THE 2001 LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS



Monday, May 7, 2001
- at The Lucille Lortel Theatre
121 Christopher Street
New York, New York



THE 2001 LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS

for

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OFF-BROADWAY

Monday, May 7, 2001 Presentation Ceremony at 7:00 P.M.

Reception Immediately Following at



9 East 18th Street

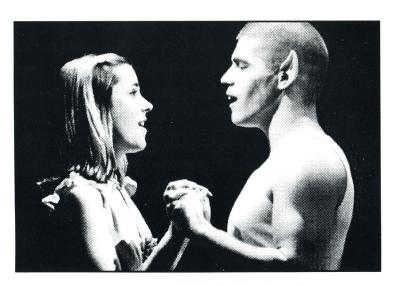
HOSTED BY
BROOKE SHIELDS
&
ALAN CUMMING

2001 SELECTION COMMITTEE

CLIVE BARNES
MARIA DIDIA
SUSAN EINHORN
BEVERLY EMMONS
BRUCE FERGUSON
GEORGE FORBES
DAVID MARSHALL GRANT
BARBARA HAUPTMAN
GERALD RABKIN
MARC ROUTH
DONALD SADDLER
DAVID STONE
ANNA STRASBERG
CAROL WAASER
LINDA WINER



A scene from **PROOF**Pictured: Mary-Louise Parker & Larry Bryggman
credit: Joan Marcus



A scene from **BAT BOY: The Musical**Pictured: Kerry Butler & Deven May
credit: Joan Marcus

2001 LORTEL AWARD RECIPIENTS

NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP Outstanding Body of Work
PRESENTED BY ADAM PASCAL

DAVID GALLO Outstanding Set Design, "Jitney"

JANE GREENWOOD Outstanding Costume Design, "Old Money"
PAUL ANDERSON Outstanding Lighting Design, "Mnemonic"
CHRISTOPHER SHUTT Outstanding Sound Design, "Mnemonic"
PRESENTED BY JERRY DIXON, RAUL ESPARZA, & AMY SPANGER,
THE CAST OF "TICK, TICK... BOOM!"

CHRISTOPHER GATELLI Outstanding Choreographer, "Bat Boy"
PRESENTED BY DEVEN MAY

DAN SULLIVAN Outstanding Director, "Proof"
PRESENTED BY MARK LINN-BAKER

JUSTIN KIRK Outstanding Featured Actor, "Ten Unknowns"
PRESENTED BY POLLY DRAPER

JULIANNA MARGULIES Outstanding Featured Actress, "Ten Unknowns"

PRESENTED BY GALE HAROLD & GEORGE MORFOGEN

ALAN BATES Outstanding Actor, "The Unexpected Man"
PRESENTED BY LILI TAYLOR

MARY-LOUISE PARKER Outstanding Actress, "Proof"
PRESENTED BY HAL LINDEN

TINY ALICE Outstanding Revival
PRESENTED BY DONNA MURPHY

BAT BOY: THE MUSICAL Outstanding Musical Presented By Priscilla Lopez & Thommie Walsh

PROOF Outstanding Play
PRESENTED BY BRIAN KERWIN & JOHN SPENCER

MNEMONIC Unique Theatrical Experience
PRESENTED BY TIM ROBBINS

LANFORD WILSON 2001 Edith Oliver Award for Sustained Excellence
PRESENTED BY DEBRA MONK

KITTY CARLISLE HART Outstanding Lifetime Achievement
PRESENTED BY JULIANNA MARGULIES AND
RICHARD SCHWARTZ, CHAIRMAN NYSCA

PRESENTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



made her first stroll down the catwalk at age three. At eight, she landed her first movie role in *Alice, Sweet Alice,* and at 12 she became a household name portraying a pre-teen prosti-

tute in Pretty Baby. Since then Shields has become one of the most photographed faces in the world and established an acting career that encompasses TV, film, and theatre. She recently starred in Lifetime's "What Makes A Family," starring opposite Whoopi Goldberg and Cherry Jones. This original project was produced by Barbra Streisand and Whoopi Goldberg. This month, Shields will be seen in the ABC mini-series "Widows," starring Mercedes Ruehl and Rosie Perez. In 1994, Shields received accolades and the Theater World Award her performance as Rizzo in Tommy Tune's revival of Grease. She performed in the hit musical for six months. Over the last year, Shields participated in The Vagina Monologues in both NY and LA. Shields performed to soldout audiences in both cities during her three week stints in each. Shields recieved rave reviews for her role in Black and White in which she starred oposite Robert Downey, Sheilds brought her Ir. and Ben Stiller. charisma and dilligence to series TV, starring for 4 years in the title role of NBC's "Suddenly Susan," earning a People's Choice Award and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress in a Comedy Series. Her first major film role came in 1977 when she starred in Pretty Baby. She was again surrounded by controversy when she starred in the romantic fantasy Blue Lagoon, and the 1980 feature Endless Love. Her additional film roles include Tilt, King of the Gypsies, Wanda Nevada, Just You and Me Kid, Sahara, The Muppets Take Manhattan, Brenda Starr, Running WIld, and Freeway. She was also seen opposite Chris O'Donnell in The Bachelor for New Line. In 1987 Shields graduated from Princeton University with honors in French Literature. It was there that she discovered her love of theatre. Her theatre credits include *The Eden Cinema* at UBU Rep. She appeared in *Love Letters* with David Keith at the Canon Theatre and opposite Martin Hewitt for New Mexico Rep. Shields continues to lend support to issues involving children's welfare and education.

ALAN CUMMING



trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. For Alan's Broadway debut, he won a 1998 Tony award for Best Actor in a musical for his performance in *Cabaret*. Theatre (London): *Cabaret* (Donmar Warehouse, Olivier Award

nom.), Hamlet (English Touring Theatre/ Donmar Ware-house, Best Actor, TMA awards, Shakespeare Globe Award nom.), La Bete (Lyric Hammersmith, Olivier nom.), Romeo and Juliet (Royal National Theatre Studio). Accidental Death of an Anarchist (RNT, Olivier Award), As You Like It, Singer (RSC), Conquest of the South Pole (Royal Theatre, Olivier nom.). Also seasons at the Traverse, and Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh; Tron, Glasgow; Dundee Rep, Bristol Old Vic Borderline, tours with Workshop and Glasgow Citizens' TAG. Film: Plunkett and Macleane, Spice World, Eyes Wide Shut, For My Baby, Buddy, Romy and Michele's High School Reunion, Emma, Goldeneye, Circle of Friends, Black Beauty, Second Best, Prague (Best Actor, Atlantic Film Festival, Scottish BAFTA Best Film Actor nom.). TV includes "Burn Your Phone" (also directed), "The Chemistry Lesson," "Mickey Love," "The Last Romantics," and the Genie" (Top TV "Bernard Comedy Awards). Newcomer. British Writing credits include the BBC2 sitcom "The High Life," the short film Butter (which he also directed), several "Victor and Barry" shows and two adaptations for the Royal National Theatre.

kttty Carlisle Hart has long been the very embodiment of graciousness and elegance. Her charming manners have enhanced her efforts as one of New York's most ardent spokespersons on behalf of the arts, particularly during the 20 years she chaired the New York State Council of the Arts. She has also been a strong advocate for women. Mrs. Hart's own career provides a shining role model



for women and has enriched us all. She is an actress and singer with a long record achievements in the arts and in public service. Born New in Orleans, she was educated Switzerland, then at the Sorbonne

and at the London School of Economics. She studied acting in London at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

It is our good fortune that she based her performing career in our city. Mrs. Hart's first Broadway appearance was in *Champagne Sec.* Her most recent was in the 1984 revival of *On Your Toes.* In the world of opera, she created the role of Lucretia in the American premier of Benjamin Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia.* She made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1967 as Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus.*

Mrs. Hart's film appearances include the Marx Brothers' classic, *A Night at the Opera*, two films with Bing Crosby, *She Loves Me Not* and *Here is My Heart*, and later, roles in Woody Allen's *Radio Days* and in *Six Degrees of Separation*. She was a regular panelist on the TV show, "To

Tell the Truth," for 15 years. Mrs. Hart has also lectured nationwide.

In 1971, Governor Rockefeller appointed her vice chair of the NY State Council of the Arts. Governor Carey appointed her chairman in 1976 and Governor Cuomo reappointed her. She was the third person to hold that post and is now chairman emeritus. In 1990, she was appointed to the Independent Commission to review the National Endowment for the Arts. The next year, President George Bush presented her with the National Medal of Arts.

Here in New York, in addition to her superb work for the Council, she has served as a board member of Empire State College and as an Honorary Trustee of both The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art. She is a board member of the Center for Arts Education, dedicated to bringing the arts into our public schools.

Her concern for women's role in society led to her appointment as chairman of the Statewide Conference of Women and later as special consultant to Governor Nelson Rockefeller on Women's Opportunities. She moderated a television series called "Women on the Move." Recently, she resumed her singing career. Mrs. Hart, whose late husband was the Puitzer Prize-winning playwright- director Moss Hart, is the author of Kitty: An Autobiography. Kitty Carlisle Hart's elegance and warmth have long endeared her to New Yorkers. Her determined and successful use of her talents and Intelligence to assure our city's role as a world center of artistic achievement has kept our town's heart beating, its very soul alive.

LANFORD WILSON is the author of Balm in Gilead, The Rimers of Eldritch, The Gingham Dog, Lemon Sky, Serenading Louie, The Hot l Baltimore. The Mound Builders, Angels Fall, Burn This, Redwood Curtain, Trinity, 5th of July, Talley & Son, Talley's Folly, and some twenty one act plays including Brontosaurus, The Great Nebula in Orion, and the paired A Poster of the Cosmos and The Moonshot Tape. For television: "Taxi!" (no relation to the series) and "The Migrants," from a story by Tennessee Williams. He has also written the libretto for Lee Hoiby's opera of Williams' Summer and Smoke and a new translation of Chekov's Three Sisters. By The Sea. By The Sea. By The Sea (of which he wrote one of the three plays) premiered at Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor in 1995 and was later done at Manhattan Theatre Club in 1996. His play. Virgil is Still the Frogboy. was produced by Bay Street in 1996. Sympathetic Magic was produced by Second Stage in 1997. Awards include the Brandeis University Creative Arts Award in Theatre Arts, the Institute of Arts and Letters Award, the Edward Albee Last Frontier Award, the John Steinbeck Award, the Drama-Logue Award (LA) for Talley's Folly and 5th of July, two NY Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Play (Talley's Folly and Hot D, two Obje Awards for Best Play (Hot l and The Mound Builders), the Obie Award for Sustained Achievement,

and the Prize for Drama (Tallev's Folly). Wilson is a founder (with Tanya Berezin, Rob Thirkield, and Marshall Mason) of Circle Repertory Company and was a resident playwright there from 1969 to 1995. He is a member of the Dramatists Council and has made his home in Sag Harbor since 1970. His play *Book of Days* premiered at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan, and was chosen Best Play of 1998 by the American Theatre Critics Association. It opened the season at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis in September, 1999, and then moved to Hartford Stage Company in October, 1999. His newest play, *Rain Dance*, premiered at Purple Rose Theatre in early 2001

NEW YORK THEATER WORKSHOP Founded in 1979 by Stephen Graham and located in the heart of the East Village, New York Theatre Workshop is dedicated to developing challenging and unpredictable theatre. At the heart of NYTW is a community of artists, known as the Usual Suspects, which is often the breeding ground for the works NYTW produces. NYTW inaugurated its new theatre at 79 East 4th Street in the spring of 1993 with its award-winning productions of Caryl Churchill's Owners and Traps. Among the many extraordinary plays developed or premiered at NYTW are Ionathan Larson's Rent. Tony Kushner's Angels in America and Slavs!. Doug Wright's Quills, Paul Rudnick's The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told, and Claudia Shear's Blown Sideways Through Life and Dirty Blonde. NYTW is also the American home for internationally renowned director Ivo van Hove who presented Tennessee Williams' Streetcar Named Desire, O'Neill's More Stately Mansions, and most recently, Alice In Bed by Susan In 1991, New York Theatre Workshop received the Obie Award for Sustained Achievement and was cited last year by Time Out New York as "Best Company" in their fifth anniversary issue. NYTW is the recipient of a Leading National Theatres Program grant from the Doris Duke Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



The Lucille Lortel Awards for O u t s t a n d i n g Achievement Off-Broadway are named for Lucille Lortel, who made her Broadway debut as an

actress in the Theatre Guild's production of George Bernard Shaw's *Caesar* and *Cleopatra*, which starred Helen Hayes.

As a producer of more than 500 productions, she is most remembered for her 1955 Tony® Award-winning revival of Marc Blitzstein's translation of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's The Threepenny Opera; Jean Genet's The Balcony; the 1964 Off Broadway American premiere of Athol Fugard's The Blood Knot; Sean O'Casey's Cock-A-Doodle Dandy and Berlin to Broadway by Kurt Weill; Marsha Norman's Getting Out; Jane Anderson's The Baby Dance; and Larry Kramer's The Destiny of Me. She was the Artistic Director of the ANTA Matinee Series for 20 seasons.

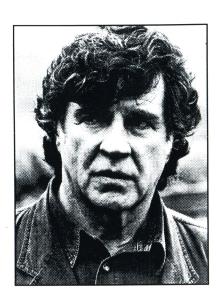
That series yielded several producitons that went on to the Library of Congress in Washington where Richard Coe, drama critic for The Washington Post, dubbed her "the Queen of Off-Broadway." founder and Artistic Director for 51 years of the White Barn Theatre in Westport, Connecticut she pioneered and proved the dramatic viability of staged-readings for audiences that were craving avant-garde and experimental Theatre. She was responsible for the American premiere of Sean O'Casey's Red Roses for Me: Eugene Ionesco's The Murray Schisgal's The Chairs:

Typists, Paul Zindel's The Effect of Gamma Rays..., and Terrence McNally's Next. August Wilson's Fences was the first play sponsored by the Lucille Lortel Fund for New Drama at Yale Rep. She produced Lee Blessing's A Walk in The Woods on Broadway. She subsequently produced A Walk in The Woods at the Library of Congress and then in London starring Sir Alec Guinness and Edward Hermann. She then remounted the Broadway production and presented it in Moscow.

During her lifetime, Lucille Lortel has received virtually every theatrical award and honor, including the first Margo Jones Award (1962); the Strasberg Lee Lifetime Achievement in Theatre Award (1985): the Lucille Lortel Distinguished Professorial Chair in Theatre at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and induction into the Theatre Hall of Fame (1990). Lucille Lortel was also responsible for the establishment of the Lucille Lortel Room of the Theatre on Film and Tape Archives at Lincoln Center.

In the last year of her life, Lucille created the Playwright's Sidewalk, enshrining an international roster of playwrights whose works have been produced Off Broadway. Lucille Lortel died on April 4, 1999.

The Lucille Lortel Theatre Foundation was created by Miss Lortel to foster, encourage and provide a home to plays and musicals that are consistent with the kind of productions that she sponsored during her lifetime.



Alan Bates



Julianna Margulies

Mary-Louise Parker



Justin Kirk

About The Actors' Fund of America

The Actors' Fund of America, founded in 1882, is the national human service organization helping all entertainment professionals in theatre, television, film, radio, music, opera and dance. Our broad spectrum of programs - designed to address the needs of our community - include comprehensive social services, health care services, employment and training, and supportive Administered from our housing. offices in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago, these programs help people solve problems and make positive changes in their lives. And when a crisis occurs, The Fund is here to provide intensive case management, counseling, and linkage to community resources and financial assistance.

With an annual budget of \$15 million, The Actors' Fund serves over 6,000 individuals a year nationwide. The Actors' Fund provides comprehensive services, enhanced by a variety of specialized programs, in addition to emergency grants for essentials such as food, rent and medical care.

Health services include our AIDS Initiative, Chemical Dependency Services, Mental Health Services, Disabled Care Program, the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative, the Artists' Health Insurance

Resource Center, and Physician Volunteers for the Arts.

Work and Family Services include educational and career counseling provided by The Actors' Work Program; the AIDS Training and Education Program which helps our colleagues who are living with AIDS to return to meaningful activities and to deal with the possibility of returning to the workplace; the Program; and Seniors Entertainment Industry Assistance Program which offers child and family resource, legal, and financial planning services.

The Actors' Fund is at the forefront in providing Supportive Housing for entertainment professionals in need. In addition to The Actors' Fund Homes in New Jersey, The Aurora residence in New York City provides supportive housing for low-income working professionals, seniors, and persons with AIDS. In West Hollywood, California, The Palm View provides homes to people with HIV/AIDS. The Fund also offers a Housing Information & Referral Center to assist working professionals in locating affordable housing.

For additional information about The Actors' Fund, call (212) 221-7300 or visit www.actorsfund.org.

THE ACTORS' FUND OFFICES:

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THE ACTORS' WORK PROGRAM: 165 West 46th Street, 16th floor, New York, NY 10036, (212) 354-5480 WESTERN REGION: 5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90010, (323) 933-9244

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PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2000

DINNER WITH FRIENDS Outstanding Play
JAMES JOYCE'S THE DEAD Outstanding Musical
THE TORCH-BEARERS Outstanding Revival
BOYD GAINES Outstanding Actor "Contact"
EILEEN HECKART Outstanding Actress "The Waverly Gallery"
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KENNETH POSNER Outstanding Lighting Design "Give Me Your Answer, Do!" and "The Wild Party" EILEEN HECKART Outstanding Body of Work JASON ROBARDS Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

BARRY GROVE The 2000 Edith Oliver Award for Sustained Excellence CHARLES BUSCH and ISRAEL HOROVITZ 2000 Inductees Playwrights Sidewalk

1999

WIT Outstanding Play
THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP Outstanding Revival
MARK RUFFALO Outstanding Actor "This Is Our Youth"
KATHLEEN CHALFANT Outstanding Actress "Wit"
DEREK ANSON JONES Outstanding Director "Wit"
ROBERT BRILL with SCOTT PASK Outstanding Set Design "The Mineola Twins"
JESS GOLDSTEIN Outstanding Costume Design "Mineola Twins" & "Uneasy
Chair"

MICHAEL CHYBOWSKI Outstanding Lighting Design "Wit"
KEVIN ADAMS Outstanding Lighting Design "The Mineola Twins"
CLASSIC STAGE COMPANY Outstanding Body of Work
BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC Outstanding Special Achievement
HAROLD PINTER Outstanding Lifetime Achievement
JERRY ORBACH The Edith Oliver Award for Sustained Excellence
TOM JONES & HARVEY SCHMIDT Inducted onto the Playwrights' Sidewalk

1998

GROSS INDECENCY: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde Outstanding Play
THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE Outstanding Play
ALL MY SONS Outstanding Revival of a Play
BRIAN COX Outstanding Actor "St. Nicholas"
CHERRY JONES Outstanding Actress "Pride's Crossing"
GARRY HYNES Outstanding Direction "The Beauty Queen of Leenane"
ADRIANNE LOBEL Outstanding Set Design "On The Town"
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ARTHUR MILLER Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

ELI WALLACH The Edith Oliver Award for Sustained Excellence

1997

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE Outstanding Play

VIOLET Outstanding Musical

IUNE MOON Outstanding Revival

DAVID MORSE Outstanding Actor "How I Learned To Drive" MARY-LOUISE PARKER Outstanding Actress "How I Learned To Drive" MARK BROKAW Outstanding Director "How I Learned to Drive" and "This Is Our Youth"

DAVID GALLO Outstanding Set Design "Bunny Bunny Gilda Radner" HOWARD CRABTREE Outstanding Costume Design "When Pigs Fly" BRIAN MacDEVITT Outstanding Lighting Design "By the Sea, By the Sea, By the Beautiful Sea"

> GERARD ALESSANDRINI Outstanding Body of Work JANE ALEXANDER Outstanding Lifetime Achievement ROB FISHER Outstanding Special Achievement

1996

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

1995

CAMPING WITH HENRY & TOM Outstanding Play **JELLY ROLL!** Outstanding Musical MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG Outstanding Revival ED HARRIS Outstanding Actor "Simpatico" EILEEN ATKINS Outstanding Actress "Vita & Virginia" LINDA LAVIN Outstanding Actress "Death Defying Acts" JACK O'BRIEN Outstanding Director "Hapgood" JAMES LEONARD JOY Outstanding Set Design "Camping with Henry & Tom" JUDITH DOLAN Outstanding Costumes "The Petrified Prince" PHIL MONAT Outstanding Lighting Design "Camping with Henry & Tom" HORTON FOOTE Outstanding Body of Work SIGNATURE THEATRE COMPANY Outstanding Body of Work UTA HAGEN Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

1994

THREE TALL WOMEN Outstanding Play
WINGS Outstanding Musical
OWNERS and TRAPS Outstanding Revival
RON RIFKIN Outstanding Actor "3 Hotels"
MYRA CARTER Outstanding Actress "Three Tall Women"
LAWRENCE SACHAROW Outstanding Director "Three Tall Women"
THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE Outstanding Body of Work
A.R. GURNEY & IRENE WORTH Outstanding Individual Body of Work

"ART/NY PASSPORT TO OFF-BROADWAY" Special Award
1993

RICKY JAY Special Award for Unique Accomplishment

THE DESTINY OF ME Outstanding Play
FORBIDDEN BROADWAY Outstanding Musical
HENRY V Outstanding Revival
JOHN LEGUIZAMO Outstanding Actor "Spic-o-rama"
ANNA DEAVERE SMITH Outstanding Actress "Fires in the Mirror"
CHRISTOPHER ASHLEY Outstanding Director "Fires in the Mirror" and "Jeffrey"
JOHN LEE BEATTY Outstanding Body of Work
WYNN HANDMAN Outstanding Lifetime Achievement
JOHN WILLIS Special Award

1992

LIPS TOGETHER, TEETH APART Outstanding Play
AND THE WORLD GOES ROUND... Outstanding Musical
BOESMAN AND LENA Outstanding Revival
RON RIFKIN Outstanding Actor "The Substance of Fire"
EILEEN ATKINS Outstanding Actress "A Room of One's Own"
DANIEL SULLIVAN Outstanding Director "The Substance of Fire"
TERRENCE MCNALLY Outstanding Body of Work
ELLEN STEWART Outstanding Lifetime Achievement
BLUE MAN GROUP/TUBES Special Award

1991

ARISTOCRATS Outstanding Play
FALSETTOLAND Outstanding Musical
MEASURE FOR MEASURE Outstanding Revival
NATHAN LANE Outstanding Actor "The Lisbon Traviata"
JOHN TILLINGER Outstanding Director "The Lisbon Traviata"
CIRCLE REPERTORY COMPANY Outstanding Body of Work
ROSETTA LENOIRE Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

1989

THE COCKTAIL HOUR Outstanding Play
JOHN TILLINGER Outstanding Director
PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS Outstanding Body of Work

1988

PAUL LIBIN Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

1987

THE COMMON PURSUIT Outstanding Play MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB Outstanding Body of Work

1986

LINCOLN CENTER THEATER "The Woza Afrika! Festival"

The Lucille Lortel Awards for Outsatanding Achievement Off-Broadway were created in 1985 by resolution of The League of Off-Broadway Theatres & 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.

The Edith Oliver Award for Sustained Excellence was established in 1998 to honor the individual who best embodies the high level of artistic achievement as defined by Ms. Oliver's criticisms for The New Yorker during her more than a quarter of a century as drama critic and to honor the achievements of the New Yorker Drama Critic and great friend of Off-Broadway. She joined the New Yorker in 1947. In 1961 she began a 32-year run as their theatre critic. Edith had no patience for sham, pretension, or pomp! She had her own notions of what good acting and good plays were. Bad acting and bad plays made her angry. She was a great champion of the budding black theatre of the 1960's and '70's. She spent her summers working with young actors and playwrights at the O'Neill Theatre Center in Waterford, CT.

The 2001 Lucille Lortel Awards are sponsored by a generous grant from the Lucille Lortel Foundation.

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The League of Off-Broadway Theatres & Producers, Inc., was founded in 1959 for the purpose of promoting and fostering theatre produced Off-Broadway, to assist in the voluntary exchange of information amongst its members, and to serve as the collective voice of its membership in pursuit of these purposes. The League provides service to its members in the field of labor relations and in the management of industry pension and welfare funds.

The League has long been active in the creative marketing of Off-Broadway, including eight years of sponsorship, in partnership with Theatre Development Fund, of ART/NY's annual spring promotion, "Passport to Off-Broadway," and current sponsorship of ART/NY's website, OffBroadwayOnline.com. The Lucille Lortel Awards were instituted in 1985 to recognize outstanding achievement on Off-Broadway stages.

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