

PLAYBILL®

THE 1997 LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS



Monday, May 5, 1997
at the Lucille Lortel Theatre
121 Christopher Street
New York, New York

THE 1997 LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS

for

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OFF-BROADWAY

Monday, May 5, 1997

Presentation Ceremony at 6:30 P.M.

Reception Immediately Following at

LAURA BELLE

120 West 43rd Street

Master Of Ceremonies

ERNIE ANASTOS

THE 1997 SELECTION COMMITTEE

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LUCILLE LORTEL

BEN SPRECHER

Administrator

GEORGE S. FORBES

Production Supervisor

The Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway are named for LUCILLE LORTEL who made her Broadway debut in the 1925 Theatre Guild production of George Bernard Shaw's Caesar and Cleopatra which starred Helen Hayes. Her other Broadway performance credits include Belasco's The Dove with Holbrook Blinn and Judith Anderson; The Great Gatsby with Florence Eldridge and Frederic March; the ingenue in One Man's Woman; the leading role of 'Elsa' in the "sex play" The Virgin Man, opposite Dorothy Parker's husband, Alan Campbell; and she succeeded Mary Duncan as 'Poppy' in the national tour of The Shanghai Gesture with Florence Reed. She was Sessue Hayakawa's leading lady in The Man Who Laughed Last which opened at the Palace in New York and then played the Orpheum circuit (1928-29) before it became one of the first "talkies" produced by Warner Brothers in 1930, starring Sessue Hayakawa and Miss Lortel. Among her more than 500 productions have been the landmark 1955 Tony® Award-winning revival of Mark Blitzstein's translation of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's The Threepenny Opera which is credited for putting Off-Broadway on the map; Brecht on Brecht, adapted by George Tabori; Jean Genet's The Balcony; the 1964 Off-Broadway American premier of Athol Fugard's The Blood Knot; Sean O'Casey's Cock-A-Doodle Dandy; I Knock at the Door and Pictures in the Hallway; Tom Cole's Medal of Honor Rag; Marsha Norman's Getting Out; Mbongemi Ngema's Woza Albert!; Win Wells' Gertrude Stein and a Companion; Jane Anderson's The Baby Dance and Larry Kramer's The Destiny of Me as well as 20 seasons as artistic director of the ANTA Matinee series (1956-1976) which she initiated when The Threepenny Opera ran for almost seven years at her theatre on Christopher Street. It was a series that yielded several productions that went to Washington, D.C., where, in 1962, Richard Coe, drama critic for The Washington Post dubbed her "The Queen of Off-Broadway" when she presented Edward Albee's Fam and Yam at the Library of Congress (from a subscription season that had included plays by Conrad Aiken, Samuel Beckett, Eugene Ionesco and Yukio Mishima). This summer she celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the White Barn Theatre in Westport, Connecticut, where, as founder and artistic director, in 1947 she pioneered and proved the viability of the staged reading to audiences that kept coming back for more of the avant-garde, experimental, not-strictly-commercial theatrical fare including the American premieres of Sean O'Casey's Red Roses for Me, Eugene Ionesco's The Chairs, Samuel Beckett's Embers, Murray Schisgal's The Typists, Paul Zindel's The Effect of Gamma Rays... and Terrence McNally's Next. The American premier of August Wilson's Fences was the first play sponsored by the Lucille Lortel Fund for New Drama at Yale, an endowment she established for the ongoing support of new play production at Yale Rep. Four of her recent quintet of consecutive Tony Award nominees started Off-Broadway: Lanford Wilson's Angels Fall, William M. Hoffmans As Is, Athol Fugard's Blood Knot, Mbongemi Ngema's Sarafina! and Lee Blessing's A Walk in the Woods, which she initially produced on Broadway, then presented at the Library of Congress (the 19th of the distinguished series of dramatic productions and seminars), and co-produced in London's West End starring Sir Alec Guinness and Edward Herrmann. In May of 1989, she took the original Broadway cast of Sam Waterson and Robert Prosky to Moscow, U.S.S.R. Miss Lortel has received virtually every theatrical award and honor including the first Margo Jones Award (1962); the first Lee Strasberg Lifetime Achievement in Theatre Award (1985); the 1989 inauguration of the Lucille Lortel Distinguished Professorial Chair in Theatre at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (the first theatre chair to be named for a woman); and induction into the Theatre Hall of Fame (1990). She received Honorary Lifetime Membership in the New England Theatre Conference "in recognition of her outstanding contributions to theatre in New England, the country and the world" (1991) the Life Achievement Award from The Christophers and, two days later, the Kennedy Center Medallion from The American College Theatre Festival (1992); an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from CUNY (1993); the 1996 Honorary Irwin Piscator Award, and recognition from the Columbia University School of The Arts "for her long and distinguished career supporting new and innovative work for the theatre and her crucial role in the development and ongoing success of Off-Broadway theatre" (April 1996). On April 27, 1996, she was present for the inauguration of the Lucille Lortel Fellowship in Playwriting at Brown University at which time an exhibition on her career opened in the Liv Ullmann Lobby of the Stuart Theatre on the Brown campus. She was one of the first individuals to be inducted into the Greenwich Village Hall of Fame in October 1996, and in November received the Helen Hayes Award which was presented to her by Miss Hayes' son, James MacArthur, at the 14th Annual Helen Hayes Awards Gala benefiting St. Clare's Hospital, NYC. During the month of February 1997, the exhibition on her career was mounted in the lobby of the Miller Theatre at the Columbia University School of the Arts. The September 1993 Greenwood Press (Westport, CT) publication of Lucille Lortel: A Bio-Bibliography by Sam McCready was celebrated with a book party at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, where a permanent tribute to her career is on display in The Lucille Lortel Room of the Theatre on Film and Tape Archives (the home and viewing facility for TOFT's collection of more than 1,000 tapes of live Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional theatre productions including Mrs. Klein starring Uta Hagen which Miss Lortel co-produced at her own theatre, and Alan Zweibel's Bunny Bunny: Gilda Radner a sort of romantic comedy, now running at the Lucille Lortel Theatre).

LIST OF PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

1986

LINCOLN CENTER THEATER for "The Woza Afrika! Festival"

1987

SIMON GRAY for "The Common Pursuit"
MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB for Outstanding Body of Work

1988

PAUL LIBIN for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

1989

A.R. GURNEY for "The Cocktail Hour"
JOHN TILLINGER for Outstanding Direction
PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS for Outstanding Body of Work

1991

CIRCLE REPERTORY COMPANY for Outstanding Body of Work
NATHAN LANE for Outstanding Performance in "The Lisbon Traviata"
"MEASURE FOR MEASURE" for Outstanding Revival of a Play
JOHN TILLINGER for Outstanding Direction of "The Lisbon Traviata"
"FALSETTOLAND" for Outstanding Musical
BRIAN FRIEL for "Aristocrats"
ROSETTA LeNOIRE for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

1992

TERRENCE McNALLY for Outstanding Body of Work
EILEEN ATKINS for Outstanding Performance in "A Room of One's Own"
RON RIFKIN for Outstanding Performance in "The Substance of Fire"
BLUE MAN GROUP/TUBES for Special Award
"BOESMAN AND LENA" for Outstanding Revival of a Play
DANIEL SULLIVAN for Outstanding Direction of "The Substance of Fire"
"AND THE WORLD GOES ROUND" The Kander & Ebb Musical
for Outstanding Musical
TERRENCE McNALLY for "Lips Together, Teeth Apart"
ELLEN STEWART for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

1993

JOHN LEE BEATTY for Outstanding Body of Work
ANNA DEAVERE SMITH for Outstanding Performance in "Fires in the Mirror"
JOHN LEGUIZAMO for Outstanding Performance in "Spic-o-rama"
"FORBIDDEN BROADWAY" for Outstanding Musical
CHRISTOPHER ASHLEY for Outstanding Direction of
"Fires in the Mirror" & "Jeffrey"
WYNN HANDMAN for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement
"HENRY V" for Outstanding Revival of a Play
JOHN WILLIS for Special Award
LARRY KRAMER for "The Destiny of Me"

1994

THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE for Outstanding Body of Work
A.R. GURNEY, Playwright & **IRENE WORTH**, Actress
for Outstanding Individual Body of Work
RICKY JAY for Special Award for Unique Accomplishment
"OWNERS" and "TRAPS" for Outstanding Revival of a Play
LAWRENCE SACHAROW for Outstanding Direction of "Three Tall Women"
RON RIFKIN for Outstanding Performance in "3 Hotels"
MYRA CARTER for Outstanding Performance in "Three Tall Women"
"WINGS" for Outstanding Musical
"A.R.T./NY PASSPORT TO OFF-BROADWAY" for Special Award
EDWARD ALBEE for "Three Tall Women"

**LIST OF PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS
(CONTINUED)**

1995

SIGNATURE THEATRE COMPANY for Outstanding Institutional Body of Work
JACK O'BRIEN for Outstanding Direction of "Hapgood"
"MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG" for Outstanding Revival of a Musical
JUDITH DOLAN for Outstanding Costumes for "The Petrified Prince"
PHIL MONAT for Outstanding Lighting Design for "Camping with Henry & Tom"
JAMES LEONARD JOY for Outstanding Scenic Design
for "Camping with Henry & Tom"
ED HARRIS for Outstanding Performance in "Simpatico"
"ENCORES! GREAT AMERICAN MUSICALS IN CONCERT" for Special Award
EILEEN ATKINS for Outstanding Performance in "Vita & Virginia"
LINDA LAVIN for Outstanding Performance in "Death Defying Acts"
HORTON FOOTE, Playwright, for Outstanding Body of Work
"JELLY ROLL!" for Outstanding Musical
MARK ST. GERMAIN for **"CAMPING with HENRY & TOM"**
UTA HAGEN, Actress & Acting Teacher for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

1996

ATHOL FUGARD for Outstanding Body of Work
SCOTT ELLIOT for Outstanding Direction of "The Monogamist"
"ENTERTAINING MR. SLOANE" for Outstanding Revival of a Play
JANE GREENWOOD for Outstanding Costume Design for "Sylvia"
MICHAEL CHYBOWSKI for Outstanding Lighting Design for "The Grey Zone"
TONY WALTON for Outstanding Scenic Design for "A Fair Country"
JASON WORKMAN for Outstanding Actor in a Musical for "Bed & Sofa"
JIM DALE for Outstanding Actor in a Play for "Travels With My Aunt"
CORA CAHAN for Outstanding Special Achievement
THEATREWORKS/USA For Outstanding Special Achievement
MELISSA ERRICO for Outstanding Actress in a Musical for "One Touch of Venus"
UTA HAGEN for Outstanding Actress in a Play for "Mrs. Klein"
"FLOYD COLLINS" for Outstanding Musical
BRIAN FRIEL for "Molly Sweeney"
GENE FEIST for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement
EDITH OLIVER for Lifetime Dedication to Off-Broadway



The Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway was created in 1985 by resolution of The League of Off-Broadway Theatres and Producers whose Board of Directors then consisted of:

Paul Libin, President
Paul Berkowsky, 1st Vice President
Robert Kamlot, 2nd Vice President
Dorothy Olim, Secretary-Treasurer
Jason Steven Cohen, Barry Grove, Eric Krebs and Albert Poland

On the present Board of Directors are:

Barry Grove, President
Maria DiDia, 1st Vice President
Ben Sprecher, 2nd Vice President
Terry Byrne, Secretary
George Forbes, Treasurer
Victoria Bailey, Richard Frankel, Roger Gindi, Eric Krebs, Lynn Landis, Paul Morer, Joey Parnes, Albert Poland, Marshall B. Purdy, Marc Routh, Seth Schapiro, and Paul Libin, President Emeritus.

STAFF CREDITS

Lucille Lortel Awards Production Staff

Rob Conover, Technical Director
Sheila Donovan, Electrician
Ray Schilke, Sound Designer
Natalie Forbes, Awards Coordinator

Lucille Lortel Theatre Staff

Richard Ponce, House Manager
Robert LoBiondo, Treasurer
Benjamin Barbash, Assistant House Manager
Karen Edwards, Treasurer
Sandra Starr, Assistant to Miss Lortel

The Pete Sanders Group

Pete Sanders
Glenna Freedman
Lauren Feeney
Bridget Klapinski
Helene Davis
Clint Bond

The Actor's Fund of America

Erica Marks
Sara Meehan

The Chase Manhattan Private Bank

Maria Elena Lagomasino, Managing Director
Michael J. Silvestri, Managing Director
Pamela B. Hendrickson, Vice President
A. Michael Frahlich, Vice President

This year's Award was produced by The Award Group, NYC

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OPENING REMARKS

Paul Libin, President Emeritus
The League of Off-Broadway Theatres and Producers

MARY-LOUISE PARKER

For Outstanding Performance in "How I Learned To Drive"
Presenting: Barnard Hughes
Accepting: Mary-Louise Parker

DAVID MORSE

For Outstanding Performance in "How I Learned To Drive"
Presenting: Anna Strasberg
Accepting: David Morse

MARK BROKAW

*For Outstanding Direction of "How I Learned to Drive"
and "This Is Our Youth"*
Presenting: Christopher Ashley
Accepting: Mark Brokaw

ROB FISHER, Musical Director

*For Outstanding Achievement with
City Center's "Encores! Great American Musicals in Concert"*
Presenting: Ann Reinking
Accepting: Rob Fisher

GERARD ALESSANDRINI

*For Outstanding Body of Work as the
Creator, Author and Director of "Forbidden Broadway"*
Presenting: Phyllis Newman
Accepting: Gerard Alessandrini

DAVID GALLO

*For Outstanding Scenic Design for
"Bunny Bunny Gilda Radner: a sort of romantic comedy"*
Presenting: Geoffrey Holder
Accepting: David Gallo

HOWARD CRABTREE

For Outstanding Costume Design for "When Pigs Fly"
Presenting: Geoffrey Holder
Accepting for Howard Crabtree: Danny Gates

BRIAN MacDEVITT

*For Outstanding Lighting Design for
"By the Sea, By the Sea, By the Beautiful Sea"*

Presenting: Geoffrey Holder

Accepting: Brian MacDevitt

"JUNE MOON"

For Outstanding Revival of a Musical

Presenting: Ring Lardner Jr.

Accepting: Douglas Carter Beane, for The Drama Department

"HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE"

For Outstanding Play

Presenting: Alex Witchel

Accepting: Paula Vogel

"VIOLET"

For Outstanding Musical

Presenting: Liliame Montevecchi

Accepting: Tim Sanford, Artistic Director of Playwrights Horizons

JANE ALEXANDER, Actress and

Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

For Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

Presenting: Michael Allinson and Lucille Lortel

Accepting for Jane Alexander: Ed Sherin

CLOSING REMARKS

The Actors' Fund of America, founded in 1882, is the only national social services organization that serves the entire entertainment profession. The Fund provides services from its headquarters in New York City, its regional offices in Los Angeles and Chicago, its Nursing and Retirement Homes in Englewood, New Jersey, and the Aurora supportive housing residence on West 57th Street in New York City. The Actors' Fund recently assumed management of the Actors' Work Program, which serves people from its offices in New York and Los Angeles. The Fund serves over 3,400 people a year, with an annual operating budget of \$13 million. In addition to providing emergency grants for essentials such as food, rent and medical expenses, The Fund offers a comprehensive roster of programs designed to meet the unique needs of members of the entertainment profession. The Actors' Fund offers counseling, mental health services, a chemical dependency program, senior and disabled services, nursing home care and retirement housing, affordable supportive housing, and a comprehensive AIDS Initiative. In response to the changing needs of the entertainment community, The Actors' Fund is implementing a number of new initiatives, including the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative and the Artists' Health Insurance Information Center.



**Support for this event has been generously provided by
The Chase Manhattan Private Bank
and
Theatre Development Fund (TDF)**

TDF/THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Theatre Development Fund is pleased to have participated in A.R.T./New York's Passport to Off-Broadway Month culminating with the Lucille Lortel Awards. Since 1968, Theatre Development Fund has filled over 42 million theatre seats; given subsidy support to more than 500 plays, including 15 Tony Award winners and 19 Pulitzer prize honoree; and returned over half a billion dollars in revenue to theatre, dance and music organizations. Each year, at its TKTS Booths in Times Square and at the World Trade Center, and through its mailing programs, TDF sells some two million theatre seats at discounted prices to an audience that might not otherwise be able to afford the unique experience of live performance. In addition, TDF maintains a 75,000 item Costume Collection for rental at minimum prices to not-for-profit performing organizations throughout the country, presents sign-interpreted performances, sponsors comprehensive training courses for future producers and provides a 24-hour New York arts hotline. TDF's arts education programs, Stage Doors, R.A.P. (Residency Arts Program), and Voucher Programs prepare students through workshops and performances to introduce them to theatre, thus creating and serving future audiences.



**The Chase Manhattan Private Bank
is proud to support the
1997 Lucille Lortel Awards
for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway.**

**We congratulate Ms. Lortel, the award winners
and the countless others who bring
the magic of the theatre to life every day.**

Bravo!

THE CHASE MANHATTAN PRIVATE BANK
