

2018 Theater Award Winners



This year saw a number of records broken at the Motif Theater Awards. The number of voters was the most yet, with 4,565 readers weighing in on their favorite performers and performances. The event filled McVinney, the 728-seat auditorium in downtown PVD, with a spirit of cheering camaraderie that carried through the entire night. You can see the list of winners below, but one of the themes was that everyone who came out was a winner - theaters were cheering one another, and companies were offering passes to other companies. Almost every theater company in the region was represented, and the afterparty at Hotel Providence was awash in theatrical energy and networking between companies.

Performances represented some of the best work from local theaters, and included boffo showstoppers from a full cast of *Newsies* by the Academy Players, a show-defining original song, "Everything that Matters," from Empire Revue's *Benny's the Musical*, stirring solos from Trinity Rep's *Ragtime* and Stadium Theatre's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, medleys from Granite's *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Theatre by the Sea's *Chicago*, a piratical mashup from Penzance by the Wilbury Group and an ever-optimistic rendition of "Tomorrow" from Community Players' *Annie*. Every single number managed to stir or inspire the crowd of fellow thespians.

Guided by showrunner Terry Shea and veteran MCs Kevin Broccoli and Reba Mitchell, presenters included Karen Kessler, Samantha Gaus, Beth and David Jepson, Paula Faber, Vince Petronio, Rita Murray Maron, Leonard Schwartz, Kira Hawkrigde, Ted Clement, Jonathan Pitts-Wiley, Joanne Fayon, Angelique Dina, a beat-boxing Rudy Rudacious, a heartfelt Tony Annicone, Cheryl and Charles

Cavalconte, and Tom Gleadow and Fred Sullivan.

Spoken word winner Christopher Johnson rededicated his award to Vatic Kuumba, and Lynn Collinson, recipient of the Unsung Hero award, gave a rousing speech about community and teamwork, also announcing her new project that will focus on roles for mature women.

The afterparty jammed out to the tunes of Westminster Yacht Club and included a few more personal award presentations. Culinary treats from Julians restaurant and brews from Narragansett Brewers rounded out the night.

COLLEGE

2018 Lighting Design - College

Jessica Winward - Eurydice, URI

2018 Set Design - College

Katryne Hecht - Beauty and the Beast, RIC

2018 Sound Design - College

Anna Drummond, Eurydice, Brown Trinity MFA

2018 Costume Design - College

Marcia Zammarelli - Beauty and the Beast, RIC

2018 Male Performance - College

Brooks Shatraw - Bert, Mary Poppins, URI

2018 Female Performance - College

Emily Turtle - Mary Poppins, URI

2018 Choreography - College

Nicole Chagnon - Mary Poppins, URI

2018 Direction - College

Bill Wilson - Beauty and the Beast, RIC

2018 Production of the Year - College

Mary Poppins, URI

COMMUNITY

2018 Lighting Design - Community

Megan Ruggiero & Doug Greene - American Strippers,

Attleboro Community Theatre

2018 Set Design - Community

Danny Rodrigues - You Can't Take It with You, Portsmouth Community Theater

2018 Sound Design - Community

Terry Shea - Isn't It Romantic, Barker

2018 Costume Design - Community

Johnny Cagno - Sweeney Todd, RISE

2018 Supporting Male - Community

John Brennan - Mr. DePinna, You Can't Take It with You, Portsmouth Community Theater

2018 Supporting Female - Community

Katrina Rossi - Susan, The Crazy Time,

Newport Playhouse

2018 Male Lead - Community

Brian Mulvey - The Grandfather, You Can't Take It with You, The Community Players

2018 Female Lead - Community

Vivienne Carrette - Athena, American Strippers, Attleboro Community Theatre

2018 Direction - Community

Cindy Killavey - Love, Loss and What I Wore, Portsmouth Community Theater

2018 New Work - Community

Murder at the Coal Mines by Gloria Schmidt - Portsmouth Community Theater

2018 Production of the Year - Community

You Can't Take It with You, Community Players

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL

2018 Lighting Design - Semi-Pro

Marc Tiberis II - ESCAPE, OUT LOUD Theatre

2018 Set Design - Semi-Pro

Christopher J Simpson - Rosencrantz

& Guildenstern Are Dead, Contemporary

Theater Company

2018 Sound Design - Semi-Pro

Ryan Stevenson - The Healing, Epic Theatre

2018 Costume Design - Semi-Pro

Kira Hawkrige - King Lear, OUT LOUD Theatre

2018 Supporting Male - Semi-Pro

David Sackal - King Lear, OUT LOUD Theatre

2018 Supporting Female - Semi-Pro

Natasha Cole - King Lear, OUT LOUD Theatre

2018 Male Lead - Semi-Pro

Kevin Broccoli - Wolf Hall, Epic Theatre

2018 Female Lead - Semi-Pro

Valerie Westgate - Vanda, Venus in Fur,

Burbage Theater Company

2018 Direction - Semi-Pro

Kira Hawkrige - King Lear, OUT LOUD Theatre

2018 New Work (or significant adaptation) -

Semi Pro & Pro

Marshall by Kevin Broccoli - Epic Theatre

2018 Production of the Year - Semi-Pro

Wolf Hall, Epic Theatre

PROFESSIONAL

2018 Lighting Design - Professional

Amith Chandrashaker - Othello, Trinity Rep

2018 Set Design - Professional

Eugene Lee - Ragtime, Trinity Rep

2018 Sound Design - Professional

Mikhail Sulaiman - Othello, Trinity Rep

2018 Costume Design - Professional

Kara Harmon - Ragtime, Trinity Rep

2018 Supporting Male - Professional

Jeff Church - As You Like It, Gamm

2018 Supporting Female - Professional

Phyllis Kaye - Death of a Salesman, Trinity Rep

2018 Male Lead - Professional
Tony Estrella - Vanya, Uncle Vanya, Gamm
2018 Female Lead - Professional
Lauren Weinberg - Belle, Beauty and the Beast,
Theatre By The Sea
2018 Direction - Professional
Tony Estrella and Rachel Walshe - As You Like It, Gamm
2018 Production of the Year - Professional
Ragtime, Trinity Rep

MISCELLANEOUS

2018 Stage Manager Award
Max Ponticelli
2018 Improv / Audience Participation
Bring Your Own Improv
2018 Most Bombastic Fight Choreography
Normand Beauregard - As You Like It, Gamm
2018 Social Media Campaign
Benny's the Musical, Empire Revue
2018 Favorite Spoken Word Artist
Christopher Johnson
2018 Favorite Concessions
Trinity Rep
2018 Favorite Fest
FRINGE PVD
2018 Youth Production of the Year
The Lion King Jr., Academy Players of RI
Most Exciting Creative Collaboration of 2018
Murder at the Coal Mines - Portsmouth Community
Theater and Portsmouth Historical Society
2018 Favorite Variety Show / Cabaret
Theatre By the Sea Cabaret
2018 Favorite Ensemble
Pirates of Penzance, Wilbury
2018 Unsung Hero Award
Lynn Collinson
2018 Devised Theater Award
The Sea Pageant, Strange Attractor
2018 Nazo Award for
Boundary Defying Theater
Red Speedo, Epic Theatre

DANCE

2018 Principal Male Dancer
Alex Lantz, Festival Ballet
2018 Principal Female Dancer
Kirsten Evans, Festival Ballet
2018 Production of the Year - Dance

Little Mermaid, Festival Ballet

MUSICAL

2018 Supporting Male in a Musical

Alvaro Beltran - Bernardo, West Side Story,
Stadium Theater

2018 Supporting Female in a Musical

Chantal Arraial - Anita, West Side Story, Stadium

2018 Male Lead in a Musical

Jack Cappadona - Quasimodo, Hunchback
of Notre Dame, Stadium Theatre

2018 Female Lead in a Musical

Rachael Warren - Mother, Ragtime, Trinity Rep

2018 Choreography Award

Jennifer Webb - A Chorus Line, Stadium Theater

2018 Musical Production Number

"Out There" - Hunchback of Notre Dame,
Stadium Theatre

2018 Musical Direction

Mark Colozzi - Hunchback of Notre Dame,
Stadium Theatre

2018 Director of a Musical

Becca Donald - Hunchback of Notre Dame, Stadium

2018 Musical of the Year

Hunchback of Notre Dame, Stadium Theatre

Editors' Picks

These special, fun awards were selected by our editors to
reflect some of their favorite work from the year:

2018 Dynamic Duo

Rachel Tondreault and Cam Torres - Senga
and Ever, Dancing Lessons, 2nd Story Theatre

2018 King of the Year

Alan Hawkrige - King Lear, King Lear, OUT LOUD Theatre

2018 Sensational Scene Stealer

Becky Gibel - Evelyn Nesbitt, Ragtime,
Trinity Rep

2018 Jury Selection

Nick Menna - Juror #3, 12 Angry Jurors, Barker
All Hail the Queen

Valerie Tarantino - The Player, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Contemporary Theater
Company

Musical Accompaniment

Julia Egan - The Troubadour, Isabella,
Counter Productions Theater Company

Comedic Gold

Ben Church - Feste, Twelfth Night,
Burbage Theater Company