



THE ELLIOT NORTON AWARDS, presented by the Boston Theater Critics Association (BTCA), recognize outstanding achievement in Boston area theater. They have been celebrated annually since 1983 in honor of the Dean of American Theater Critics, Elliot Norton. A drama critic for Boston newspapers and WGBH TV, Mr. Norton supported the dramatic arts until his death in 2003 at the age of 100!

I have been reporting on Boston theater since 1981 and have seen this community grow from a handful of tiny theaters in attics and small resident companies, to an explosion of companies of all sizes. They are on the cutting edge of the global conversation, challenging norms, triggering dialogue, putting fresh eyes on the classics, launching Broadway hits and world premieres. Oscar, Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winners are among us, evidence of the caliber and reach of our work.



Every night on stages all around the city, our theatrical artists are cutting through the noise, keeping it real and relevant during what continues to be a socially and politically supercharged time. They do it with little recognition or recompense. Small and fringe theater troupes often make a fraction of the minimum wage. Ticket prices barely cover half the cost of putting on a show. Coverage of the arts is shrinking, while fake news stories proliferate.

But this community never quits, out of relentless passion and a commitment to expressing the truth of our humanity. For one night each year, The Elliot Norton Awards highlight these theater artists and what they bring to our city. The BTCA will also, once again, award a scholarship that night to help support the next generation of theater artists.

This annual celebration of our theatrical community relies on the generosity of donors to defray expenses, which are kept to a minimum. Even so, the BTCA—a nonprofit organization—sometimes presents The Elliot Norton Awards at a financial loss.

This is why we need you to help support the community that supports you all year long. We hope that you will consider taking an ad out in our *Playbill*, becoming a sponsor, or making a tax-deductible donation to the BTCA.

Please join us in honoring our vibrant community of theater artists at this year's 37th Elliot Norton Awards on May 20, 2019!

Sincerely,

Joyce Kulhawik

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2019 ELLIOT NORTON AWARDS PROGRAM

Monday, May 20 • Huntington Avenue Theatre

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