

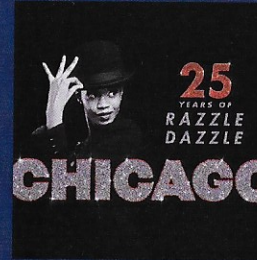


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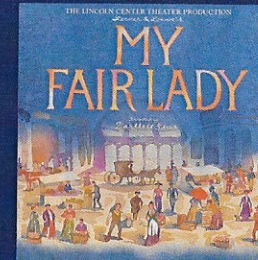
The Bushnell congratulates all Connecticut artists
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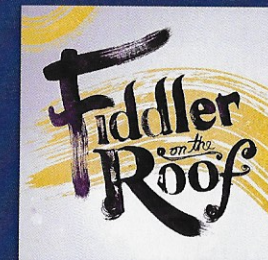
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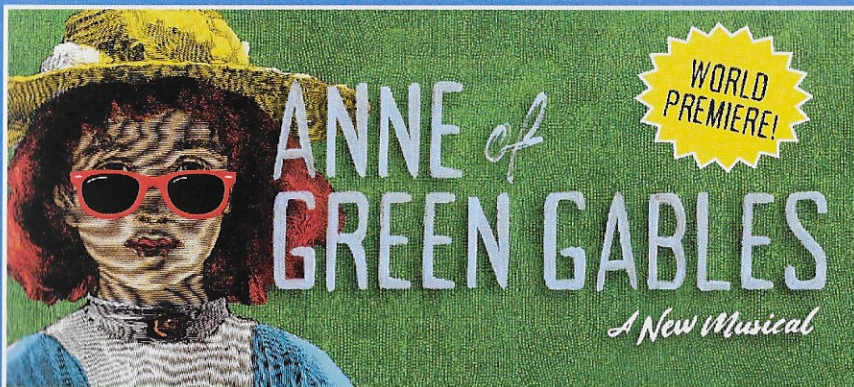
by Jessica Dickey
April 29 - May 28, 2023

CLYDE'S

by Lynn Nottage
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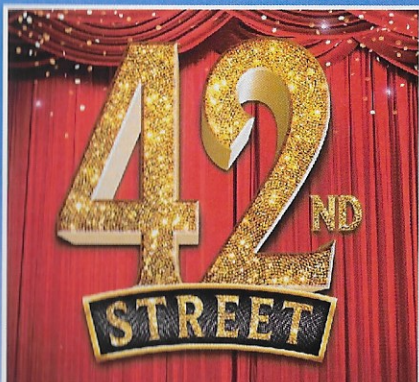


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30TH ANNUAL

CONNECTICUT CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022

KENNETH GARTMAN
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

“CORNER OF THE SKY” & “MAGIC TO DO”

FROM *PIPPIN*, PERFORMED BY THE CAST FROM THE UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF THE MUSICAL AT PLAYHOUSE ON PARK THIS JULY, ACCOMPANIED BY COLIN BRITT

“HELP IS ON THE WAY”

WRITTEN BY DAVID FRIEDMAN,
PERFORMED BY KENNETH GARTMAN

THE TOM KILLEN AWARD
presented to

KEVIN CONNORS

Kevin Connors is the Executive Artistic Director & Co-Founder of Music Theatre of Connecticut (MTC) in Norwalk, CT. Kevin has directed productions Off-Broadway and regionally. He has directed over 100 MTC Equity MainStage productions including *Next to Normal*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Cabaret*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Evita*, *Doubt*, *Master Class*, *Gypsy*, (all Connecticut Critics' Circle Award Nominations/Winners), and *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, (Moss Hart Award Winner). He is the recipient of a BroadwayWorld Award as Best Director for MTC's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Connecticut Critics' Circle Best Director winner for MTC's *Ragtime*.

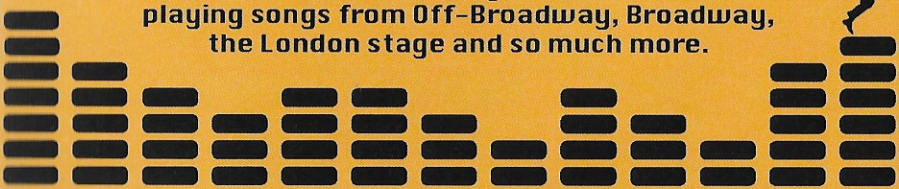
As a composer he has penned the score for numerous musicals including *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play* (both published by Playscripts, Inc.). He has served on the faculties of The Hartt School of Music/University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University, the University of Bridgeport, and Musical Theatre Works in NYC.

SOUNDS

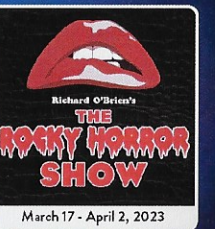
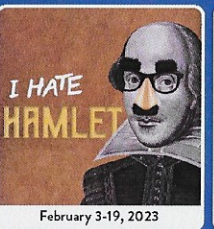
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Norwalk, CT

2021-2022 CONNECTICUT CRITICS CIRCLE NOMINEES

Outstanding Costume Design

Kara Harmon	Angry, Raucous & Shamelessly Gorgeous	Hartford Stage
Linda Cho	The Chinese Lady	Long Wharf
An-Lin Dauber	Lost in Yonkers	Hartford Stage
Harry Nadal	Zoey's Perfect Wedding	TheaterWorks Hartford
Haydee Zelideth	Dream Hou\$e	Long Wharf

Outstanding Lighting

Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew	Walden	TheaterWorks Hartford
Jiyoun Chang	The Chinese Lady	Long Wharf
Porsche McGovern	Fires in the Mirror	Long Wharf
Christopher Chamber	Nickel Mines	ACT
Cory Pattak	Next to Normal	Westport Country Playhouse

Outstanding Set Design

You-Shin Chen	Walden	TheaterWorks Hartford
Collette Pollard	Angry, Raucous & Shamelessly Gorgeous	Hartford Stage
Junghyun Georgia Lee	The Chinese Lady	Long Wharf
Stephanie Osin Cohen	Dream Hou\$e	Long Wharf
Daniel Nischan	Native Gardens	Ivoryton Playhouse

Outstanding Sound Design

Hao Bai	Walden	TheaterWorks Hartford
Fabian Obispo	The Chinese Lady	Long Wharf
Jay Hilton	A Grand Night for Singing	Goodspeed Opera House
Noel Nichols and Uptown Works	Today is My Birthday	Yale Rep

Outstanding Projections

RJ Romeo	The Mountaintop	MTC
Camilla Tassi	Fires in the Mirror	Long Wharf
Mark Holthusen	Dream Hou\$e	Long Wharf

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play

Jon Norman Schneider	The Chinese Lady	Long Wharf
Francis Jue	Today is My Birthday	Yale Rep
Jeff Skowron	Lost in Yonkers	Hartford Stage
Michael Nathanson	Lost in Yonkers	Hartford Stage
Allen Gilmore	Choir Boy	Yale Rep

Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play

Sharina Martin	Doubt	Westport Country Playhouse
Antoinette LaVecchia	Ah, Wilderness	Hartford Stage
Marsha Mason	Lost in Yonkers	Hartford Stage
Liba Vaynberg	Lost in Yonkers	Hartford Stage
Marianna McClellan	Dream Hou\$e	Long Wharf

Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical

Jessie Janet Richards	Falsettoland	MTC
Jennifer Smith	Cabaret	Goodspeed Opera House
Paloma D'Auria	Rent	ACT

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical

Jeff Gurner	Falsettoland	MTC
Daniel J. Maldonado	Next to Normal	Westport Country Playhouse
Richard E. Waits	Star of Freedom	Ivoryton Playhouse
Bruce Landry	Cabaret	Goodspeed Opera House
Gordia Hayes	Rent	ACT

Outstanding Debut

Ari Sklar	Falsettoland	MTC
Avanthika Srinivasan	Queen	Long Wharf

**Congratulations to All of the
CCC Nominees and Winners!**

2022 Is Going To Be
A Great Year For Live Theatre!



Celebrating our 32nd Season!

Outstanding Actor — Play

Eric Bryant	Doubt	Westport Country Playhouse
Tom Holcomb	This Bitter Earth	TheaterWorks Hartford
Damian Thompson	This Bitter Earth	TheaterWorks Hartford
Chaz Rose	The Mountaintop	MTC
Gabriel Lawrence	The Agitators	Playhouse on Park

Outstanding Actress — Play

Shannon Tyo	The Chinese Lady	Long Wharf
Betsy Aidem	Doubt	Westport Country Playhouse
Andrea Sygłowski	Lost in Yonkers	Hartford Stage
Stephanie Janssen	Queen	Long Wharf
Darilyn Castillo	Dream Hou\$e	Long Wharf

Outstanding Actor — Musical

Dan Sklar	Falsettoland	MTC
David Lutken	The Porch on Windy Hill	Ivoryton Playhouse
Spiff Wiegand	Buddy Holly	MTC
Avionce Hoyles	Jesus Christ Superstar	ACT
Austin Turner	Rent	ACT

Outstanding Actress — Musical

Lisa Helmi Johanson	The Porch on Windy Hill	Ivoryton Playhouse
Susan Haefner	Tenderly	MTC
Dar. Lee. See. Ah.	Next to Normal	Westport Country Playhouse
Ayla Stackhouse	Star of Freedom	Ivoryton Playhouse
Aline Mayagoitia	Cabaret	Goodspeed Opera House

Outstanding Solo Performance

Cloteal L. Horne	Fires in the Mirror	Long Wharf
Matt Densky	Fully Committed	MTC
Alaudin Ullah	Dishwasher Dreams	Hartford Stage

Outstanding Ensemble

Five Guys Named Moe	Playhouse on Park
Smokey Joe's Cafe	ACT
The Porch on Windy Hill	Ivoryton Playhouse
It's a Wonderful Life	Hartford Stage
A Grand Night for Singing	Goodspeed Opera House

Outstanding Choreography

Stephanie Pope Lofgren	Smokey Joe's Cafe	ACT
Brittany Griffin	Five Guys Named Moe	Playhouse on Park
Andrew Palermo	Nickel Mines	ACT
Amy Hall Garner	Choir Boy	Yale Rep
Lainie Sakakura	Cabaret	Goodspeed Opera House

Outstanding Director — Play

Ralph B. Pena	The Chinese Lady	Long Wharf
Marsha Mason and Rachel Alsderman	Lost in Yonkers	Hartford Stage
Laurie Woolery	Dream Hou\$e	Long Wharf
Mei Ann Teo	Walden	TheaterWorks Hartford
Mark Lamos	Straight White Men	Westport Country Playhouse

Outstanding Director — Musical

Brittany Griffin	Five Guys Named Moe	Playhouse on Park
Kevin Connors	Falsetto	MTC
Marcos Santana	Next to Normal	Westport Country Playhouse
Sherry Lutken	The Porch on Windy Hill	Ivoryton Playhouse

Outstanding Production — Play

The Chinese Lady	Long Wharf
Doubt	Westport Country Playhouse
Walden	TheaterWorks
Lost in Yonkers	Hartford Stage
The Agitators	Playhouse on Park

Outstanding Production — Musical

Smokey Joe's Cafe	ACT
Five Guys Named Moe	Playhouse on Park
Falsettoland	MTC
Next to Normal	Westport Country Playhouse



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Kenneth Gartman is a New York City and Connecticut based Singer, Pianist, Vocal Coach, Music Director, Director and Producer. He has toured with the Broadway national tour of "The Music Man," internationally on the Live BBC Broadcast of "Simply Sondheim," and throughout Ireland in "A New York Songbook: Way Off Broadway." Kenneth has appeared as both a singer and a pianist in the country's finest concert halls. He released his debut solo album "We Need a Little Christmas" in 2020. KennethGartman.com

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

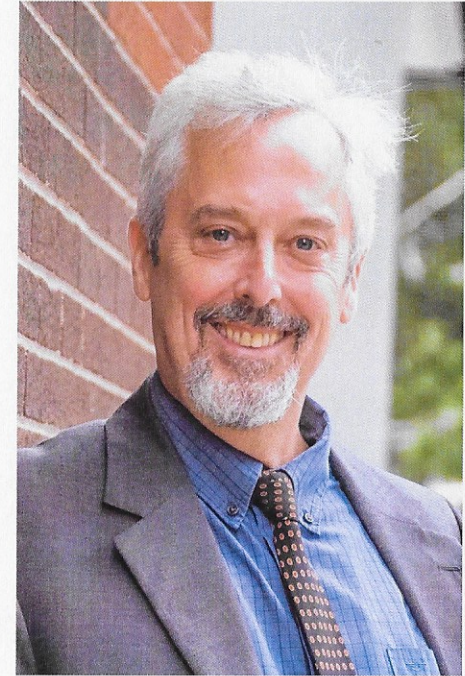


Malakhi RL Eason II serves as Director of Programming and Community Impact, where he is responsible for the artistic vision of the Festival and the interplay between programming and the community at large, including educational programs. In his first year and a half tenure at IFAI, Eason spearheaded the programming of the first-ever hybrid Festival on the New Haven Green and the expansion of community engagement and artistic programming beyond June to year-round. In addition to recently co-leading sessions with Quiala at Michigan's Presenters Network and APAP delegates on "Curating with Consciousness," Eason is a sought-after international speaker and has been invited to represent IFAI at global convenings on the arts in Tel Aviv, Havana, Toronto, and Montreal.

Originally from Boston, Eason brings more than 15 years of arts administration experience to IFAI. Eason was most recently Programming Manager at Omaha Performing Arts. He curated the expansive Jazz on the Green Series, ranging from intimate cabaret performances to outdoor concerts featuring artists like Ladama, Big Sam's Funky Nation, Kim Waters, Sammy Miller, the Congregation, and Marcos y Sabor. Eason was formerly a background singer touring artists while living in Los Angeles, CA.

A graduate of the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport, CT, Eason earned a Master of Arts in Leadership from Grace University and is working on a Doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University; Eason has also served in many positions that convey his passion for service and youth mentorship; he encourages young people to find their passions. Eason is an active member of numerous organizations, including the Lincoln, NE, Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc; Lambda Pi Eta (National Honors Society); and the NAACP.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



Michael Preston lived for many years in New York and was a member of the Shaliko Company, founded by Leonardo Shapiro. He also worked with such artists as John Sayles, Richard Elovich, David Cale, Wynn Handman and Theodora Skipitares. From 1991 until 2000, he toured the world as one of the Flying Karamazov Brothers, which included three different runs on Broadway. With them he collaborated on and performed 9 different shows, ranging from the post-modern tragedy *Le Petomane*, to an update of *Room Service* (winner of an L.A. critic's award in 1998). They were nominated for an Olivier award in London for best Comedy in 1994. He directed their latest show, *Life: A Guide for the Perplexed*, which is now touring the country.

For 10 years, Preston has been a regular at Hartford Stage, first as Mr. Marvel in their annual holiday production of *A Christmas Carol*, before taking over the role of Ebenezer Scrooge. Last year and this year, for the theater's holiday show, *It's a Wonderful Life*, he has played another miser, Henry Potter.

Since 2004 he has been sharing a teaching position at Trinity College with his wife, Barbara Karger.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you for attending this year's Connecticut Critics Circle Award Ceremony. I would like to thank all the fervent fans of the arts that have continued to support our cause to applaud and improve the rich culture of theatre in our community.

I would like to thank a number of people that were instrumental in making tonight happen:

From Long Wharf Theater:

**NICOLE BOUCLIER
NICOLE MARKOS**

MEMBERS OF THE LONG WHARF STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of the Connecticut Critics Circle I would like to thank:




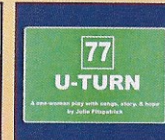


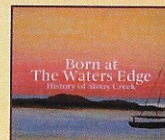




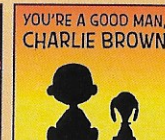
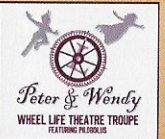


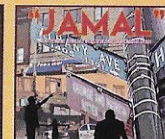
**KAREN ISAACS
TARA KENNEDY
TIM LEININGER
ZANDER OPPER
EMILY PERRON
FRANK RIZZO
NANCY SASSO JANIS**

And on behalf of the ceremony's attendees and future audiences alike, I would like to thank those who donated to the night's celebration in support of the Connecticut Critics Circle's cause.

Stuart Brown
PRESIDENT
CONNECTICUT CRITICS CIRCLE

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 <p>HAPPINESS IS A WARM BLANKET, CHARLIE BROWN August 7</p>	 <p>MY UNAUTHORIZED HALLMARK MOVIE MUSICAL August 11-13</p>	 <p>BROADWAY'S KATHRYN ALLISON August 14</p>	 <p>YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN August 18-September 3</p>
 <p>PETER & WENDY WHEEL LIFE THEATRE TROUPE August 21</p>	 <p>BROADWAY'S KATIE ROSE CLARKE August 28</p>	 <p>BROADWAY'S ERIC ANTHONY LOPEZ September 4</p>	 <p>JAMAL September 9-10</p>

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DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY DARLENE ZOLLER
MUSIC DIRECTION BY COLIN BRITT**

July 6 – August 21, 2022

Heir to the Frankish throne, the young prince Pippin is in search of the secret to true happiness and fulfillment. He seeks it in the glories of the battlefield, the temptations of the flesh and the intrigues of political power (after disposing of his father, King Charlemagne the Great). In the end, though, Pippin finds that happiness lies not in extraordinary endeavors, but rather in the unextraordinary moments that happen every day.

ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT CRITICS CIRCLE

OUR HISTORY

The Connecticut Critics Circle, founded in 1990, is a statewide organization of reviewers, feature writers, columnists and broadcasters. Its members represent newspapers, newspaper chains, magazines, radio programs, websites, and other media outlets, reaching audiences throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York.

OUR PURPOSE

The CCC Awards Program was instituted to honor the actors, directors, designers and others who make professional theater in Connecticut so outstanding. The evening is the one time of the year when artists from Connecticut theaters, as well as audiences, can gather to celebrate the varied theatrical productions from around the state.

OUR WEBSITE

The organization's website, www.ctcritics.org, provides information on Connecticut theater as well as reviews of current theatrical productions.

THE TOM KILLEN AWARD

The establishment of the Tom Killen Award, bestowed upon those how have made extraordinary contributions to Connecticut's professional theater, coincided with the birth of the Connecticut Critics Circle Awards. It is a tangible way for us, his colleagues, to honor the fine young man and critic who died at the age of 33 in 1989. The Tom Killen Award is given in recognition of years of achievement and service to Connecticut theater.

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 Marc Deaton, Artistic Director

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Stephen Schwartz


Pippin

Marc Deaton
Stage Director

Nathaniel Baker
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Sarah Kennedy
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Members of the Connecticut Critics Circle

Brooks Appelbaum, Irene Backalenick, Donald Brown, Stuart J. Brown, Dolly Curtis, Howard Steven Frydman, Marlene S. Gaylinn, Bonnie K. Goldberg, Susan S. Granger, Tom Holehan, Karen Isaacs, Nancy Sasso Janis, Tim Leninger, Stephanie C. Lyons-Keeley, Wayne J. Keeley, Thomas W. Nissley, Zander Oppen, Bessy Reyna, Frank Rizzo, and James V. Ruocco.

A special thanks to Long Wharf Theatre for hosting this event.

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For over thirty years, the Connecticut Critics Circle Awards has celebrated outstanding productions from professional theaters in the state. If you would like to help support this annual event, please consider making a donation.

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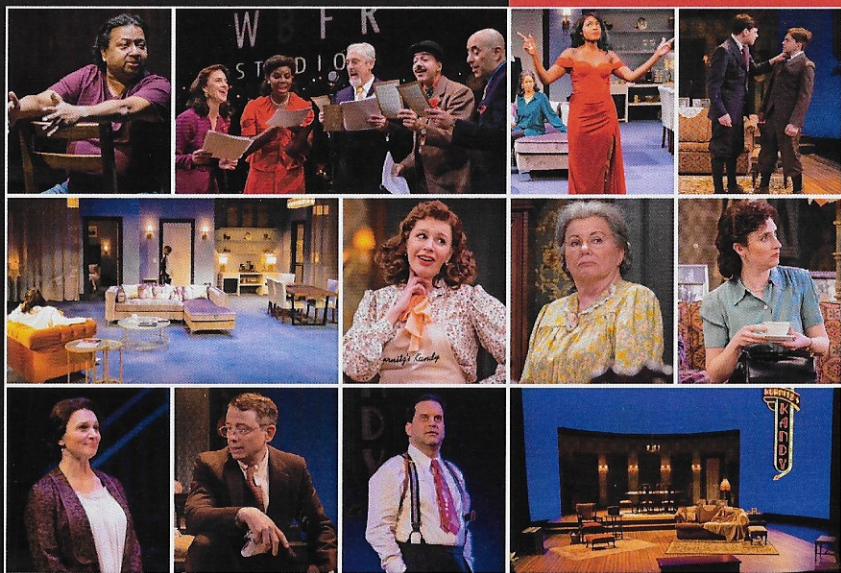


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at Hartford Stage
this season!



TOP ROW: Alaudin Ullah in *Dishwasher Dreams*; The cast of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*; Terry Burrell and Shakirah DeMesier in *Angry, Raucous & Shamelessly Gorgeous* (Costume Design by Kara Harmon); Hayden Bercy and Gabriel Amoroso in *Lost in Yonkers* (Costume Design by An-Lin Dauber); **SECOND ROW:** Terry Burrell and Marva Hicks in *Angry, Raucous & Shamelessly Gorgeous* (Scenic Design by Collette Pollard); Andrea Syglowski in *Lost in Yonkers*; Marsha Mason in *Lost in Yonkers*; Liba Vaynberg in *Lost in Yonkers*; **THIRD ROW:** Antoinette LaVecchia in *Ah, Wilderness!*; Jeff Skowron in *Lost in Yonkers*; Michael Nathanson in *Lost in Yonkers*; *Lost in Yonkers* (Directed by Marsha Mason and Rachel Alderman). Photos by T. Charles Erickson.