

**CONNECTICUT
CRITICS CIRCLE
AWARDS**

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

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31ST ANNUAL

CONNECTICUT CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

PRESENTERS

JACQUES LAMARRE *PLAYWRIGHT*

MEGAN MONAGHAN RIVAS *ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, CT REP.*

GODFREY L. SIMMONS, JR. *ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
HARTBEAT ENSEMBLE*

SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

A MEDLEY OF

“AIN’T WE PROUD” & “LOVE WILL COME AND FIND ME AGAIN”

FROM *BANDSTAND*, PERFORMED BY BENJAMIN NURTHURN,
KATIE LUKE, AND ALAN MENDEZ

UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF THE MUSICAL
AT PLAYHOUSE ON PARK, THIS JULY

SPECIAL AWARD
presented to

MARK LAMOS

for a long and distinguished artistic career

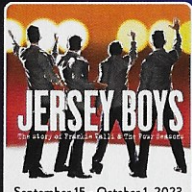
THE TOM KILLEN AWARD
presented to

WILLIAM BERLONI

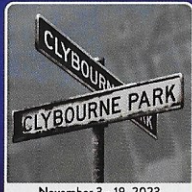
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MUSIC THEATRE OF CONNECTICUT

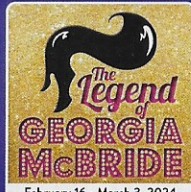
MTC MAINSTAGE 2023/2024 SEASON



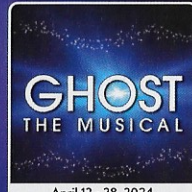
September 15 - October 1, 2023



November 3 - 19, 2023



February 16 - March 3, 2024



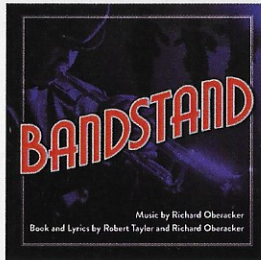
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PLAYHOUSE
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2022-2023 CONNECTICUT CRITICS CIRCLE NOMINEES

Outstanding Costume Design

Kara Harmon	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Leslie Bernstein	The Secret Garden	A Contemporary Theatre of Connecticut (ACT)
Clint Ramos	Kiss My Aztec!	Hartford Stage
Eduardo Sicangco	Gypsy	Goodspeed Musicals
Fabian Fidel Aguilar	The Mousetrap	Hartford Stage

Outstanding Lighting

Jiahao Qiu	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	Yale Repertory Theatre
Krista Smith	The Mousetrap	Hartford Stage
Cory Pattak	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Joe Beumer	Indecent	Playhouse on Park
Charlie Morrison	The Secret Garden	ACT

Outstanding Scenic Design

Riw Rakkulchon	The Mousetrap	Hartford Stage
You-Shin Chen	Kim's Convenience	Westport Country Playhouse
Michael Carnahan	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Clint Ramos	Kiss My Aztec!	Hartford Stage
Miguel Urbino	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	Yale Repertory Theatre

Outstanding Sound Design

Jay Hilton	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Jessica Paz and Beth Lake	Kiss My Aztec!	Hartford Stage
Evdoxia Ragkou	the Ripple, the wave that carried me home	Yale Repertory Theatre
Jeffrey Salerno	Indecent	Playhouse on Park
Daniela Hart and Uptownworks	Espejos: Clean	Hartford Stage

Outstanding Projections

Shawn Daun	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Henry Rodriguez	the Ripple, the wave that carried me home	Yale Repertory Theatre
Lisa Renkel	Espejos: Clean	Hartford Stage
Camilla Tassi	The Secret Garden	ACT
Camilla Tassi	Fun Home	TheaterWorks Hartford

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play

Ephraim Birney	The Rembrandt	TheaterWorks Hartford
Sabatino Cruz	On Golden Pond	Ivoryton Playhouse
John Bamberg	Trouble in Mind	Hartford Stage
John Maddaloni	The Winter's Tale	Hartford Stage
Sam Given	The Legend of Georgia McBride	Ivoryton Playhouse

Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play

Pearl Rhein	The Winter's Tale	Hartford Stage
Adrienne S. Wells	the Ripple, the wave that carried me home	Yale Repertory Theatre
Alma Martinez	Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles	Yale Repertory Theatre
Silvia Dionicio	Queen of Basel	TheaterWorks Hartford
Monica Sanchez	Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles	Yale Repertory Theatre

Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical

Kate Baldwin	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Kate Wesler	Pippin	Playhouse on Park
Skylar Lynn Matthews	Fun Home	TheaterWorks Hartford
Julia Nightingale	Fun Home	TheaterWorks Hartford
Laura Woyasz	The Secret Garden	ACT

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical

DJ Plunkett	The Secret Garden	ACT
Blake Stadnik	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Matt Saldivar	Kiss My Aztec!	Hartford Stage
Pierre Marais	Anne of Green Gables	Goodspeed Musicals
Matt Faucher	The Secret Garden	ACT

SPECIAL AWARD FOR A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED ARTISTIC CAREER

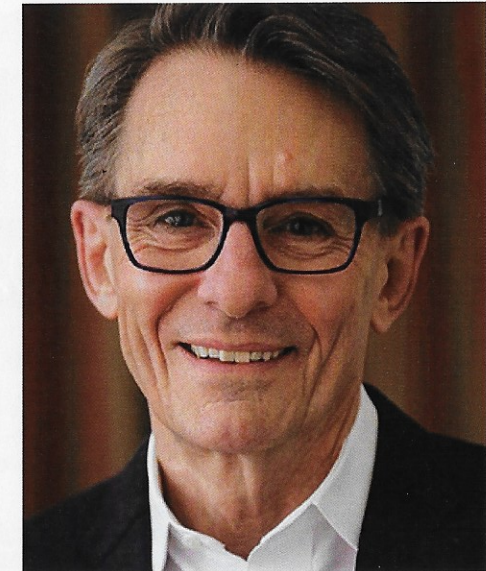
MARK LAMOS

Mark Lamos has been Westport Country Playhouse artistic director since February 2009, earning five Connecticut Critics Circle Awards for his direction of Playhouse productions. During his tenure, the Playhouse was named "Theater Company of the Year" by The Wall Street Journal in 2013.

During Lamos' 16 seasons as artistic director at Hartford Stage, the theater received the 1989 Regional Theater Tony Award for its body of work. He has also directed at major regional theaters across the country and was the first American to direct a company in the former Soviet Union ("Desire Under the Elms" at Moscow's Pushkin Theatre).

Lamos' Broadway credits include "Our Country's Good" (Tony nomination), "The Rivals," "Cymbeline," "Seascape" (Tony nomination, best revival) for Lincoln Center Theater, "The Deep Blue Sea," and "The Gershwins' Fascinating Rhythm."

He was awarded the Connecticut Medal for the Arts as well as honorary doctorates from Connecticut College, Trinity College, and the University of Hartford, and was the recipient of the John Houseman Award.





2023 SEASON
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

<p>THE SOUND OF MUSIC Music by Richard Rodgers Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse Featuring Adrienne Hick, David Pittsinger and Patricia Schuman and Directed by Jacqueline Hubbard JUNE 29 – JULY 30, 2023</p>	<p>THE COLOR PURPLE Book by Marsha Norman Music & Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 22, 2023</p>
<p>JERSEY BOYS Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Ellice Music by Bob Gaudio Lyrics by Bob Crewe AUGUST 10 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2023</p>	<p>MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET CHRISTMAS Book by Colin Escott NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 17, 2023</p>

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2022-2023 CONNECTICUT CRITICS CIRCLE NOMINEES

Outstanding Lead Actor — Play

David Shih	Kim's Convenience	Westport Country Playhouse
Jamil A.C. Mangan	Fences	Playhouse on Park
Dan Donohue	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	Yale Repertory Theatre
James Naughton	On Golden Pond	Ivoryton Playhouse

Outstanding Lead Actress — Play

Mia Dillon	4000 Miles	Westport Country Playhouse
René Augesen	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	Yale Repertory Theatre
Camila Moreno	Mojada: A Madea in Los Angeles	Yale Repertory Theatre
Heather Alicia Simms	Trouble in Mind	Hartford Stage
Emma Ramos	Espejos: Clean	Hartford Stage

Outstanding Lead Actor — Musical

David M. Lutken	Ring of Fire	Ivoryton Playhouse
Brian Golub	The Secret Garden	ACT
Aaron Lazar	Fun Home	TheaterWorks Hartford
Matt Faucher	Guys and Dolls	ACT
Joel Perez	Kiss My Aztec!	Hartford Stage

Outstanding Lead Actress — Musical

Juliette Redden	Anne of Green Gables	Goodspeed Musicals
Charlotte Ewing	The Secret Garden	ACT
Elizabeth Ward Land	Sunset Boulevard	Music Theater of Connecticut
Krystina Alabado	Kiss My Aztec!	Hartford Stage
Carina-Kay Louchiey	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals

THE TOM KILLEN AWARD

WILLIAM BERLONI

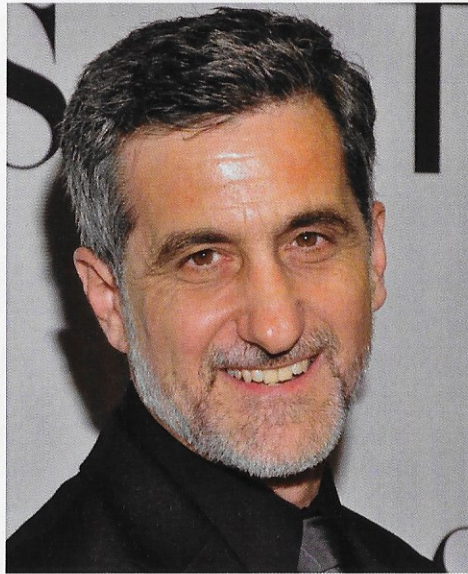
William Berloni's career began at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam. Producer Martin Charnin offered him a chance to act professionally and gain his Equity Card. In return, all Berloni had to do was find and train a dog to play Sandy in the original production of "Annie."

Through a combination of persistence, patience and trial-and-error, he developed his revolutionary humane training techniques—learning how to teach the actor and animal alike to create a successful performance.

Since then, Berloni has provided animals, found in shelters, humane societies or rescue leagues, for Broadway, Off-Broadway, national tours, regional theaters, special events, the New York City Ballet, motion pictures, television and commercials.

Berloni is widely recognized as an expert in animal behavior, as well as for his dedication to rescue work. In addition to his work as a trainer, he is currently behavior consultant to the Humane Society of New York.

He was presented with the Tony Honors for Excellence in Theatre during the 65th Tony Awards.



Outstanding Ensemble

Hysterical!	Thrown Stone
Smokey Joe's Cafe	Ivoryton Playhouse
Ain't Misbehavin	Westport Country Playhouse
Indecent	Playhouse on Park

Outstanding Choreography

Mayte Natalio	Kiss My Aztec!	Hartford Stage
Randy Skinner	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Marjorie Failoni	Christmas in Connecticut	Goodspeed Musicals
Sara Brians	Guys and Dolls ACT	ACT
Darlene Zoller	Pippin	Playhouse on Park

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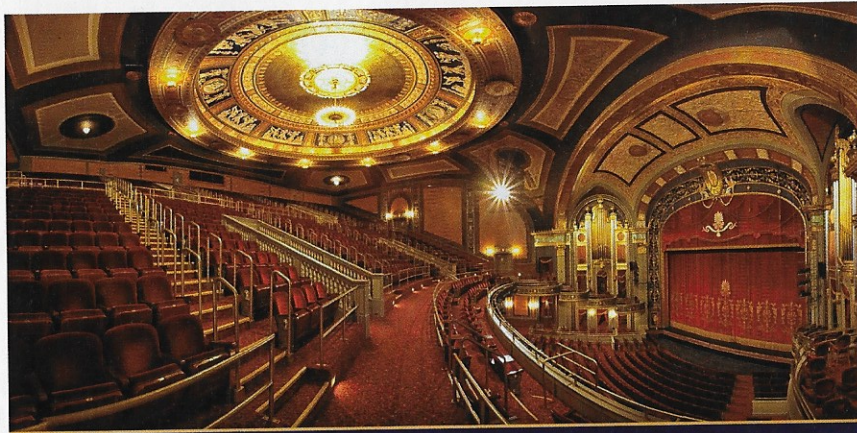
Our Upcoming Events

MR. BURNS
A post-electric play • July 14-29
This comedy imagines an America of the future where the only thing we have in common is "The Simpsons"

Twelfth Night • Sept. 8-23
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Tru • Oct. 6-8
Truman Capote's loneliest Christmas
How I Learned What I Learned • Oct. 13-15
August Wilson's famous autobiographical play
Misterman • Oct. 20-22
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APR 26 - 28, 2024	MAY 18 - 19, 2024	JUNE 4 - 6, 2024	



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Outstanding Director — Play

Kelly O'Donnell	Indecent	Playhouse on Park
Laurie Woolery	Mojada: A Madea in Los Angeles	Yale Repertory Theatre
James Bundy	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	Yale Repertory Theatre
Melia Bensussen	The Winter's Tale	Hartford Stage

Outstanding Director — Musical

Jenn Thompson	Gypsy	Goodspeed Musicals
Randy Sinner	42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
Jenn Thompson	Anne of Green Gables	Goodspeed Musicals
Daniel C. Levine	The Secret Garden	ACT
Rob Ruggiero	Fun Home	TheaterWorks Hartford

Outstanding Production — Play

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	Yale Repertory Theatre
Mojada: A Madea in Los Angeles	Yale Repertory Theatre
Trouble in Mind	Hartford Stage
Indecent	Playhouse on Park
The Winter's Tale	Hartford Stage

Outstanding Production — Musical

42 nd Street	Goodspeed Musicals
The Secret Garden	ACT
Kiss My Aztec!	Hartford Stage
Gypsy	Goodspeed Musicals
Fun Home	TheaterWorks Hartford

MEGAN MONAGHAN RIVAS

ARTISITIC DIRECTOR,
CONNECTICUT REPERTORY THEATER

Megan Monaghan Rivas is the Artistic Director of Connecticut Repertory Theatre and the Head of the Dramatic Arts Department at the University of Connecticut.

She previously served as Interim Head of the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University, where she was a member of the Dramaturgy faculty; and led the literary departments of South Coast Repertory Theatre, the Alliance Theatre, and Frontera @ Hyde Park Theatre.

She oversaw the artistic programming at the Lark Play Development Center and The Playwrights' Center. She is the author of a gender-bending adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' "Three Musketeers," and a separate original play riffing on Dumas' characters set among women workers in the French Resistance, entitled "Three Musketeers: 1941."

Megan has been honored with the Elliott Hayes Prize in Dramaturgy.



GODFREY L. SIMMONS JR.

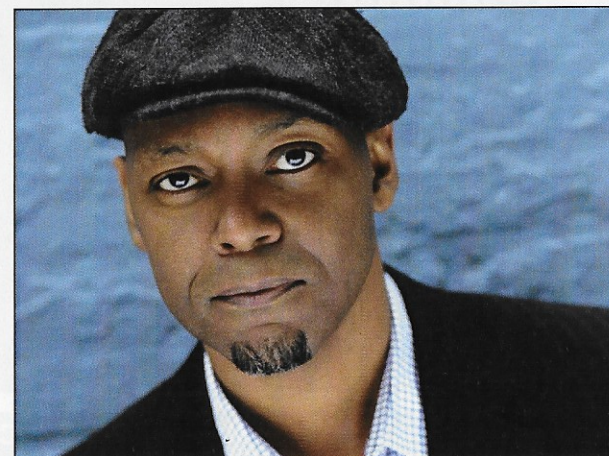
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
HARTBEAT ENSEMBLE

Godfrey L. Simmons, Jr. is an award-winning actor, producer, director, and playwright who has spent over thirty years amplifying the voices of marginalized people and communities. And he is a father to Samuel. He is Artistic Director for HartBeat Ensemble in Hartford, CT, where he has co-produced the Off-Broadway virtual production of American Dreams with Working Theater.

In 2012, he co-founded Civic Ensemble, a regional theatre in Ithaca, NY. For Civic, he directed Eugene O'Neill's "All God's Chillun Got Wings" and appeared in Judy Tate's Fast Blood and Athol Fugard's "MyChildren! My Africa!". Godfrey was a Producing Artist for Off-Broadway's Epic Theatre Ensemble for four years, appearing in "The Winning Side," "A More Perfect Union," "Widowers' Houses" (which Godfrey co-adapted with Ron Russell), "Measure for Measure," "Einstein's Gift," and "A Hard Heart," among other plays. Also for Epic, he co-wrote and starred in a documentary play about the election of President Barack Obama, "Dispatches From (A)mended America." Godfrey and his colleague Brandt Adams, traveled throughout the American South interviewing 100 Southerners about the election.

He won the 1999 Audelco Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in John Henry Redwood's "Old Settler" opposite Leslie Uggams at Primary Stages. He appeared in award-winning productions at Playwrights Horizons ("Betty's Summer Vacation," Obie Award-Best Play) and Round House Theatre ("Home," Helen Hayes Award-Best Production).

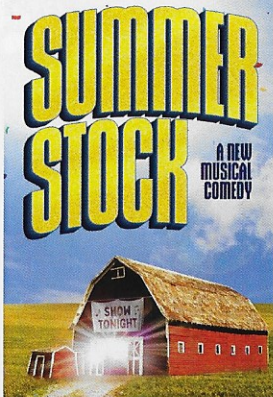
His radio show "The Griot Hour" appeared from 2015-2019 on the Ithaca, NY Community Radio station WRFI, where he has just begun co-hosting the Black Lives Matter Forum. Godfrey is a 2012 TCG/Fox Fellow and a lifetime member of Ensemble Studio Theatre.



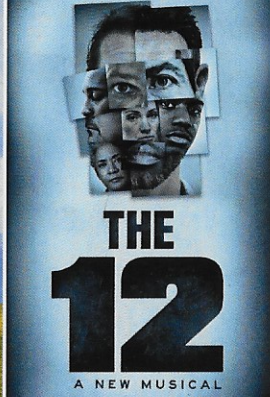
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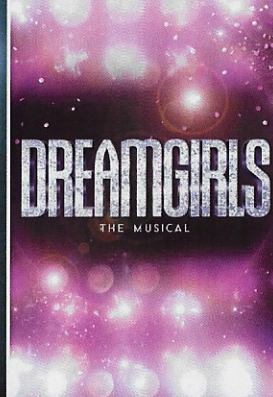
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ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



JACQUES LAMARRE

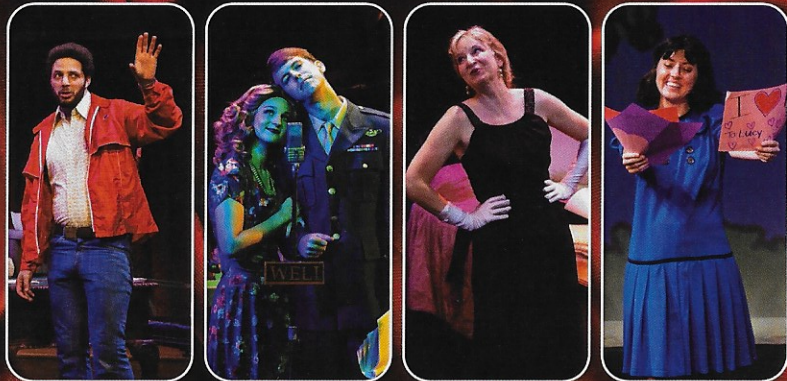
PLAYWRIGHT

Jacques Lamarre is the Chief Creative Officer for BuzzEngine, a marketing and events agency that specializes in working with arts and culture clients. He is also a playwright whose work has been produced or read in Connecticut at TheaterWorks Hartford, Seven Angels Theatre, Playhouse on Park, HartBeat Ensemble, Hartford Fringe Festival, Hole in the Wall Theatre, Little Theatre of Manchester, Farmington Valley Stage Company, Windsor Jesters, Theatre 4, and Renegades Reboot, as well as theatres across the country.

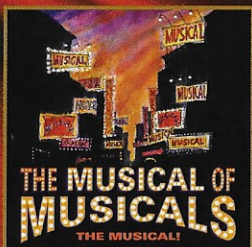
Jacques has worked in marketing and public relations for The Mark Twain House & Museum, Hartford Stage, TheaterWorks, Yale Repertory Theatre, and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

He is a former member of the Connecticut Critics Circle when he served as a critic for the Manchester Journal Inquirer and BroadwayWorld.

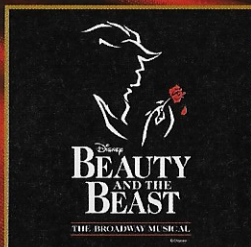
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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 TheaterWorks Hartford:

Kate J. Cudworth

Rob Ruggiero

MEMBERS OF THE THEATERWORKS HARTFORD & VOLUNTEERS

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

KAREN ISAACS

TARA KENNEDY

TIM LEININGER

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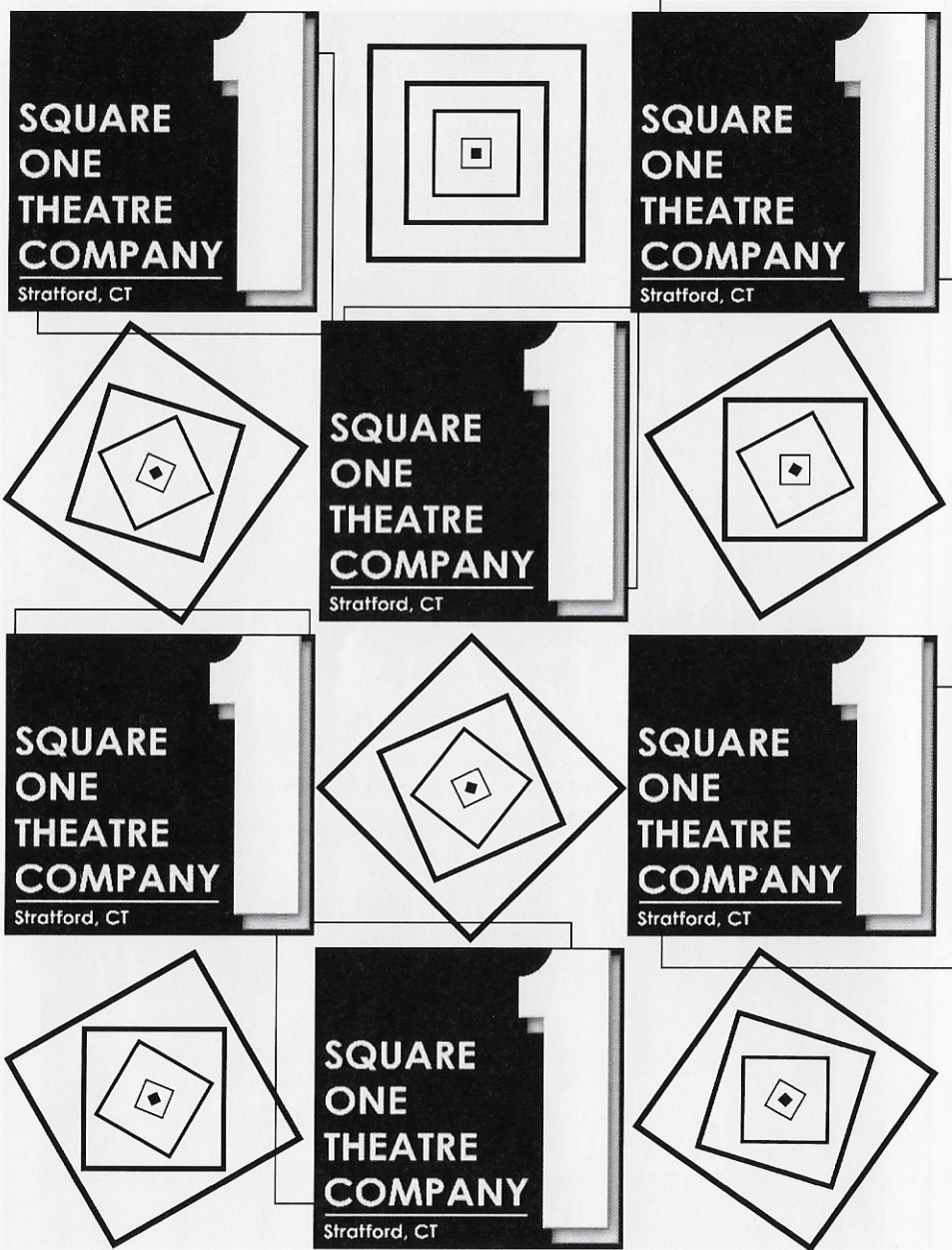
NANCY SASSO JANIS

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



— 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.

ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT CRITICS CIRCLE

Members of the Connecticut Critics Circle

Brooks Appelbaum, Kiersten Bjork, Donald Brown,
Stuart J. Brown, Dolly Curtis, Howard Steven, Marlene S. Gaylinn,
Bonnie K. Goldberg, Tom Holehan, Karen Isaacs, Nancy Sasso
Janis, Timothy Leininger, Peggy Nelson, Tom Nissley,
Zander Opper, Richard Pheneger, James V. Ruocco.

A special thanks to TheaterWorks Hartford for hosting this event.



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CRITICS CIRCLE**

Join us in round of applause for our generous donors, and their support

OVATION

Michelle Polgar
Tom Nissley

BLOCKBUSTER

Karen Isaacs

BRAVO

Mimi Falsey
Frank O'Connor
Joyce Saltman

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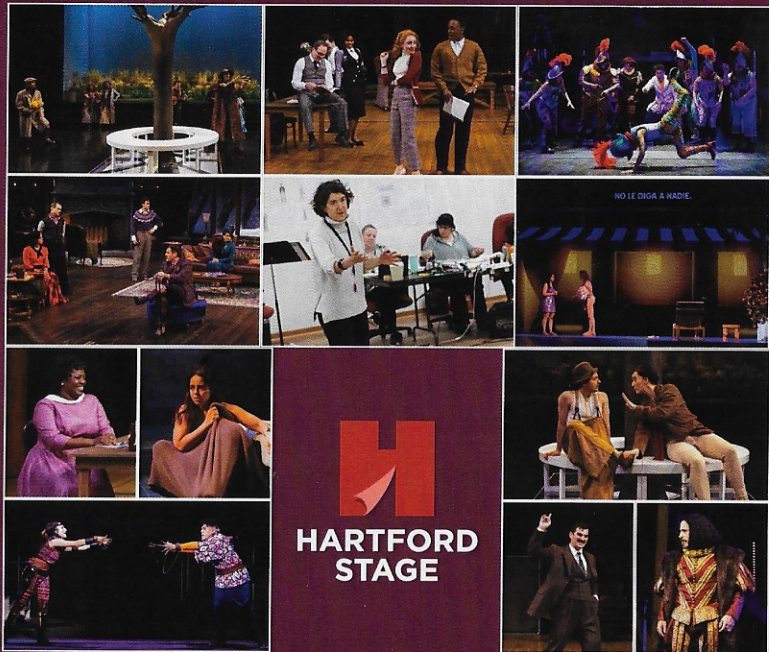
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CONGRATULATIONS
to all the nominees.
Thank you for all the theatrical
memories this season!

TOP ROW: The cast of *The Winter's Tale* (Directed by Melia Bensussen); The cast of *Trouble in Mind*; The cast of *Kiss My Aztec!* (Choreography by Mayte Natalio, Scenic & Costume Design by Clint Ramos, Sound Design by Jessica Paz & Beth Lake). **SECOND ROW:** The cast of *The Mousetrap* (Set Design by Riw Rakkulchon, Costume Design by Fabian Fidel Aguilar, Lighting Design by Krista Smith); Director Melia Bensussen in rehearsal for *The Winter's Tale*; Emma Ramos and Kate Abbruzzese in *Espejos: Clean* (Sound Design by Daniela Hart & Uptownworks, Projection Design by Lisa Renkel). **THIRD ROW:** Heather Alicia Simms in *Trouble in Mind*; Emma Ramos in *Espejos: Clean*; John Maddaloni and Pearl Rhein in *The Winter's Tale*. **FOURTH ROW:** Joel Perez and Krystina Alabado in *Kiss My Aztec!* John Bambery in *Trouble in Mind*; Matt Saldivar in *Kiss My Aztec!* Photos by T. Charles Erickson.