

The Boston Theater
Critics Association

ELLIOT NORTON AWARDS

www.ElliotNortonAwards.com

EMBARGOED until 10 :30 PM on MON., 5/8/2023

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**The Boston Theater Critics Association
Announces**

The 40th Anniversary Elliot Norton Awards

**Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence
Awarded to
Bobbie Steinbach**

-- Awards Presented at Ceremony at the Huntington Theatre --

Awards were presented tonight to 34 outstanding actors, directors, designers, choreographers, musicians, and 5 visiting productions by the Boston Theater Critics Association (BTCA) at the **40th Anniversary Elliot Norton Awards** ceremony, held at the Huntington Theatre in Boston. This evening's awards ceremony marked the return to a live ceremony, following three years of disruption due to the pandemic.

This year's recipient of the ***Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence*** is Bobbie Steinbach, a longtime actor, director and acting coach based in Boston, who has performed in countless plays and musicals with many local and regional theater companies.

The 2023 Elliot Norton Arts Education Award was presented to Magic Circle Theater at Tufts University, New England's oldest summer theater by and for children. The award provides a grant supporting the next generation of theater artists.

Joyce Kulhawik, president of the Boston Theater Critics Association, stated, "Talk about pent-up demand! After three years, this theater community came together and packed the house! On this our 40th anniversary, they took the stage as the stars of the show, and took home the honors in 34 expanded, genderless categories, with a DJ on deck and a fabulous, onstage after-party. I'm celebrating—and already thinking about next season!"

The **Elliot Norton Awards** are presented annually by the Boston Theater Critics Association (Don Aucoin, Jared Bowen, Terry Byrne, Carolyn Clay, Christopher Ehlers, Iris Fanger, Nancy Grossman, Joyce Kulhawik, Bob Nesti, Ed Siegel, and Jacquinn Sinclair) to honor the outstanding productions, directors, designers, and performers whose work audiences have seen on greater Boston stages throughout the season. Veteran critics Ed Siegel and Nancy Grossman are retiring as full-time members of the BTCA as this season concludes.

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This year, the BTCA has implemented a number of new initiatives regarding its awards and policies:

- Gender will no longer be a factor in the acting categories.
- Design categories have been expanded.
- The Boston Theater Critics Association is issuing a “Critics’ Pick” seal of approval to theater companies to signify the BTCA’s recommendation of the production. Upon issuance, the seal is available immediately and may be used on the company’s websites and materials.
- The Boston Theater Critics Association has assembled a diverse committee of nominators who are passionate and knowledgeable about theater to serve on new nominating committees for the Elliot Norton Awards. Beginning next season (April 1, 2023 –March 31, 2024), the nominating committees will vote on nominations in small, medium, and large categories.

This year marks the first live ceremony since 2019. Virtual ceremonies were held in 2020 and 2022, because of the Covid19 pandemic. No awards were presented in 2021, due to the suspension of live performances.

The **Elliot Norton Awards** are named for the eminent Boston theater critic Elliot Norton, who remained an active supporter of drama, both locally and nationally, until his death in 2003 at the age of 100. The Boston theater community carries on his legacy and can be proud of its remarkable growth at a time in our nation’s history when the arts continue struggling to survive.

Special and honored guests at the awards in past years comprise a Who’s Who of distinguished artists whose work has appeared on Boston’s stages, including: **Al Pacino, Chita Rivera, Olympia Dukakis, Faye Dunaway, August Wilson, Melinda Lopez, Randy Rainbow, Cherry Jones, Lea DeLaria, Tommy Tune, Edward Albee, Brian Dennehy, Julie Harris, Sir Ian McKellen, Lynn Redgrave, and Jason Robards Jr.**

This year’s recipient of the Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence is Bobbie Steinbach, a longtime actor, director and acting coach based in Boston. She has performed in countless plays and musicals with many local and regional theatre companies, including Lyric Stage, New Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Greater Boston Stage Company, Michigan Opera Theatre, Cherry County Playhouse and Boston Playwrights’ Theatre. She is a founding member of Actors’ Shakespeare Project, and as a resident actor, she has trod the boards in 22 of the Bard’s plays, and will soon tackle Jaques in *As You Like It* in a co-production with ASP and Theatre Offensive. In 2016, the Theatre Communications Guild honored Bobbie with a prestigious two-year Resident Actor Fox Fellowship for Distinguished Achievement, for which she partnered with ASP to develop a company project, *I Am Lear*, and a solo show, *In Bed with the Bard*. She was also the 2016 Huntington Theatre Company’s Lunt-Fontanne Fellow and was honored in 2001 with an Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Actress for a trio of performances. During the pandemic lockdown, she was the host of *All Together Now*, streaming on YouTube and Facebook, where she presented and interviewed performing artists, composers and writers from around the world.

For more details on the **40th Anniversary Elliot Norton Awards**, including a full list of awardees and nominees, visit <http://www.elliottnortonawards.com>

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Boston Theater Critics Association's 40th Anniversary Elliot Norton Awards

Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence

Bobbie Steinbach

Awardees

Outstanding Visiting Play

"On Beckett," a production by Octopus Theatricals presented by ArtsEmerson

Outstanding Visiting Musical

"Into the Woods," presented by Emerson Colonial Theatre

Outstanding Visiting Design

"The Orchard," produced by Groundswell Theatricals, Arlekin Players Theatre and (zero-G) Virtual Theatre Lab in association with the Cherry Orchard Festival, ShowOne Productions, Valentine Talland & Nagesh Mahapantha, Jenny and David Jadow, Leah Michalos & Jessica Sporn

Outstanding Visiting Performance in a Play

Travis Alabanza, "Burgerz," presented by ArtsEmerson

Outstanding Visiting Performance in a Musical

Gavin Creel, "Into the Woods," presented by Emerson Colonial Theatre

Outstanding Play, Large Theater

"K-I-S-S-I-N-G," The Huntington and The Front Porch Arts Collective

Outstanding Play, Midsize Theater

"The Inheritance," SpeakEasy Stage Company

Outstanding Play, Small Theater

"Chicken & Biscuits," The Front Porch Arts Collective

Outstanding Musical

"Ain't Misbehavin'," The Front Porch Arts Collective, The Nora @ Central Square Theater, and Greater Boston Stage Company

Outstanding Leading Performance, Large Theater

Regan Sims, "K-I-S-S-I-N-G," The Huntington and The Front Porch Arts Collective

Outstanding Featured Performance, Large Theater

Ivan Cecil Walks, "K-I-S-S-I-N-G," The Huntington and The Front Porch Arts Collective

Outstanding Leading Performance, Midsize Theater

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Anthony T Goss, "Seven Guitars," Actors' Shakespeare Project

Outstanding Featured Performance, Midsize Theater

Mishka Yarovoy, "The Inheritance," SpeakEasy Stage Company

Outstanding Leading Performance, Small Theater

Ramona Lisa Alexander, "Black Super Hero Magic Mama," Company One Theatre, presented in collaboration with American Repertory Theater, Boston Public Library and Boston Comics in Color Festival

Outstanding Featured Performance, Small Theater

Schanaya Barrows, "can i touch it?," Company One Theatre, produced in partnership with the City of Boston's Office of Arts and Culture

Outstanding Leading Performance in a Musical

Neil A. Casey, "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," Lyric Stage Company of Boston

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical

Anthony Pires, Jr., "Ain't Misbehavin'," The Front Porch Arts Collective, The Nora @ Central Square Theater and Greater Boston Stage Company

Outstanding Musical Direction

David Freeman Coleman and Dan Rodriguez, "Ain't Misbehavin'," The Front Porch Arts Collective, The Nora @ Central Square Theater and Greater Boston Stage Company

Outstanding Choreography

Misha Shields, "K-I-S-S-I-N-G," The Huntington and The Front Porch Arts Collective

Outstanding Director, Large Theater

Dawn M. Simmons, "K-I-S-S-I-N-G," The Huntington and The Front Porch Arts Collective

Outstanding Director, Midsize Theater

Maurice Emmanuel Parent, "Seven Guitars," Actors' Shakespeare Project

Outstanding Director, Small Theater

Mariela López-Ponce, "Don't Eat the Mangos," Apollinaire Theatre Company and Teatro Chelsea

Outstanding Scenic Design, Large Theater

Wilson Chin, "Clyde's," The Huntington in a co-production with Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Outstanding Scenic Design, Midsize or Small Theater

Jon Savage, "Seven Guitars," Actors' Shakespeare Project

Outstanding Lighting Design, Large Theater

Jorge Arroyo, "K-I-S-S-I-N-G," The Huntington and The Front Porch Arts Collective

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Outstanding Lighting Design, Midsize or Small Theater

Kat C. Zhou, "The Chinese Lady," Central Square Theater in partnership with CHUANG Stage

Outstanding Costume Design, Large Theater

Karen Perry, "Clyde's," The Huntington in a co-production with Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Outstanding Costume Design, Midsize or Small Theater

Scott Martino, "Little Christmas Tree Shop of Horrors," Gold Dust Orphans

Outstanding Sound Design, Large Theater

Anna Drummond, "K-I-S-S-I-N-G," The Huntington and The Front Porch Arts Collective

Outstanding Sound Design, Midsize or Small Theater

Abe Joyner-Meyers (soundscape) and Dewey Dellay (music), "Seven Guitars," Actors' Shakespeare Project

Outstanding Solo Performance

Paul Melendy, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," Greater Boston Stage Company

Outstanding New Script

Lenelle Moise, "K-I-S-S-I-N-G," The Huntington and The Front Porch Arts Collective

Outstanding Ensemble

"The Inheritance," SpeakEasy Stage Company