



THE  
BARRYMORE  
AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE

RULEBOOK

A PROGRAM OF THEATRE PHILADELPHIA  
[www.theatrephiladelphia.org](http://www.theatrephiladelphia.org)

# MISSION

Theatre Philadelphia is a leadership organization that celebrates and promotes professional theatre in the Greater Philadelphia region, primarily via the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre and related theatre marketing efforts. We also seek to identify and build upon opportunities that will strengthen the Philadelphia theatre community as a whole while engaging foundations, corporations, and individual donors who are invested in the health and vitality of theatre in our city.

# THE BARRYMORE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE

The Barrymore Awards have served as Philadelphia's professional theatre awards program since 1994, recognizing artists for excellence and innovation while increasing public awareness of the richness and diversity of our city's thriving theatre community. The Barrymore Awards are a nationally recognized symbol of excellence for professional theatre in our region, raising the bar for the work produced by local theatres and individual artists while generating coverage in local and national media. The Barrymore Awards also include cash awards that strengthen theatre companies and individual artists' abilities to pursue artistic work of the highest caliber. Theatre Philadelphia seeks to leverage the Barrymore Awards to provide high-value marketing exposure for all participating theatres and artists.

# BARRYMORE AWARDS SEASON

The Barrymore Awards season runs July 1 through June 30 and culminates in the Barrymore Awards ceremony each fall. Productions whose performances span Barrymore seasons will be adjudicated as part of the season in which its first eligible performance falls.

# BARRYMORE AWARDS CATEGORIES

There are 22 artistic categories that honor excellence in production, directing, acting, design, and playwriting, which are adjudicated by each season's team of volunteer Barrymore Nominators and Judges:

- Outstanding Overall Production of a Play
- Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical
- Outstanding Direction of a Play
- Outstanding Direction of a Musical
- Outstanding Leading Actor in a Play
- Outstanding Leading Actress in a Play
- Outstanding Leading Actor in a Musical
- Outstanding Leading Actress in a Musical
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play
- Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical
- Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical
- Outstanding Set Design
- Outstanding Costume Design
- Outstanding Lighting Design
- Outstanding Sound Design
- Outstanding Original Music\*
- Outstanding Choreography/Movement
- Outstanding Music Direction
- Outstanding Ensemble in a Play
- Outstanding Ensemble in a Musical
- Outstanding New Play or Musical\*\*

\* Eligible only for original music composed specifically for the production being adjudicated, including world premiere musicals

\*\* Eligible only for plays or musicals receiving their world premiere stagings in Philadelphia

The Barrymore Awards also includes five curated awards that are adjudicated by independently-selected Award Committees:

The **F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Philadelphia Theatre Artist** is awarded annually to a rising talent in the Greater Philadelphia region and is the only award of its kind in the nation. Funded by Carole Haas Gravagno through the CHG Charitable Trust, this special Barrymore Award includes a \$15,000 cash prize for the recipient and \$2,000 for each finalist. Submissions for this award are sought each spring and applications are accepted by invitation only.

The **Virginia Brown Martin Philadelphia Award** is awarded annually to a play that best leads audiences to a better understanding of the unique experience of particular segments of our global community. Funded by the Virginia Brown Martin Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation, this special Barrymore Award includes a \$25,000 cash prize for the recipient and \$2,500 for each finalist. The application for this award is posted on the Theatre Philadelphia website annually.

The **June and Steve Wolfson Award for an Evolving Theatre Company** recognizes, promotes, and rewards the creativity, growth, and excellence of evolving theatres within the Greater Philadelphia community. Sponsored by the June and Steve Wolfson Family Foundation, this special Barrymore Award includes a \$10,000 cash prize for the recipient. The application for this award is posted on the Theatre Philadelphia website annually.

The inaugural **Victory Award for an Outstanding Theatre Education Program** will be presented at the 2016 Barrymore Awards and includes a \$7,500 cash prize for the recipient. Information about the adjudication process for this award will be announced in 2016.

Submissions for the annual **Lifetime Achievement Award** are sought publicly in late spring/early summer.

## BARRYMORE AWARDS ELIGIBILITY

All eligibility requirements must be met in order to submit a production for Barrymore Awards consideration.

The producing theatre company must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) or fiscally-sponsored organization
- Have its organizational residency and performance venue within a 35-mile radius of City Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Submit all productions for Barrymore consideration at least eight weeks before the first performance
- Remit a submission fee of \$100 per production at least four weeks before the first performance
- Provide one or two complimentary tickets to each of eight randomly-selected Barrymore Nominators for initial Barrymore consideration
- Provide one or two complimentary tickets to each of twelve Barrymore Judges for all productions elevated to Barrymore Recommended status

Each production submitted for consideration must:

- Have a minimum of 12 performances that may be attended by Barrymore Nominators and Judges (at the discretion of the producing company, previews may be included to satisfy this requirement)
- Meet or exceed the following minimum pay scale: \$150 per week for all actors who appear on stage; \$500 per production for all credited composers, choreographers, and scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers; \$750 per production per director

### Presented Productions

Presented productions are ineligible for Barrymore Award consideration. Presented productions are defined as productions in which the participating theatre company has contributed limited artistic input and/or productions that as of their opening have been developed, produced, or contracted specifically for one or more theatres outside the Greater Philadelphia area prior to or following their Philadelphia run.

### Remounted Productions

Remounted productions are ineligible for Barrymore Award consideration if the same play was part of the submitting theatre's season in any of its previous seven seasons.

## BARRYMORE NOMINATOR AND JUDGE SELECTION

Each spring, the Barrymore Oversight Committee identifies a pool of 12 Judges and approximately 60 Nominators to

adjudicate the upcoming season of Barrymore-eligible productions.

The annual process begins in early March with publication of the Nominator/Judge Application, which is due in April. Each member of the Barrymore Oversight Committee individually reviews all complete applications and charts their top choices for Judges and Nominators. All selections are aggregated by Theatre Philadelphia's Administrative Director, and selections are discussed and finalized by the Barrymore Oversight Committee in mid-May. Applicants will be notified about the status of their application at the end of May. All selected Nominators and Judges are required to attend an orientation session, scheduled in the early evening hours on the final Monday in June.

Barrymore Nominators and Judges may serve a maximum of three consecutive seasons, and must reapply and be approved via the selection process conducted annually by the Barrymore Oversight Committee. In order to maximize inclusiveness and ensure fresh perspectives, the Barrymore Oversight Committee seeks to rotate 30% of the existing Nominator/Judge pool each season, through either natural attrition or lottery selection.

The Barrymore Oversight Committee is committed to creating an annual Nominator/Judge pool of dedicated, unbiased, and knowledgeable theatre professionals that are reflective and inclusive of our community's diversity, including artistic discipline, gender, age, and ethnic background. To aid the Barrymore Oversight Committee with this ongoing effort, applicants from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

## VOTING PROCESS

Eight Barrymore Nominators are randomly assigned to attend one of the first three eligible attendance dates. In order to cast a ballot, Nominators must see the entire production with the original cast. Within 24 hours of attending the performance, each Nominator submits an online ballot in which they cast a YES or NO vote in each of the 22 artistic categories. If a production receives at least five YES votes in any single award category, that production is designated as Barrymore Recommended and moves on to the Judges for further Barrymore consideration.

Barrymore Judges meet periodically throughout the theatre season to discuss the productions they have seen. These meetings are intended to foster thought-provoking dialogue about the work being considered; award recipients are not determined at these meetings.

At the end of the Barrymore Awards season, Judges are provided with a master list of all category submissions for all Barrymore Recommended productions. Judges submit their top choices in each award category to Theatre Philadelphia's Administrative Director, who aggregates the results for discussion at the final Judges meeting. At this final meeting, the Judges proceed to collaboratively narrow their choices down to a maximum of seven nominees in each play/design category and four nominees in each musical category. The award nominees appear on a final online ballot from which the Judges privately cast their votes in each award category. These final votes are tabulated using a weighted scoring system of 7 points for each first choice vote, 6 points for each second choice vote, 5 points for each third choice vote, and so on. The finalist receiving the highest average (mean) score in each category is deemed the award recipient.

As our pool of Judges includes a number of working theatre professionals, it is possible that all twelve Judges may be unable to attend every Barrymore Recommended production; Judges may cast ballots only for productions that they have seen in their entirety with their original cast. Judges may also find themselves eligible for Barrymore Award consideration; Judges are asked to exit the room during discussions of categories in which their work is being considered. Judges who have a formal role within a producing organization and/or are an official contributor to a production must abstain from voting on that production. In all cases, the process of calculating average (mean) scores eliminates the effect that any Judge's abstention would have on final tabulation results.

Each season, the Barrymore Awards system and ballots are analyzed by an independent auditing firm to ensure that all rules and policies have been followed. The auditing firm also certifies the nominees and recipients for each season. Until they are announced at the Barrymore Awards ceremony, the final voting results are known only to Theatre Philadelphia's Administrative Director, one Theatre Philadelphia Board Member, and Theatre Philadelphia's Publicist.

## WHAT IS BARRYMORE RECOMMENDED?

In addition to celebrating and honoring our theatre community's collective achievements, Theatre Philadelphia seeks to use the Barrymore Awards as an engine to:

- Inform the general public about the great theatre being created here in Philadelphia
- Drive audience attendance to Barrymore participating productions
- Promote the Barrymore Recommended brand as a recognizable indicator of quality

Barrymore Recommended productions move on to the Judges for further Barrymore consideration, and the designation also serves as a marketing tool for theatres to use in promotion of their productions. Once Nominator voting is complete and a production achieves Barrymore Recommended status, Theatre Philadelphia notifies the producing theatre and provides access to a wealth of promotional opportunities, including logos, language, and inclusion in our targeted marketing efforts, which are designed to give an extra promotional push to productions via our website, digital advertising, and social media channels while they are still on stage:

- Paid publicity campaigns on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Managed behavioral marketing campaigns that target theatre-friendly audiences throughout the Greater Philadelphia region
- Free Barrymore Recommended ad space on Theatre Philadelphia's home page
- Featured listing on Theatre Philadelphia's Barrymore Recommended landing page
- Inclusion in the Barrymore Recommended sidebar feature throughout the Theatre Philadelphia website
- Additional opportunities will become available upon launch of our new state-of-the-art website in spring 2016

## BARRYMORE AWARDS GOVERNANCE

The Barrymore Oversight Committee consists of theatre professionals from across the Greater Philadelphia region. The Barrymore Oversight Committee meets quarterly and oversees the Barrymore Awards' adjudication process, including establishment and amendment of the rules of participation, annual selection of Nominators and Judges, and overall maintenance of the integrity of the Barrymore Awards process.

In order to maximize inclusiveness and ensure fresh perspectives, Barrymore Oversight Committee members may serve for a maximum of three consecutive seasons. New members are chosen through a recommendation and interview process. Recommendations for new members are solicited from a variety of sources, including Theatre Philadelphia's Board of Directors, current Barrymore Oversight Committee members, Barrymore participating theatres, current and former Nominators and Judges, and other community members.

### **Current Barrymore Oversight Committee Members**

Kevin Glaccum, *Chair*  
Theatre Philadelphia Board Member and Producing Artistic Director, Azuka Theatre

Rebecca Smith, *Secretary*  
AEA Stage Manager, Lantern Theater Company

Patreshettarlini Adams  
AEA Stage Manager, The Wilma Theater

Rachel Camp  
Actor and Teaching Artist

Akeem Davis  
Actor and Teaching Artist

Katherine Fritz  
Costume Designer and Teaching Artist

Kash Goins  
Playwright, Actor, Director, and Founder, GoKash Productions

Alex Keiper  
Actor and Teaching Artist

Leonard Kelly  
Dialect Coach and Professor of Theatre, West Chester University

Diane Leslie  
Theatre Educator and Teaching Artist

Adrienne Mackey  
Artistic Director, Swim Pony Performing Arts

Amanda Morton  
Music Director and Teaching Artist

Daniel Perelstein  
Sound Designer and Composer

Lane Savadove  
Artistic Director, EgoPo Classic Theater and Professor and Head of Acting, Rowan University

Joel Sumner, *ex officio*  
Administrative Director, Theatre Philadelphia

In cases where the Barrymore Awards rules are unclear or do not address a specific situation, the Barrymore Oversight Committee shall make a decision as necessary, which shall be considered final.

If you have questions or suggestions that you would like to have brought to the attention of the Barrymore Oversight Committee, please direct your communications to Joel Sumner at [barrymores@theatrephiladelphia.org](mailto:barrymores@theatrephiladelphia.org). More information about the Barrymore Awards is available online at [www.theatrephiladelphia.org/barrymore-awards](http://www.theatrephiladelphia.org/barrymore-awards).

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