

The Jessie Awards – Honouring Vancouver’s finest

Vancouver, BC – The 35th Annual Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards were held Monday, June 26th at the Commodore Ballroom saluting excellence in theatre. Holding Space Productions produced this year’s ceremony – a celebratory event that moved quickly and effortlessly and this year included ASL interpretation by Lizz Keallen and Spring Herold. Over 40 companies registered over 70 productions this past year contributing to a dynamic theatre community.

The Jessie Awards are divided into three categories – Large Theatre, Small Theatre and Theatre for Young Audiences – along with a variety of special awards. The Jessie awards in the Large Theatre category were divided equally among the winning productions this year. The Arts Club Theatre Company received a total of five Jessies with three going to *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* for Outstanding Production along with Damien Atkins winning for his performance for Outstanding Actor in Lead Role and Torquil Campbell and Alessandro Juliani for Outstanding Sound. Valin Shinyei received a Jessie for his Supporting Role performance in *Billy Elliot: The Musical*. The Arts Club also earned a Jessie for Outstanding Original Script for *The Piano Teacher* by Dorothy Dittrich. *Bard on the Beach* garnered three nods for their innovative and engaging production of *Pericles* with Lois Anderson winning for her Outstanding Direction, along with costume designer Carmen Alatorre and lighting designer John Webber. *Brothel #9* a Touchstone Theatre production, also earned three Jessies with Adele Noronha for a Lead Actress, Lara Sadiq for her performance in a Supporting Role, and Drew Facey for his Set Design. Diwali Fest’s Rohit Chokhani won for his Outstanding Work in Expanding the Diversification of Vancouver Theatre through Excellence in Festival Programming.

With numerous theatre companies In the Small Theatre category, eight companies earned a Jessie with Reelwheels leading the group with total of three for their production of *Creeps*. The show won for Outstanding Production and the ensemble of Paul Beckett, David Bloom, Genevieve Fleming, Brett Harris, David A. Kaye, Aaron Roderick and Adam Grant Warren won for Significant Artistic Achievement, and Lauchlin Johnston for Set Design. Alexandra Lainfiesta took honours for her work in *Green Lake* along with Rachel Peake for Outstanding Direction in this Solo Collective production. A number of other companies received one Jessie such as Kyle Jespersen who won for his remarkable performance in *The Fighting Season* by Bleeding Heart Theatre, Yoshié Bancroft for her performance in *Ithaka* by dream of passion productions & Excavation Theatre and Ashley O’Connell’s acting garnered a nod for *The Slamming Door* Artist Collective’s *Flare Path*. Carmen Alatorre won her second Jessie of the night for her Costume Design in *Walt Whitman’s Secret*, by the frank theatre company. Itai Erdal’s lighting design won for *O’wet/Lost Lagoon* by Alley Theatre and Troy Slocum scored for *The Pipeline Project* by ITSAZOO Productions and *Savage Society* in association with Newworld Theatre & the Gateway Theatre.

In the Theatre for Young Audiences category the winners were equally divided. The creative work of Axis Theatre Company won for the design aspects of their production of *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*, acknowledging the creative work of Chris McGregor for Outstanding Artistic Design and Barbara Clayden and Frank Radar for their Outstanding Design. Puppet creativity was also awarded for *Freddie in the Neighbourhood* by The Little Onion Puppet

Company for the innovative work of Randi Edmundson and Jess Amy Shead and for their outstanding performances. The show also won for the Outstanding Production. Chris Gatchalian received the Vancouver NOW Representation and Inclusion Award acknowledged for producing an extraordinary 16/17 Season that included Q2Q, the first ever queer theatre Conference in Canada, which embraced intersections of queerness and cultural diversity with vision and integrity. The diverse and extraordinary talented theatre community continues to produce dynamic productions that enrich the vibrancy of our city. Congratulations to all! Below is a complete list of all winners.
35th Annual Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards Winners

LARGE THEATRE

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role – Large Theatre

Damien Atkins
Angels in America: Millennium Approaches
Arts Club Theatre Company

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Lead Role – Large Theatre

Adele Noronha
Brothel #9
Touchstone Theatre

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role – Large Theatre

Valin Shinyei
Billy Elliot: The Musical
Arts Club Theatre Company

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role – Large Theatre

Laara Sadiq
Brothel #9
Touchstone Theatre

Outstanding Lighting Design – Large Theatre

John Webber
Pericles
Bard on the Beach

Outstanding Set Design – Large Theatre

Drew Facey
Brothel #9
Touchstone Theatre

Outstanding Costume Design – Large Theatre

Carmen Alatorre
Pericles
Bard on the Beach

Outstanding Sound Design or Original Composition Large Theatre

Torquil Campbell and Alessandro Juliani
Angels in America: Millennium Approaches
Arts Club Theatre Company

Outstanding Direction – Large Theatre

Lois Anderson
Pericles
Bard on the Beach

Outstanding Production – Large Theatre

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches
Arts Club Theatre Company

Significant Artistic Achievement – Large Theatre

Rohit Chokhani
Diwali Fest

SMALL THEATRE

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role – Small Theatre

Kyle Jespersen
The Fighting Season
Bleeding Heart Theatre

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Lead Role – Small Theatre

Alexandra Lainfiesta
Green Lake
Solo Collective

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role – Small Theatre

Ashley O`Connell
Flare Path
The Slamming Door Artist Collective

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role – Small Theatre

Yoshié Bancroft
Ithaka
dream of passion productions & Excavation Theatre

Outstanding Lighting Design – Small Theatre

Itai Erdal
O`wet/Lost Lagoon
Alley Theatre

Outstanding Set Design – Small Theatre

Lauchlin Johnston
Creeps
Realwheels Theatre

Outstanding Costume Design – Small Theatre

Carmen Alatorre
Walt Whitman's Secret
the frank theatre company

Outstanding Sound Design or Original Composition – Small Theatre

Troy Slocum
The Pipeline Project
ITSAZOO Productions and Savage Society in association with Newworld Theatre & the Gateway Theatre

Outstanding Direction – Small Theatre

Rachel Peake
Green Lake
Solo Collective

Outstanding Production of a Play– Small Theatre

Creeps
Realwheels Theatre

Significant Artistic Achievement – Small Theatre

Paul Beckett, David Bloom, Genevieve Fleming, Brett Harris, David A. Kaye, Aaron Roderick and Adam Grant Warren
Creeps
Realwheels Theatre
Outstanding Ensemble Performance

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Outstanding Performance – Theatre for Young Audiences

Randi Edmundson and Jess Amy Shead
Freddie in the Neighbourhood
The Little Onion Puppet Company

Outstanding Design – Theatre for Young Audiences

Frank Radar and Barbara Clayden
Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch
Axis Theatre Company

Outstanding Artistic Creation – Theatre for Young Audiences

Chris McGregor
Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch
Axis Theatre Company

Outstanding Production – Theatre for Young Audiences

Freddie in the Neighbourhood
The Little Onion Puppet Company

Significant Artistic Achievement – Theatre for Young Audiences

Baking Time

Presentation House Theatre

Outstanding Audience Engagement

Outstanding Original Script

The Piano Teacher

Dorothy Dittrich

Arts Club Theatre Company

Georgia Straight Critic’s Choice Innovation Award

Revolutions

Fight with a Stick

Vancouver NOW Representation and Inclusion Award

Chris Gatchalian – For producing an extraordinary 16/17 Season that included Q2Q, the first ever queer theatre Conference in Canada, which embraced intersections of queerness and cultural diversity with vision and integrity.

Additional awards presented were:

- **Patron of the Arts Award** – Bryan Searle and Patrice Savoie
- **Mary Phillips Prize for Behind-the-Scenes Achievement** – Angie Descalzi
- **Sam Payne Award for the Most Promising Newcomer** – Olivia Hutt
- **John Moffat & Larry Lillo Prize** – Valerie Sing Turner
- **GVPTA Career Achievement Award** – Marsha Sibthorpe
- **Sydney Risk Prize** – Quelemia Sparrow
- **Colin Campbell Award for Excellence in Technical Theatre** – Sarah Marchant
- **Ray Michal Prize for Most Promising New Director** – Jamie King