

The Boston Theater  
Critics Association

# ELLIOT NORTON AWARDS

[www.ElliotNortonAwards.com](http://www.ElliotNortonAwards.com)

**EMBARGOED until 9 PM on MON., 5/11/2020**

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**The Boston Theater Critics Association  
Announces**

## **The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Elliot Norton Awards**

**Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence  
Awarded Posthumously to  
Johnny Lee Davenport**

**-- Awards Presented at Virtual Ceremony --**

Awards were announced tonight for more than two dozen outstanding actors, directors, designers, ensembles and productions by The Boston Theater Critics Association (BTCA) at **The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Elliot Norton Awards**. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no live ceremony was held; instead, the awardees were revealed in a virtual ceremony livestreamed on [ElliotNortonawards.com](http://ElliotNortonawards.com).

The ***Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence*** was awarded posthumously to Johnny Lee Davenport, a towering actor on Boston area stages large and small. A Special Citation was awarded to *Shear Madness*, the popular audience-participation murder mystery that recently ended a 40-year run at the Charles Playhouse.

Two awards were also given in memory of two actors who passed away this season: Outstanding Actor, Midsize Theater in memory of Gabriel Kuttner, and Outstanding Ensemble, Midsize Theater in memory of Margarita Damaris Martinez.

This year, in place of a scholarship the BTCA made a donation of \$2,500 to the Theatre Community Benevolent Fund, which provides financial relief to artists in crisis in Greater Boston.

Joyce Kulhawik, president of the Boston Theater Critics Association, stated, "We never hesitated a second about doing this show virtually! Nothing, not even a global pandemic, could have prevented us from celebrating our brilliant theater community and honoring the outstanding work of the past season. In fact, I am invigorated by the opportunity to expand this community's reach, and reinvent the communal experience that is theater. I can't wait to see what these creative artists come up with, and no matter what the "new normal" looks like, we will be there for them!"

The **Elliot Norton Awards** are presented annually by The Boston Theater Critics Association (Don

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Aucoin, Jared Bowen, Terry Byrne, Carolyn Clay, Christopher Ehlers, Iris Fanger, Nancy Grossman, Joyce Kulhawik, Kilian Melloy, Bob Nesti and Ed Siegel) to honor the outstanding productions, directors, designers and performers that audiences have seen on greater Boston stages throughout the season.

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 are 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: Melinda Lopez, Randy Rainbow, Cherry Jones, Lea DeLaria, Mary Louise Wilson, Olympia Dukakis, Chita Rivera, Tommy Tune, Al Pacino, Edward Albee, Brian Dennehy, August Wilson, Julie Harris, Sir Ian McKellen, Lynn Redgrave and Jason Robards Jr.

For more details on the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Elliot Norton Awards, including a full list of awardees and nominees, visit <http://www.elliottnortonawards.com>

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## **Boston Theater Critics Association 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Elliot Norton Awards**

### **Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence**

Johnny Lee Davenport

### **Special Citation**

"Shear Madness" which opened in Boston and just ended its 40-year run as one of the longest-running non-musical plays in the world

### **Outstanding Musical Production**

"Parade," Moonbox Productions

### **Outstanding Production, Large Theater**

"The Purists," Huntington Theatre Company

### **Outstanding Production, Midsize Theater**

"Cloud 9," The Nora at Central Square Theater

### **Outstanding Production, Small or Fringe Company**

"The Stone," Arlekin Players Theatre

### **Outstanding Solo Performance**

Billy Meleady, "the smuggler," Boston Playwrights' Theatre

### **Outstanding Direction, Large Theater**

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Rachel Chavkin, "Moby-Dick," American Repertory Theater

**Outstanding Direction, Midsize Theater**

Lee Mikeska Gardner, "Cloud 9," The Nora at Central Square Theater

**Outstanding Direction, Small or Fringe Theater**

Igor Golyak, "The Stone," Arlekin Players Theatre

**Outstanding Musical Performance by an Actor**

Aaron Patterson, "Parade," Moonbox Productions

**Outstanding Musical Performance by an Actress**

Katrina Z Pavao, "Little Shop of Horrors," Lyric Stage Company of Boston

**Outstanding Actor, Large Theater**

Eric Berryman, "Detroit Red," ArtsEmerson

**Outstanding Actor, Midsize Theater** *(In Memory of Gabriel Kuttner)*

Kadahj Bennett, "Pass Over," SpeakEasy Stage Company and The Front Porch Arts Collective

**Outstanding Actor, Small or Fringe Theater**

Nael Nacer, "The Return," Israeli Stage

**Outstanding Actress, Large Theater**

Analisa Velez, "The Purists," Huntington Theatre Company

**Outstanding Actress, Midsize Theater**

Paula Plum, "The Children," SpeakEasy Stage Company

**Outstanding Actress, Small or Fringe Theater**

Darya Denisova, "The Stone," Arlekin Players Theatre

**Outstanding Ensemble, Large Theater**

"Sweat," Huntington Theatre Company

**Outstanding Ensemble, Midsize Theater** *(In Memory of Margarita Damaris Martinez)*

"black odyssey boston," Underground Railway at Central Square Theater and The Front Porch Arts Collective

**Outstanding Ensemble, Small or Fringe Theater**

"The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart," Apollinaire Theatre Company

**Outstanding New Script**

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“Detroit Red” by Will Power, ArtsEmerson

## **Outstanding Design, Large Theater**

“Moby-Dick,” American Repertory Theater

Scenic design by Mimi Lien; costume design by Brenda Abbandandolo; lighting design by Bradley King; sound design by Hidenori Nakajo; puppet design by Eric F. Avery; wig, hair and make-up design by Rachel Padula-Shufelt

## **Outstanding Design, Midsize Theater**

“Vanity Fair,” Underground Railway at Central Square Theater

Scenic design by David R. Gammons; costume design by Leslie Held; lighting design by Jeff Adelberg; sound design by David Wilson; properties coordinated by Ciara McAloon

## **Outstanding Design, Small or Fringe Theater**

“The Seagull,” Arlekin Players Theatre

Scenic design by Nikolay Simonov; costume design by Nastya Bugaeva; lighting design by Jeff Adelberg

## **Outstanding Musical Direction**

Catherine Stornetta, “Parade,” Moonbox Productions

## **Outstanding Choreography**

Ilyse Robbins, “Swan Lake in Blue,” Greater Boston Stage Company

## **Outstanding Visiting Production, Non-Musical**

“Indecent,” Huntington Theatre Company

## **Outstanding Visiting Production, Musical**

“American Utopia,” Ambassador Theatre Group

## **Outstanding Visiting Musical Performance**

Ben Levi Ross, “Dear Evan Hansen,” Broadway In Boston

## **Outstanding Visiting Musical Ensemble**

“Six,” American Repertory Theater (Adrianna Hicks, Andrea Macasaet, Abby Mueller, Brittney Mack, Courtney Mack and Anna Uzele)