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Theatre Nova Scotia announces nominations for the annual Robert Merritt Awards!

Throughout 2014, audiences across the province were treated to 50 theatre productions.



Halifax: The Theatre Nova Scotia annual Merritt Awards celebrate excellence in Nova Scotia professional theatre over the past year. Nominations were announced today in 14 categories. Winners will be revealed at the Robert Merritt Awards gala on **Monday, March 23rd, 2015 at 7pm** at Casino Nova Scotia's Schooner Room.

Theatre Nova Scotia is proud to promote the talents and creativity of the companies and individual theatre practitioners working in this province. From original works to classical repertoire, there is a vibrant theatre community in Nova Scotia.

Throughout 2014, audiences enjoyed such shows as *Our Eliza* (Ships Company Theatre), *Cradle and All* (Eastern Front Theatre & Neptune Theatre), *The Melville Boys* (Chester Playhouse), *His Greatness* (KAZAN CO-OP), *The Motor Trade* (Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre), *The Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare by the Sea), *Chess with the Doomsday Machine* (Onelight Theatre) and *In The Telling* (Vile Passeist Theatre) to name only a small portion of the productions by our professional company members. Nova Scotians attended shows by The Doppler Effect, Halifax Theatre for Young People, Up The Hill Productions, Halifax, Two Planks and a Passion Theatre, Canning, Valley Summer Theatre, Wolfville and many more.

Hosted by Joanne Miller and Karen Bassett and produced by Jeremy Webb, the Merritt Awards event is a night of celebration! In addition to the nominees announced today, Theatre Nova Scotia will present the Outstanding Technician/Stage Manager, Volunteer, and Legacy, as well as the Mayor's Awards for Achievement in Theatre and Emerging Artist.

Tickets are open to the public. Call: Theatre Nova Scotia: 902 425 3876 or via the link above, www.theatrens.ca

Price: \$25 each or \$200 for a table of ten

For Further Information contact: Nancy Morgan, Executive Director, Theatre Nova Scotia 902 425 3876, nmorgan@theatrens.ca

<http://www.theatrens.ca/robert-merritt-awards/>

The Merritt Awards are supported by ACTRA Maritimes, Atlantic Presenters Association, Atlantic Talent Agency, Canadian Actors' Equity Association, Casino Nova Scotia, The Cassidy Group, The Coast, Filmworks, Halifax Regional Municipality, Hennessey Casting, IATSE 680, Lyle Tilley Davidson CA, Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre, Playwrights Canada Press, Performing Arts Lodge, Sky Talent.

Theatre Nova Scotia is supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage.



Theatre Nova Scotia's Robert Merritt Award Nominations 2015

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role (female)

Name	Character	Show	Company
Genevieve Steele	<i>Vanda</i>	<i>Venus In Fur</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Francine Deschepper	<i>Iraq Barrington</i>	<i>The Contribution</i>	The Doppler Effect
Jamie Konchak	<i>Joan</i>	<i>Dustbowl Joan</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Jane Spidell	<i>Gin/Lorin/Harry's Mother</i>	<i>Mending Fences</i>	Neptune Theatre
Heather McGuigan	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Neptune Theatre

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role (male)

Name	Character	Show	Company
Richard Donat	<i>The playwright</i>	<i>His Greatness</i>	KAZAN CO-OP
Hugh Thompson	<i>Wallace Stevens</i>	<i>It Is Solved By Walking</i>	HomeFirst Theatre/ White Rooster Theatre
David Rosetti	<i>Phil</i>	<i>The Motor Trade</i>	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Paul Rainville	<i>Shylock</i>	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
Kyle Blair	<i>Billy Bishop</i>	<i>Billy Bishop Goes to War</i>	Neptune Theatre



Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role (male)

Name	Character	Show	Company
Ryan Doucette	<i>The young man</i>	<i>His Greatness</i>	KAZAN CO-OP
Ryan Rogerson	<i>Harry</i>	<i>The Miracle Man</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
GaRRy Williams	<i>Old Ambrose</i>	<i>The Miracle Man</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Christian Murray	<i>Dad/Mr. Kopoloff/ Ratch</i>	<i>David for Queen</i>	Halifax Theatre for Young People
Kevin Curran	<i>Hank</i>	<i>Our Eliza</i>	Ship's Company Theatre

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role (female)

Name	Character	Show	Company
Burgandy Code	Claire Thornton	<i>The Miracle Man</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Stephanie MacDonald	<i>Louise</i>	<i>Marion Bridge</i>	Valley Summer Theatre
Mary Fay Coady	<i>Maxime Carwin (cast Omega)</i>	<i>Tribe of One</i>	The Doppler Effect
Kathryn McCormack	<i>Mama Rae</i>	<i>Cinderelly</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
Laura Caswell	<i>Bird Woman/Miss Andrew</i>	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Neptune Theatre



Outstanding Costume Design

Name	Show	Company
Jennifer Goodman	<i>The Miracle Man</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Matthew Peach	<i>The Contribution</i>	The Doppler Effect
Cathleen McCormack	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
Sean Mulcahy	<i>Into The Woods</i>	Neptune Theatre
Sean Mulcahy	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Neptune Theatre

Outstanding Direction

Name	Show	Company
Linda Moore	<i>His Greatness</i>	KAZAN CO-OP
Elizabeth Murphy	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
Ken Schwartz	<i>Dustbowl Joan</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
George Pothitos	<i>Billy Bishop Goes to War</i>	Neptune Theatre
George Pothitos	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Neptune Theatre

Outstanding Lighting Design

Name	Show	Company
Ingrid Risk	<i>His Greatness</i>	KAZAN CO-OP
Michael Mader (lighting) & Nick Bottomley (projections)	<i>Chess with the Doomsday Machine</i>	Onelight Theatre
Ingrid Risk	<i>It Is Solved By Walking</i>	HomeFirst Theatre/ White Rooster Theatre
Garrett Barker	<i>The Contribution</i>	The Doppler Effect
Garrett Barker	<i>Billy Bishop Goes to War</i>	Neptune Theatre



Outstanding Musical Direction

Name	Show	Company
Allen Cole	<i>The Miracle Man</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Amos Crawley & Ben Irvine	<i>Cinderelly</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
Chuck Homewood	<i>Into The Woods</i>	Neptune Theatre
Lisa MacDougall	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Neptune Theatre

Outstanding New Play by a Nova Scotian

Name	Show	Company
Annie Valentina	<i>Alien</i>	The Doppler Effect
Catherine Banks	<i>It Is Solved By Walking</i>	HomeFirst Theatre/White Rooster Theatre
Michael McPhee	<i>Tribe of One</i>	The Doppler Effect
Michael McPhee	<i>The Contribution</i>	The Doppler Effect
Ken Schwartz (partially adapted from various sources)	<i>Dustbowl Joan</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre

Outstanding Original Score

Name	Show	Company
Paul Cram	<i>It Is Solved By Walking</i>	HomeFirst Theatre/ White Rooster Theatre
Steven Naylor	<i>Stella, Queen of the Snow</i>	Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia
Allen Cole	<i>The Miracle Man</i>	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Amos Crawley, Johnny Eaton, Jesse MacLean, Ben Irvine	<i>Cinderelly</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
Sandy Moore	<i>By The Dark of the Moon</i>	Ship's Company Theatre



Outstanding Set Design

Name	Show	Company
Victoria Marston	<i>His Greatness</i>	KAZAN CO-OP
Sue LePage	<i>It Is Solved By Walking</i>	HomeFirst Theatre/ White Rooster Theatre
Stephen Osler	<i>By The Dark of the Moon</i>	Ship's Company Theatre
George Pothitos (Set) & Nick Bottomley (Projections)	<i>Billy Bishop Goes to War</i>	Neptune Theatre
Geoffrey Dinwiddie	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Neptune Theatre

Outstanding Sound Design

Name	Show	Company
Nick Bottomley	<i>Chess with the Doomsday Machine</i>	Onelight Theatre
Steven Naylor	<i>Stella, Queen of the Snow</i>	Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia
Joe Micallef	<i>A Christmas Story</i>	Neptune Theatre
Emily Porter	<i>Into The Woods</i>	Neptune Theatre
Emily Porter	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Neptune Theatre



Outstanding Production by a New or Emerging Company

Show	Company
<i>Talk Sexxy</i>	LAP PRO
<i>Country Song</i>	LAP PRO
<i>Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind</i>	Up the Hill Productions

Outstanding Production by an Established Company

Show	Company
<i>His Greatness</i>	KAZAN CO-OP
<i>Marion Bridge</i>	Valley Summer Theatre
<i>Tribe of One</i>	The Doppler Effect
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	Shakespeare by the Sea
<i>Billy Bishop Goes to War</i>	Neptune Theatre
<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Neptune Theatre