

2017 Suzi Bass Awards Winners

Atlanta, GA—November 6, 2017: The Suzi Bass Awards announced winners for the 2016-2017 Atlanta professional theatre season on Monday evening, November 6, at the Conant Performing Arts Center at Oglethorpe University, to a full house of industry artists and patrons.

The Ceremony was directed by Jaclyn Hoffman, with music direction by Michael Fauss. The evening's presenters were Robin Bloodworth, Rob Cleveland, Lala Cochran, Shelli Delgado, Enoch King, India S. Tyree, Taylor M. Dooley and Topher Payne.

The evening featured live performances from the Musicals nominated in the Outstanding Production-Musical category: *Big Fish* at Theatrical Outfit; *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre; *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre; *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre; and *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre.

Six special awards were announced at the ceremony.

The 2017 Gene Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award, given to Topher Payne for his play, *Greetings Friends, Your Kind Assistance is Required*, produced by Georgia Ensemble Theatre

The 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to **Bob and Anita Farley**, Founders and Artistic and Managing Directors of Georgia Ensemble Theatre

The 2017 Spirit of Suzi Award, which recognizes a person or an organization who is dedicated to the betterment of the arts and the artistic community, as Suzi was. This award was given to Lois Reitzes, for her constant support of theatre, and arts across all disciplines, in Atlanta and the metro area

The 2017 Callboard Award, which recognizes work by theatre professionals in production areas not included in the categories of the Suzi Performance Awards such as stage managers, technicians, front of house and patron staff, or others, voted upon exclusively by Suzi members. It was awarded to Maclare (MC) Park

The 2017 Volunteer Award was given to Susan Stiefel, the rock star of theatre patrons

The 2017 Audience Choice Award for Outstanding Season was awarded to Synchronicity Theatre

About the Suzi Bass Awards

The Suzi Bass Awards were founded in 2003 by Gene-Gabriel Moore and a small group of industry professionals to celebrate outstanding work in live theatre and the artists who produce it. This season, The Suzi Bass Awards volunteer judges chose nominees and recipients in thirty performance categories. In addition, the annual Spirit of Suzi Award honors a person or organization for their long-time dedication to Atlanta theatre; the Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award recognizes Atlanta's talented local playwrights through special notice of a recently produced play; the Audience Choice Award recognizes one theatre's entire season through voting by the general public; and the Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes an individual or group with long-time volunteer contributions to a particular theatre.

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION - MUSICAL

- **WINNER: *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre**
- *Big Fish* at Theatrical Outfit
- *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre
- *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION - MUSICAL

- **WINNER: Justin Anderson for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre**
- Susan V. Booth for *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre
- Brian Clowdus for *Grease* at Serenbe Playhouse
- Heidi McKerley for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- Casey Nicholaw for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING MUSICAL DIRECTION

- **WINNER: Ann-Carol Pence for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre**
- Brandon Bush for *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre
- Mary-Mitchell Campbell for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre
- Alli Lingenfelter for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- Chika Kaba Ma'atunde for *Simply Simone* at Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHY

- **WINNER: Casey Nicholaw for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre**
- Ricardo Aponte for *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at Actor's Express
- Bubba Carr for *Grease* at Serenbe Playhouse
- Heidi McKerley & Jeff McKerley for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- Melissa Zarembo for *Smokey Joe's Cafe* at The Legacy Theatre

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/FEMALE - MUSICAL

- **WINNER: Kristin Markiton for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre**
- Kylie Brown* for *Ghost the Musical* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre
- Randi Garza* for *Grease* at Serenbe Playhouse
- Caitlin Kinnunen* for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre
- Beth Leavel* for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/MALE - MUSICAL

- **WINNER: Travis Smith* for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre**
- Brooks Ashmanskas* for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre
- Andrew Benator* for *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre
- Chase Peacock* for *Ghost the Musical* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre
- Travis Smith* for *Big Fish* at Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING FEATURED ACTOR/FEMALE - MUSICAL

- **WINNER: Julissa Sabino* for *Grease* at Serenbe Playhouse**
- Jennifer Alice Acker for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- Kandice Arrington for *Ghost the Musical* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre
- Wendy Melkonian* for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- Valerie Payton* for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre

OUTSTANDING FEATURED ACTOR/MALE - MUSICAL

- **WINNER: Don Finney* for *The Threepenny Opera* at 7 Stages**
- Rob Cleveland* for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre
- Matt Lewis for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre
- Brad Raymond* for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- Austin Tijerina* for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre

OUTSTANDING ACTING ENSEMBLE - MUSICAL

- **WINNER:** The cast of *Million Dollar Quartet* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre & Atlanta Lyric Theatre (Chase Peacock*, Allison Wilhoit, Chris Damiano*, Christopher Kent*, Justin D. Thompson, Ethan Ray Parker, Andrew Patton, Kroy Presley)
- The cast of *Church Basement Ladies* at The Legacy Theatre (Amanda Lyn Hornberger, Autumn O'Ryan, Katie Patterson, Nikki Savitt, Jeremy Skidmore)
- The cast of *Company* at Actor's Express (Lowrey Brown*, Rhyn Saver*, Daniel Burns, Jimmica Collins, Laura Floyd, Dan Ford, Jill Hames, Steve Hudson, Phillip Lynch, Kelly Chapin Martin, Jessica Miesel, Emily Stembridge, Craig Waldrip, Libby Whittemore)
- The cast of *Smokey Joe's Cafe* at The Legacy Theatre (Nick Abbott, Amanda Bridgette, Brian L. Boyd, Meg Dickens, Jordan Ellis, Rakeem Lawrence, Allie Richardson, Hillary Scales-Lewis, Christopher "CJ" Williams)

OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN - MUSICAL

- **WINNER:** DeeDee Chmielewski for *The Threepenny Opera* at 7 Stages
- Lex Liang for *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre
- Brandon McWilliams for *Grease* at Serenbe Playhouse
- Linda Patterson for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre
- Ann Roth & Matthew Pachtman for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN - MUSICAL

- **WINNER:** Kevin Frazier for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre
- Bradley Bergeron for *Grease* at Serenbe Playhouse
- Kenneth Posner for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre
- Bryan Rosengrant for *Ghost the Musical* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre
- Ken Yunker for *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN - MUSICAL

- **WINNER:** Todd Rosenthal for *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre
- Kat Conley for *Courtenay's Cabaret: Home for the Holidays* at the Alliance Theatre
- Isabel Curley-Clay & Moriah Curley-Clay for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- Scott Pask for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre
- Julie Allardice Ray for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN - MUSICAL

- **WINNER:** Daniel Pope for *The Bridges of Madison County* at Aurora Theatre
- Clay Benning for *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre
- Rob Brooksher for *Nobody Loves You* at Horizon Theatre
- Preston Goodson for *Ghost the Musical* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre
- Peter Hylenski for *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre
- John McKenzie for *Million Dollar Quartet* at Georgia Ensemble Theatre & Atlanta Lyric Theatre

OUTSTANDING WORLD PREMIERE

- **WINNER:** *Singles in Agriculture* at Aurora Theatre
- *The Prom* at the Alliance Theatre
- *Strait of Gibraltar* at Synchronicity Theatre
- *Too Heavy for Your Pocket* at the Alliance Theatre
- *Troubadour* at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION - PLAY

- **WINNER: *The Crucible* at Actor's Express**
- *Eclipsed* at Synchronicity Theatre
- *King Henry VI Parts 1, 2, & 3* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company
- *Singles in Agriculture* at Aurora Theatre
- *Ugly Lies the Bone* at the Alliance Theatre

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION - PLAY

- **WINNER: Tinashe Kajese-Bolden for *Eclipsed* at Synchronicity Theatre**
- Justin Anderson for *Singles in Agriculture* at Aurora Theatre
- Freddie Ashley for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express
- Jessica Holt for *Ugly Lies the Bone* at the Alliance Theatre
- Jeff Watkins for *King Henry VI Parts 1, 2, & 3* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/FEMALE - PLAY

- **WINNER: Christina Leidel for *The Miracle Worker* at Gypsy Theatre Company**
- Cynthia D. Barker* for *The Mountaintop* at Aurora Theatre
- Lauren Lane for *Singles in Agriculture* at Aurora Theatre
- Julie Jesneck* for *Ugly Lies the Bone* at the Alliance Theatre
- Brooke Owens for *Anne Boleyn* at Synchronicity Theatre
- Courtney Patterson* for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR/MALE - PLAY

- **WINNER: Jonathan Horne* for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express**
- Jeremy Aggers for *Singles in Agriculture* at Aurora Theatre
- Neal A. Ghant* for *The Mountaintop* at Aurora Theatre
- Brian Kurlander* for *How To Use A Knife* at Horizon Theatre
- Geoffrey D. Williams* for *Thurgood* at Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING FEATURED ACTOR/FEMALE - PLAY

- **WINNER: Shelli Delgado for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express**
- Ellen McQueen* for *The Tragedy of King Richard III* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company
- Wendy Melkonian* for *Ugly Lies the Bone* at the Alliance Theatre
- Falashay Pearson for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express
- Vallea E. Woodbury for *Singles in Agriculture* at Aurora Theatre

OUTSTANDING FEATURED ACTOR/MALE - PLAY

- **WINNER: Jeff McKerley* for *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at Actor's Express**
- Adeoye* for *Moby Dick* at the Alliance Theatre
- Bryan Davis for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express
- Lee Osorio* for *Ugly Lies the Bone* at the Alliance Theatre
- Tamil Periasamy for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express
- Drew Reeves* for *King Henry VI Parts 1, 2 & 3* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company

OUTSTANDING ACTING ENSEMBLE – PLAY

- **WINNER: The cast of *Eclipsed* at Synchronicity Theatre (Asha Duniani*, Charity Purvis Jordan, Shayla Love*, Parris Sarter, Isake Akanke*)**
- The cast of *The Canterbury Tales* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company (Laura Cole*, Nicholas Faircloth, Rivka Levin*, Drew Reeves*, Adam King, Enoch King*, Amanda Lindsey, Kirstin Calvert)
- The cast of *The Comedy of Errors* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company (Chris Hecke, Steve Hudson, Gina Rickicki, Andrew Houchins*, J.L. Reed, Enoch King*, Matt Felten, Jennifer Lamort, India Tyree, Matt Nitchie*, Amanda Lindsey, Dani Herd)
- The cast of *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)* at Actor's Express (Seun Soyemi, Damian Lockhart, Meagan Dilworth, Jason-Jamal Ligon, Rob Cleveland*, Evan Cleaver*, Brittany Inge, Marcus Hopkins-Turner, Richard McDonald, Bryan Davis)
- The cast of *Too Heavy for Your Pocket* at the Alliance Theatre (Rob Demery, Eboni Flowers*, Markita Prescott*, Stephen Ruffin)

OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN - PLAY

- **WINNER: Nyrobi Moss for *Eclipsed* at Synchronicity Theatre**
- Deyah Brenner for *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at Actor's Express
- Anné Carole Butler for *King Henry VI Parts 1, 2, & 3* at Atlanta Shakespeare Company
- Abby Parker for *Anne Boleyn* at Synchronicity Theatre
- Erik Teague for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN - PLAY

- **WINNER: William C. Kirkham for *Moby Dick* at the Alliance Theatre**
- Liz Lee for *Ugly Lies the Bone* at the Alliance Theatre
- Joseph P. Monaghan III for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express
- Mary Parker for *Constellations* at Horizon Theatre
- Kathy A. Perkins for *Eclipsed* at Synchronicity Theatre

OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN - PLAY

- **WINNER: Isabel Curley-Clay & Moriah Curley-Clay for *Eclipsed* at Synchronicity Theatre**
- Isabel Curley-Clay & Moriah Curley-Clay for *Appropriate* at Actor's Express
- Isabel Curley-Clay & Moriah Curley-Clay for *Freed Spirits* at Horizon Theatre
- Isabel Curley-Clay & Moriah Curley-Clay for *How to Use a Knife* at Horizon Theatre
- Leslie Taylor for *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at Actor's Express

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN - PLAY

- **WINNER: Preston Goodson for *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at Actor's Express**
- Chika Kaba Ma'atunde for *Simply Simone* at Theatrical Outfit
- Kate Marvin for *Ugly Lies the Bone* at the Alliance Theatre
- Kay Richardson for *Eclipsed* at Synchronicity Theatre
- Ed Thrower for *The Crucible* at Actor's Express

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION - TYA

- **WINNER: *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* at Aurora Theatre**
- *Cinderella and Fella* at the Alliance Theatre
- *From Head to Toe* at the Alliance Theatre
- *Old MacDonald's Farm* at Center for Puppetry Arts

OUTSTANDING NEW WORK - TYA

- **WINNER: *From Head to Toe* at the Alliance Theatre**
- *Cinderella and Fella* at the Alliance Theatre
- *The Dancing Granny* at the Alliance Theatre
- *The Dancing Handkerchief* at Theatrical Outfit

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION - TYA

- **WINNER: *Old MacDonald's Farm* at Center for Puppetry Arts: Amy Sweeney, Director; Dolph Amick, Music Director**
- *Cinderella and Fella* at the Alliance Theatre: Rosemary Newcott, Director; S. Renee Clark, Music Director
- *From Head to Toe* at the Alliance Theatre: Rosemary Newcott, Director
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* at Aurora Theatre: Justin Anderson, Director; Ann-Carol Pence, Music Director

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE/ENSEMBLE - TYA

- **WINNER: The cast of *Old MacDonald's Farm* at Center for Puppetry Arts: Seth Langer, Amy Sweeney**
- The cast of *Cinderella and Fella* at the Alliance Theatre: Terry Burrell, S. Renee Clark, Courtenay Collins, Molly Coyne, Scott E. DePoy, Jeremiah Parker Hobbs, India S. Tyree, Brian Walker
- Chris Hecke for *The One and Only Ivan* at Synchronicity Theatre
- The cast of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* at Aurora Theatre: Jenise Cook, Elliott Felds, Juan Carlos Unzueta, Amber Hamilton, Candice Mclellan, Bryan Montemayor

OUTSTANDING DESIGN - TYA

- **WINNER: The design team of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* at Aurora Theatre: Isabel Curley-Clay & Moriah Curley-Clay, Scenic and Costume Design; Andre C. Allen, Lighting Design; Thom Jenkins, Sound Design**
- The design team of *Cinderella and Fella* at the Alliance Theatre: Kat Conley, Scenic Design; Sydney Roberts, Costume Design; Jake DeGroot, Lighting Design; Clay Benning, Sound Design
- The design team of *Cinderella Della Circus* at Center for Puppetry Arts: Jason Hines, Puppet Design; Rochelle Shinn, Scenic Design; Liz Lee, Lighting Design; Mimi Epstein and Gregory Montague, Sound Design
- The design team of *Old MacDonald's Farm* at Center for Puppetry Arts: Jason Hines, Puppet Design; Ryan Sbaratta, Scenic Design; Carole D'Agostino, Costume Design; Gregory Montague, Lighting Design; Dolph Amick, Sound Design
- The design team of *Robin Hood* at Serenbe Playhouse: Scott Sargent, Scenic Design; DeeDee Chmielewski, Costume Design; Stephanie Polhemus, Properties Design

###