edge premieres, in genres ranging from dance, theater and performance arts to comedy, music and film. NYU Skirball's unique position within New York University enables it to draw on the University's intellectual riches and resources to enhance its programming with dialogues, public forums and conversations with artists, philosophers, scientists, Nobel Laureates, and journalists. nyuskirball.org.

ABOUT THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY FUND

Supporting a life in the arts

The **Entertainment Community Fund**, formerly The Actors Fund, is a national human services organization that addresses the unique needs of people who work in performing arts and entertainment with services focused on health and wellness, career and life, and housing. Since 1882, the Fund has sought to ensure stability, encourage resiliency and be a safety net for those who shape our country's cultural vibrancy. Learn more at entertainmentcommunity.org.

###