



# NTC

national theatre conference

2018 NTC Annual Meeting

New York City

December 7 - 9, 2018

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connecting, supporting, and advocating  
for america's theatre since 1925

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT, MICHAEL HOOD

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Welcome to New York City, to The Players, and to the 2018 annual meeting of the National Theatre Conference. I look to each of you as leaders in the American theatre to participate fully in our sessions and to take advantage of the opportunity they present for artistic renewal and for community-building. The Board of Trustees has worked very hard to plan our sessions and I believe you will find them invigorating, enlightening, and inspiring. Thank you for being here and thank you once again for your efforts to connect, to support, and to advocate for the American theatre.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Hood".

President, National Theatre Conference

## GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

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**Serve the American Theatre.** To explore the means of best serving the interests of the American Theatre, and to initiate, encourage and support projects of value and significance with a view to strengthening and broadening the influence of theatre in our country.

**Gather Great Minds Together.** To bring the membership together at least once a year in a spirit of mutual helpfulness for the interchange of aims and ideals, and for the discussion of common problems and interests.

**Learn From The Best.** To provide opportunity for the membership, at its annual meeting, to hear the views of outstanding personalities in the theatre and to observe demonstrations of various techniques in order that the membership may profit thereby.

# NTC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Austin, TX

## NEW MEMBERS

*NTC is comprised of distinguished leaders of the American Theatre. This year, we welcome eight new members who were nominated by their peers and approved by the board of trustees.*

### JANET ALLEN [JALLEN@IRTLIVE.COM](mailto:JALLEN@IRTLIVE.COM)



Creating world-class professional theatre for Central Indiana audiences of all ages has remained a career-long passion for Janet Allen. Janet studied theatre at Illinois State University, Indiana University, University of Sussex and Exeter College, Oxford. As a classical theatre specialist, she has published and taught theatre history and dramaturgy at IUPUI and Butler. Janet is a member of the Indianapolis Woman's Club and Congregation Beth-El Zedeck. She lives in an historic house in the Chatham Arch neighborhood with her husband, Joel Grynheim, and a lovely canine mutt. They enjoy following the adventures of their children, Daniel, Leah and Nira.

### IAN BELKNAP [IANBELKNAP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IANBELKNAP@GMAIL.COM)



Ian Belknap is the artistic director of Tony honoree The Acting Company. He has directed or produced many classical plays including: *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Of Mice and Men*; and new work, Marcus Gardley's *X or Betty Shabazz v. The Nation*, *Desire*, new plays by John Guare, Beth Henley, David Grimm, Elizabeth Egloff, and Rebecca Gilman. He has directed at many theaters across the country including The Guthrie, Delaware's Resident Ensemble Players, Boise Contemporary Theater; and at leading drama schools including The Juilliard Drama Division and New York University.

### DESEMONA CHIANG [DESCIANG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DESCIANG@GMAIL.COM)



Desdemona Chiang is a stage director based in Seattle and the San Francisco Bay Area. Co-Founder of Azeotrope (Seattle). Intersection for the Arts/Triangle Lab Artist-Investigator. Adjunct Faculty, Cornish College of the Arts. Awards/Affiliations: Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Theatre, SDC Sir John Gielgud Directing Fellowship, Drama League Directing Fellowship, TCG Young Leader of Color, Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and Directors Lab West. Gregory Award Recipient for Outstanding Direction. BA: University of California at Berkeley. MFA Directing: University of Washington

### DARRAH CLOUD [DARRAHCLOUD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DARRAHCLOUD@GMAIL.COM)



Darrah Cloud is currently working on *Turning*, commissioned by Centenary Stage, and *Sabina*, a musical adaptation of Willy Holtzman's play. *OUR SUBURB* premiered at Theater J in Washington, DC in 2014. *Joan the Girl of Arc* toured with Cincinnati Playhouse, 2014. Other plays produced across the U.S. include *What's Bugging Greg?*, *The Stick Wife*, *The Mud Angel*, *Dream House*, *Braille Garden*, and *The Sirens*. Proud member of the Dramatists Guild, alum of the Iowa Writers Workshop and New Dramatists. She co-directs The Howl Playwrights in Rhinebeck, NY and teaches at Goddard College.

**SHIRLEY BASFIELD DUNLAP** SHIRLEY.DUNLAP@MORGAN.EDU

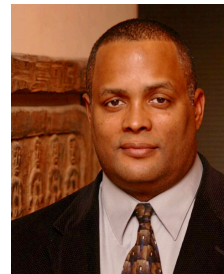
Shirley Basfield Dunlap is the coordinator of Theatre Arts and an Associate Professor of Fine and Performing Arts at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where her dissertation was "The Oral History of African American Stage Directors of American Theatre." She has been an Associate Professor at Iowa State and Towson Universities. As a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers she has directed in regional theatres which include Milwaukee Rep, Madison Rep, Dallas Theatre Center, Delaware Theatre Company, The Human Race Theatre, Buffalo Studio Arena, The Hippodrome Theatre, and Chesapeake Shakespeare Company.

**KEITH BYRON KIRK** KEITHBKIRK.ED@GMAIL.COM

Keith Byron Kirk is Assistant Professor of Performance Studies and Director of Graduate Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University's Theatre Department. He received his MA in Performance Studies and Playwriting at New York University's Gallatin College and his doctorate at Northwestern University. He is the author of the plays *Ft. Lonesome*, *Urban Trilogy*, and *Stone, Baby Solitaire*. His play *As Reaper in Summer Grain* was developed at the Eugene O'Neill Playwright's Conference and The Transport Group's *The Audience* was nominated for a 2005 Drama Desk Award. He is presently working as co-editor of a collection on the plays of August Wilson through lenses of spectatorship and reception.

**VIRGINIA LOULOUEDES** GLOULOUEDES@ART-NEWYORK.ORG

Ginny is celebrating her 27th year as A.R.T./New York's Executive Director. Virginia currently serves on the Board of the John Golden Foundation; and has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She has taught arts marketing in the Masters of Arts Management Programs at New York University and Marymount Manhattan College, and has served as a guest speaker at the Yale School of Drama. She has a BA in Humanities from Johns Hopkins University and an MA in Performing Arts Management from American University. She currently resides in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn with her family.

**MARK CLAYTON SOUTHERS** AUSTINSILLS@COMCAST.NET

Mark Clayton Southers and his family reside in Pittsburgh's historic Hill District. He is an award winning playwright, stage director, scenic designer, photographer and theatrical producer. He is the founder and producing artistic director of the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company where he has produced well over 150 full length and one act plays since 2003 including August Wilson's complete 10 play Pittsburgh Century Cycle. Mark is a member of the Dramatist Guild of America, a company director for Trilogy:an Opera Company, and a board member for the August Wilson House.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7TH****The Players** 16 GRAMERCY PARK S (E. 20th between Park Ave & Irving Place)

- 9:00 AM            New Member Orientation  
Tour & continental breakfast with Board of Trustees  
The Players Library
- 9:30 AM            Continental Breakfast- Players Main Hall
- 10:00 AM           **SESSION 1: President's Greeting & Introductions**  
Greeting: Michael Hood  
New Member Introductions: Benny Sato Ambush
- 10:45 AM           BREAK
- 11:00 AM           **SESSION 2: Tactics for Changing Times**  
Moderators: Risa Brainin and Donna Walker Kuhne
- 12:00 -1:45 PM   Lunch on Your Own
- 2:00 PM            **SESSION 3: Native Theatre in America: From OSF to Broadway, Native Theatre artists are having an impact**  
Panelists: Jake Hart, Muriel Miguel, Tanis Parenteau .  
Randy Reinholz, Jean Bruce Scott, DeLanna Studi
- 3:00 PM            BREAK
- 3:15 PM            **SESSION 4: Post Panel Discussion**  
Moderator: Randy Reinholz
- 4:30-5:30 PM     President's Reception



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

The Players 16 GRAMERCY PARK S (E. 20th between Park Ave & Irving Place)

- 10:00 AM **SESSION 5:** The National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene  
A conversation with NYTF CEO Chris Massimine,  
moderated by Kathleen Conlin
- 11:00 AM BREAK
- 11:15 AM **SESSION 6:** Stavis Playwright Award Reading  
*The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin* by Jessica Huang  
Director: David Mendizabal
- 12:30 PM BREAK - Mixer and Cash Bar
- 1:00 PM **SESSION 7:** Awards Luncheon/ Presentation
- In Memoriam: Bill Martin  
Scott Steele  
David Weiss
- Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwright Award  
Recipient: Jessica Huang  
Committee Chair: Liz Engelman
- Outstanding Theatre Award  
Recipient: The National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene  
Committee Chair: Kathleen Conlin
- Emerging Professional Award  
Recipient: Raquel Nobile
- Person of the Year  
Recipient: Sarah Ruhl
- Cindy L. Havens Award  
Presented by: Michael Hood
- Paul Green Award  
Recipient: Tori Sampson
- 2:45 PM BREAK
- 3-4:00 PM **SESSION 8:** Q & A with Person of the Year, Sarah Ruhl  
Moderator: Liz Engelman

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

The Barrow Group 312 W. 36th Street, 3rd Floor, NYC

- 9:30 AM Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 AM **SESSION 9: Meeting of the Membership**  
Introduction of Zalmen Mlotek, Artistic Director, National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene  
Election of Trustees / NTC Business & Planning  
WPI update, Pipelines update, Fundraising update, Diversity in Leadership update
- 11:00 AM **SESSION 10: Idea Café/Tactics for Changing Times Part II**  
Moderators: Risa Brainin, Donna Walker Kuhne
- 12:00 PM Conference Concludes





## SESSION 1 - NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND RANTS

JANET ALLEN: "Why Homogenizing the Regional Theatre isn't a Good Idea"

IAN BELKNAP: "Shakespeare For Today"

DESDEMONA CHIANG: "How Theatre Institutions Seek Diversity In Artmaking And Yet Unconsciously Perpetrate Economic Injustice"

DARRAH CLOUD: "The National Stage versus the Local Stage"

SHIRLEY BASFIELD DUNLAP: Etched in Stone: The African-American Stage Director of the American Theatre"

KEITH BYRON KIRK: "Defending the New: Let's be innovative about Innovation"

VIRGINIA LOULOUCES: "Boards...and Costs Rising Faster Than Income"

## SESSION 2 - TACTICS FOR CHANGING TIMES

*Risa Brainin and Donna Walker Kuhne moderate members to energize our own NTC Think Tank, starting the weekend with the following question:*

"What impact has the #MeToo Movement had on your artistic life and what strategies are you using to combat and/or respond to misconduct in the rehearsal hall, classroom, or your institution?"

## SESSION 3 - NATIVE THEATRE IN AMERICA: FROM OSF TO BROADWAY, NATIVE THEATRE ARTISTS ARE HAVING AN IMPACT

A conversation with Randy Reinholz, Jean Bruce Scott, DeLanna Studi, Jake Hart, Tanis Parenteau, and Muriel Miguel. Randy Reinholz and Jean Bruce Scott will moderate a discussion featuring a panel of prominent native theater artists. The session will include Delanna Studi, Cherokee performance artist, activist, and winner of the 2016 Butcher Scholar Award from The Autry Museum of the American West. Delanna, who is currently playing Wilma Mankiller in *Gloria: A Life Off-Broadway*, will perform excerpts from her play *And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears*, a frank, heartwarming and inspiring story about a contemporary Cherokee woman and her father who embark on an incredible 900-mile journey along the Trail of Tears to truly understand her own identity and the conflicts of her nation. The session will be followed by a Q and A.

### RANDY REINHOLZ

An enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Randy is the co-creator and Producing Artistic Director of Native Voices at the Autry, the nation's leading Equity theater company dedicated to the development and production of new plays by Native Americans since 1994. Native Voices has received more than 600 submissions and held over 200 workshops and readings with artists from over 100 nations, leading to over 30 productions. Native Voices at the Autry is also the resident theatre company at La Jolla Playhouse from 2016 to 2018. A director, producer, playwright, and actor on stage and screen, Randy has directed and produced more than 75 productions in the U.S., Great Britain, Mexico, Australia and Canada.

## JEAN BRUCE SCOTT

Jean Bruce Scott, founder and Producing Executive Director of Native Voices at the Atrium, has spent over 25 years developing new plays, including more than 200 by Native American playwrights. For Native Voices, she has produced 25 plays (including 22 world premieres) in 38 productions, 24 New Play Festivals, 8 Short Play Festivals, 15 Playwrights Retreats, numerous national and international tours, and over 260 play readings. In 2014 Scott was instrumental in formalizing the Native Voices Artists Ensemble to mentor and support outstanding and promising Native American actors, writers, musicians, directors, designers, and producers. She has received a McKnight Fellowship, a MAP Grant, Playwrights Arena's Lee Melville Award, and serves on the Leadership Board of the Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles, Large Theatres.

## DELANNA STUDI

Delanna Studi was in the first national Broadway tour of *August Osage County*, the NY Times Critic's Pick *Informed Consent* and spent two seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Her film and television credits include *Edge of America*, *The Only Good Indian*, *Blessed*, *General Hospital*, *Z Nation*, and *Shameless*. Her play *And So We Walked* based on retracing her family's footsteps along the Trail of Tears with her father, was recently produced at Triad Stage and Portland Center Stage. She is currently performing in *Gloria: A Life* at the Daryl Roth Theatre.

## MURIEL MIGUEL

From the Kuna and Rappahannock Nations, is a choreographer, director and actor. She is the founder and Artistic Director of Spiderwoman Theater, the longest running Indigenous feminist theater in North America. Muriel is a 2018 Doris Duke Artist and a 2016 John S. Guggenheim Fellow. She received an Honorary DFA from Miami University in Ohio; is a member of the National Theatre Conference and attended the Rauschenberg Residency in 2015. She has pioneered Spiderwoman Theater's storyweaving process and with that, the development of a culturally based Indigenous performance methodology. She most recently returned from a tour of the West Coast with Anmitaagzi and Spiderwoman Theater's production of *Material Witness*.

## TANIS PARENTEAU

Tanis Parenteau (Métis/Cree) is a New York-based actor and filmmaker. Favorite recent credits include guest starring on *Designated Survivor* opposite Kiefer Sutherland, *House of Cards* opposite Michael Kelly and originating the lead role of Jane/Le-le-wa'you in the World Premiere of *Manahatta* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Tanis is also a rising narrator in Audiobooks--she is the voice of Maggie Hoskie in *Trail of Lightning*, Sacagawea in *I Am Sacagawea* and the much anticipated upcoming book *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*. Tanis holds a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from New School for Drama. [www.tanisparenteau.com](http://www.tanisparenteau.com)

## JAKE HART

As an educator, Jake Hart served as a lead instructor for Red Eagle Soaring Native Youth Theatre for over 10 years. He has taught artistic residencies at colleges and universities across the country, on the subjects of acting and voice acting. As a producer he founded and ran Cabaret Madhouse in Seattle, as well as Cult Comedy Picture Show in New York. As an actor he has performed in theaters across the country, on television, and in video games. For the last 10 years Jake has worked as an actor and/or advisor with Playwright's New Works at NYU's Tisch School, The Public Theater Emerging Writers, The LARK, and anywhere else he could be of assistance.

## SESSION 4 - POST PANEL DISCUSSION

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Members are invited to participate with the panel in a Q and A dialogue moderated by Randy Reinholz.

## SESSION 5 - OUTSTANDING THEATRE NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATRE FOLKSBIENE

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We honor this year's Outstanding Theatre, the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, fresh from their very well received "Fiddler on the Roof" (*Fidler Afn Dakh*). Kathleen Conlin will moderate a discussion with NYTF CEO Chris Massimine.

### CHRIS MASSIMINE

Christopher Massimine is responsible for the brand transformation of NYTF over the last 6 years. Since his arrival, seasonal attendance has more than doubled, social reach has emerged as an Industry leader, thousands of new press and promotion opportunities have been secured, and service-focused growth-driven organizational policies have been developed and enacted. Chris has stewarded the company in securing prominent producing affiliations and led the planning and execution of NYTF's 2015 critically-acclaimed award-winning hit musical *The Golden Bride* and the timely and relevant *Amerike—The Golden Land*. This past season, he shepherded NYTF's first Broadway venture as producers on Paula Vogel's poignant period drama *Indecent*, which garnered several prominent accolades, including Tony Award wins for Director and Lighting, and a Tony Award for Best Play. Chris is the Board Chair of the Immigrant Arts Coalition, a Board Member at the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, and serves on Committees for the Producers Guild of America, Off Broadway League, NY Emmy Awards, and Mayor's Cultural Community Council.



## SESSION 6 - BARRIE AND BERNICE STAVIS PLAYWRIGHT

Recognizing an outstanding emerging playwright, the Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwright Award was established in 1988 to honor the work of playwright Barrie Stavis. Each year, NTC sends out a call to artistic directors and literary managers of theatres and play development organizations across the country inviting submissions.

### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: JESSICA HUANG



Jessica Huang is a playwright and producer from Minneapolis. She is in the incoming class of the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights program at Juilliard. Her work includes *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin* (History Theatre commission/premiere, 2017 Kilroy's List), *Purple Cloud* (Mu Performing Arts premiere), and *Zero-Infinity Flight Path*. Her plays have been commissioned, developed and/or produced by Atlantic Theatre Company, Mixed Blood Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, The Goodman Theatre, History Theatre, Theater Mu, The Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists, Pillsbury House

Theatre, The Minnesota Museum of American Art, Yellow Earth Theatre and many more. She is currently working on *Transmissions in Advance of the Second Great Dying*, a play about mixed-race identity politics, grief and global warming, commissioned by Mixed Blood Theatre, as well as commissions with Timeline Theatre and History Theatre. She is a 2018 MacDowell Fellow; 2016-17 and 2017-18 Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellow; 2012 Playwrights' Center Many Voices Fellow; and has received awards from the Minnesota State Arts Board, MRAC/McKnight, the NEA, and the Hemera Foundation. With a Jerome Travel/Study grant, she will travel to China to research family history and build international connections. Jessica cofounded and co-directs Other Tiger Productions, which has a mission to pursue multidisciplinary collaborations and intentional inclusivity and re-examination of traditional theater practices. More: [Jessica-Huang.com](http://Jessica-Huang.com)

### THE PAPER DREAMS OF HARRY CHIN

During the Chinese Exclusion Act, Harry Chin, a Chinese national, entered the U.S. by buying forged documentation. Like other "Paper Sons," Harry underwent a brutal detention and interrogation, and lived the rest of his life keeping secrets – even from his daughter. Told through the eyes of a middle-aged Chin, *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin* reveals the complicated loves and regrets of this Chinese immigrant who wound up in Minnesota. Through dreamlike leaps of time and space and with the powerful assistance of ghosts, the story of the Chin family reveals the personal and political repercussions of making groups of people "illegal."

Nominated by: **Playwright's Center**

2018 Stavis Award Committee: *Liz Engelman (Chair), Jean Bruce Scott, Art Rotch, Elizabeth van Dyke and Octavio Solis*

## READING EXCERPT: THE PAPER DREAMS OF HARRY CHIN



### DAVID MENDIZÁBAL - DIRECTOR

Director, designer, and one of the Producing Artistic Leaders of The Movement Theatre Company. Directing credits: *And She Would Stand Like This*, *Look Upon Our Lowliness*, *Bintou* (The Movement), *On the Grounds of Belonging* (Public Theatre), *Tell Hector I Miss Him* (Atlantic Theater Company), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (A.C.T.), and *Locusts Have No King* (INTAR). Founding Member/Artistic Producer of The Sol Project, a member of the Latinx Theatre Commons Steering Committee, Rattlestick Literary Team, Wingspace. Alumnus of The Drama League, Lincoln Center Director's Lab, LAByrnth ntensive Ensemble, NALAC Leadership Institute, artEquity. BFA NYU/Tisch.



### BROOKE BLOOM

Broadway: *Time and the Conways*, Off=Broadway: *Everybody at Signature*, *Cloud Nine* at Atlantic (Drama Desk nom Best Actress), *D deb debbie Deborah* at Clubbed Thumb, *Looking for Helen Twelvetrees* by David Greenspan at Abrons, *You Got Older* (Obie award, Drama Desk nom) *Somewhere Fun* at Vineyard. Regional: *Fairview Berkeley Rep*, *Marie Anntionette* at ART, *Becky Shaw* at Wilma, *Lungs* at Studio Theatre. TV: series regular on Amazon's *Alpha House*, *Falling Water*, Netflix's *Gypsy* and recurring on now streaming *Homecoming*. Numerous guest appearances: *Louie*, SVU Film: upcoming *Untitled Noah Baumbach*, *She's Lost Control* (Berlinale winner, Spirit Award nom)..



### CINDY DE LA CRUZ

A native New Yorker and proud graduate of LaGuardia Arts. Most Recent credits include: *Our Town* (Olney Theater/Dir. Aaron Posner); *Storm Still* (Drama League); *Stupid Fucking Bird* (Arden Theater); *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (American Stage); And the upcoming film: *Killroy Was Here* ( Dir. Kevin Smith). Cindy-DeLaCruz.com



### SASHA DIAMOND

Broadway: *Significant Other*. Off Broadway: *Teenage Dick* (The Public Theater), *Bobbie Clearly* (Roundabout Theatre), *Kentucky*, *Double Suicide at Ueno Park!* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *The Wong Kids* (Ma-Yi Theatre Company). Regional: *The Birds*, *Peerless* (Barrington Stage Company), *The Winners* (HotCity Theatre). TV: *Murphy Brown* (CBS), *Blindspot* (NBC), *The Romanoffs* (Amazon), *High Maintenance* (HBO), *Half Life*. Proud member of Ensemble Studio Theatre.



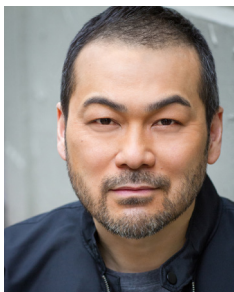
## VANESSA KAI

Off-Broadway: *KPOP* (Lortel Nomination, Ars Nova/Ma-Yi Theater/Woodshed Collective); *Henry VI (Parts 1-3)* (NAATCO); *Somebody's Daughter* (Second Stage); *Architecture of Becoming* (WP Theater). Regional: *Top Girls*, directed by Liesl Tommy (Huntington Theatre Company), *Brownsville Song (B-Side for Tray)* (Seattle Repertory Theatre), *Far East* (Award for Outstanding Debut by the Connecticut Critics Circle, Stamford TheaterWorks). New Works: New York Stage and Film, the Lark, New Dramatists, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. TV/Film: *New Amsterdam*, *Instinct*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *Gotham*, *The Blacklist*, *Off The Rails*. [www.vanessakai.com](http://www.vanessakai.com)



## ORVILLE MENDOZA

Recently appeared in the national tour of Bess Wohl's *Small Mouth Sounds* directed by Rachel Chavkin. He received a Barrymore Award and a Drama Desk nomination for originating the role of "Tempura" in Christopher Durang & Peter Melnick's musical *Adrift in Macao* (Philadelphia Theatre Co, Primary Stages). Broadway: *Pacific Overtures*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Off-Broadway: *Pacific Overtures* (CSC revival), *Found* (Atlantic Theater Co.), *Passion* (CSC revival), *Antigone*, *The Seagull* (National Asian American Theatre Company), *Ivanov* (NAATCO & The Mint), *Romeo & Juliet*, *Timon of Athens*, *Road Show* (The Public Theater/NYSF). [www.orvillemendoza.com](http://www.orvillemendoza.com)



## DAVID SHIH

Recent: NAATCO's acclaimed production of *Henry VI*, NAAP/Prospect Theatre's *Into The Woods* In Concert. On screen: *Eighth Grade* (dir. Bo Burnham), *Iron Fist* (Netflix), *Elementary* (CBS), *Blindspot* (NBC). Theater: *KPOP* (Ars Nova), *Somebody's Daughter* (Second Stage), *Tiger Style!* (La Jolla), *Awake and Sing!* (NAATCO), *Bike America* (Ma-Yi), *Crane Story* (Playwrights Realm). TV/Film: *The Path*, *Madam Secretary*, *The Blacklist*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, *Blue Bloods*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Saving Face*. He also works with Only Make Believe performing for kids in hospitals and care facilities.



## RICARDO VAZQUEZ

Ricardo Vázquez has performed with The Guthrie Theater, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Mixed Blood Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, HERE Center for the Arts, and MASS MoCA; Television (ABC's *In an Instant*, Evine Network, M@dabout TV!); Film (*Nina of the Woods*; *The Public Domain*; *Death to Prom*, *Farmer of the Year*). He has co-created two solo performances *Juracán: The Jíbaro and His Three Sons* and *Escúchame* with Tony Award winner Robert Rosen. Co-founder of Other Tiger Productions ([othertigerproductions.org](http://othertigerproductions.org)) 2018 MSAB Artists Initiative Grant, 2013 Emerging Artist Ivey Award, 2012–2013 Jerome Many Voices Fellowship. [ricardo-vazquez.com](http://ricardo-vazquez.com)

## SESSION 7 - NTC AWARDS

### OUTSTANDING THEATRE AWARD - NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATRE FOLKSBIENE

*Established in 1996, the Outstanding Theatre Award recognizes outstanding achievement by a not-for-profit theatre.*



The Award-winning National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene [NYTF] is the longest continuously producing Yiddish theatre company in the world. The company presents plays, musicals, concerts, lectures, interactive educational workshops and community-building activities in English and Yiddish, with English and Russian supertitles accompanying performances.

NYTF serves a versatile audience of approximately 100,000 individuals annually, comprised of performing arts patrons, cultural enthusiasts, Yiddish-language aficionados and the general public, while also using the arts as a vehicle to educate youth and adults about Jewish heritage. The NYTF outreach program takes events around the region, nation and world, bringing programming annually to over 18,000 individuals. National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene's mission is to celebrate the Yiddish experience through the performing arts by transmitting the rich cultural legacy in exciting new ways that bridge social and cultural divides.

National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene fulfills this mission by:

- Sustaining Yiddish culture through the arts
- Bridging diverse communities through multicultural programming
- Dramatizing the Jewish experience
- Educating future artists and audiences
- Strengthening cultural identity in each generation

The Yiddish theatre represents a rare but vital connection to a culture, a language, and a way of life nearly destroyed following the second World War. Now entering its 104th season, NYTF has a burgeoning creative engine, but must maintain a connection to future generations who may never have heard of Yiddish or encountered Eastern European Jewish culture in its original form. While this material has evolved in America to suit contemporary sensibilities in the form of the comedy of Jerry Seinfeld or Woody Allen, the music of Matisyahu, or nearly any musical play in the American Theater canon, its source material is largely neglected and those seeking cultural roots are often stymied by the language barrier of Yiddish. Employing a collective creative mindset in keeping the culture fresh and relevant, and with the use of translation titles accompanying performances, NYTF provides access to the hundreds of years of cultural expression, aiming to inspire the imaginations of the next generation to contribute their own stories to this valuable work.

Outstanding Theatre Award Committee: *Kathleen Conlin (Chair), Fran Dorn, Doug Jacobs, Elizabeth Van Dyke, David Feldshuh, Jim Volz, Vivienne Benesch*

## EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD, RAQUEL NOBILE

*Presented to persons demonstrating exemplary promise in a professional theatre organization. The winner is selected by the Artistic Directors of NTC's Outstanding Theatre of the year.*



**RAQUEL NOBILE** Raquel Nobile is currently playing the role of Shprintze in the NYTF production of *Fiddler on the Roof* directed by Joel Grey. She is happy to return to the NYTF after performing, most recently, in the Yiddish Vaudeville concert series. She made her off Broadway debut in *Amerike- The Golden Land* last summer and was featured in Bucharest, Romania during the Annual Tes Fest. She sings regularly as a featured soloist at the Harvard Club NYC, and holds a masters in classical voice from the Manhattan School of Music.





## PERSON OF THE YEAR, SARAH RUHL

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*Awarded annually to an individual who has made an outstanding and noteworthy contribution to the theatre.*

**SARAH RUHL** Sarah Ruhl's plays include *How to Transcend a Happy Marriage*; *For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday*; *The Oldest Boy*; *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, Tony Award nominee for best new play); *The Clean House* (Pulitzer Prize Finalist, The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize); *Passion Play* (Pen American award, The Fourth Freedom Forum Playwriting Award from The Kennedy Center); *Orlando*; *Late: a cowboy song*; *Dear Elizabeth*; *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Helen Hayes Award); *Eurydice*; and *Stage Kiss*.



She is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and a Tony Award nominee. Her plays have been produced on Broadway at the Lyceum by Lincoln Center Theater, off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons, Second Stage, and at Lincoln Center's Mitzi Newhouse Theater. Her plays have been produced regionally all over the country and have also been produced internationally, and translated into over twelve languages. Ms. Ruhl received her M.F.A. from Brown University where she studied with Paula Vogel. She has received the Steinberg Distinguished Playwright award, the Susan Smith Blackburn award, the Whiting award, the Lily Award, a PEN award for mid-career playwrights, and the MacArthur "genius" award. Her book of essays *100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write* was published by Faber and Faber and was a Times Notable Book of the Year. She teaches at the Yale School of Drama and lives in Brooklyn with her family.

## THE CINDY L. HAVENS AWARD

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The Cindy L. Havens award was created by the Board of Trustees under then-President Carole Brandt in 2006 to recognize excellence in administrative support to the National Theatre Conference.

## PAUL GREEN AWARD - TORI SAMPSON

*Presented each year to a promising new talent in the professional theatre, and chosen by the winner of the Person of the Year Award.*

### Paul Eliot Green, March 17, 1894 – May 4, 1981

The Paul Green Award recognizes and encourages excellence in new professional theatre talent and is presented to a young theatre artist selected by the National Theatre Conference's Person of the Year. It has been given since 1988.

This award is named for Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Paul Green who served as the National Theatre Conference President in 1941 and '42 and served on the Executive Committee in 1944 and '45. Paul Green was on the drama faculty at the University of North Carolina, one of the 1925 original theatre department organizers of what was to become the National Theatre Conference. Paul Green was a remarkable man: Dramatist Laureate of North Carolina, humanist, Hollywood screenwriter, essayist, professor of philosophy and drama at the University of North Carolina, novelist, poet, singer and writer of songs, human rights activist and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright for the Broadway production, *In Abraham's Bosom*. Green is considered the "father of symphonic outdoor drama" with his production in 1937 of *The Lost Colony*. He went on to write 16 more outdoor dramas and in 1963 he founded the Institute of Outdoor Drama to support historical dramas across the country. Now named the Institute of Outdoor Theatre, it works with all types of outdoor theatre in the United States and in countries throughout the world.

In 1981, Paul Green died at age 87 leaving a legacy of literary works and good works that touch the lives of many thousands of people. In 1982 the Foundation was formed to carry on his work, and each year the Trustees award grants in the areas of the arts and human rights.



### TORI SAMPSON

Tori Sampson's plays include *If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must be a Muhfucka* (Playwrights Horizons, 2019), *This Land Was Made* (Vineyard Theatre, 2018), and *Cadillac Crew* (Yale Repertory Theatre, 2019). Her plays have been developed at Great Plains Theatre Conference, Berkeley Repertory Theatre's The Ground Floor residency program, Victory Garden's IGNITION Festival of New Plays, Playwrights Foundation, and Ubuntu Festival. Tori is a 2017–18 Playwright's Center Jerome Fellow and a 2018-19 Mcknight Fellow. Two of her plays appeared on the 2017 Kilroys List. Her awards and honors

include the 2016 Relentless Award, Honorable Mention; the 2016 Paula Vogel Award in Playwriting from The Kennedy Center; the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award, Second Place; the Alliance Theater's 2017 Kendeda Prize, Finalist; the 2018 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Finalist. Tori is currently working on commissions from Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, and Atlantic Theater Company. She holds a BS in sociology from Ball State University and an MFA in playwriting from Yale School of Drama. [torisampson.com](http://torisampson.com)

## OUTSTANDING THEATRE AND EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD HISTORY

Year	Outstanding Theatre	Emerging Professional
2017	The Acting Company, NY	Kelley Curran
2016	Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, PA	Rebecca Remaly
2015	Illusion Theater, MN	Isabel Nelson, Diogo Lopes
2014	Yale Repertory Theatre, CT	Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
2013	Oregon Shakespeare Festival, OR	Ed Sylvanus Iskandar
2012	New Federal Theatre, NY	Eric Lockley
2011	Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, OH	Terah Herman
2010	Playwrights Horizons, NY	No Award
2009	The Living Theatre, NY	No Award
2008	El Teatro Campesino, CA	Kinan Valdez
2007	The Creede Repertory Theatre, CO	Jeff Carey
2006	The Public Theatre, NY	Andi Stover
2005	The Dell'Arte Company, CA	Keight Gleason, Tyler Olsen
2004	The Black Rep, MO	Xosha Roquemore
2003	Signature Theatre, NY	Sarah K. Bartlo
2002	American Repertory Theatre, MA	Ryan McKittrick
2001	The Goodman Theatre, IL	Jay Paul Skelton
2000	The Children's Theatre Company, MN	Andrew D. Madsen
1999	South Coast Repertory, CA	Terrance Winston
1998	Roundabout Theatre, NY	Mary Grace Landiver
1997	Old Globe Theatre, CA	Brendon Fox
1996	Steppenwolf Theatre, IL	Ian Barford



## BARRIE AND BERNICE STAVIS PLAYWRIGHT AWARD HISTORY

<b>Year</b>	<b>Playwright</b>	<b>Title of Play</b>
2017	Nathan Alan Davis	<i>Nat Turner in Jerusaem</i>
2016	Mia Chung	<i>You For Me For You</i>
2015	Jessica Dickey	<i>The Guard</i>
2014	Jeff Augustin	<i>Cry the Old Kingdom</i>
2013	Jackie Sibblies Drury	<i>We Are Proud to Present...</i>
2012	Dominique Morisseau	<i>Detroit '67</i>
2011	Danai Gurira	<i>The Convert</i>
2010	Peter Sinn Nachtrieb	<i>Bob: A Life in Five Acts</i>
2009	Aditi Brennan Kapil	<i>Love Person</i>
2008	David Davalos	<i>Wittenberg</i>
2007	Kate Fodor	<i>100 Saints You Should Know</i>
2006	Colin McKenna	<i>The Secret Agent of Trees</i>
2005	Julia Cho	<i>Durango</i>
2004	Brian Dykstra	<i>Hiding Behind Comets</i>
2003	Carson Sarah Kreitzer	<i>The Lovesong of J. Robert Oppenheimer</i>
2002	Eric Coble	<i>Bright Ideas</i>
2001	Naomi Iizuka	<i>36 Views</i>
2000	Thomas Gibbons	<i>Bee-Luther-Hatchee</i>
1999	Nilo Cruz	<i>Two Sisters and a Piano</i>
1998	Richard Helleston	
1997	Keith Glover	
1996	Dennis Covington	
1995	Eduardo Machado	
1994	Theresa Rebeck	
1993	Edwin Sanchez	
1992	Octavio Solis	
1991	Erin Cressida Wilson	
1990	Anthony Clarvoe	
1989	Ezra Goldstein	

## PERSON OF THE YEAR AND PAUL GREEN AWARD RECIPIENTS

2017	Molly Smith	→	June Schreiner
2016	George Takei	→	Elena Wang
2015	Polly Carl	→	Mary Kathryn Nagle
2014	Wendall K. Harrington	→	Amelia Roper
2013	Lynn Nottage	→	Chisa Hutchinson
2012	Elizabeth McCann	→	Micheline Auger
2011	Emily Mann	→	May Andrales
2010	August Wilson	→	Jade King Carroll
2009	Tony Kushner	→	Marsha Stephanie Blake
2008	Lois Smith	→	Darci Picoult
2007	Jack O'Brien	→	Benjamin Endsley Klein
2006	Suzan-Lori Parks	→	Bonnie Metzgar
2005	Michael Kahn	→	David Muse
2004	Lanford Wilson	→	Steven Drukman
2003	John Guare	→	Christopher Shinn
2002	Estelle Parsons	→	Gioia Marchese
2001	Marian Seldes	→	Kathleen Early
2000	William Ivey Long	→	Kate Levering
1999	Sir Peter Hall	→	Hamish Linklater
1998	Jerry Bock	→	Deborah Brevoort
1997	Edward Albee	→	Kevin Cunningham
1996	Zoe Caldwell & Robert Whitehead	→	Laura Hembree
1995	Terrence McNally	→	Tim Sheridan
1994	Anna Deavere Smith	→	Shay Youngblood
1993	George Wolfe	→	Suzan-Lori Parks
1992	Lynne Meadow	→	Mark Brokaw
1991	Norris Houghton	→	Annie Brockway
1990	Wendy Wasserstein	→	Peter Parnell
1989	Colleen Dewhurst	→	Tracy Copeland, Garrett Dilhunst
1988	Robert Wilson	→	Jennifer Rohn
1987	Greg Mosher	→	Clark Gregg

## PERSON OF THE YEAR 1967 - 1986

1986	Martha Coigney	1977	Danny Newman
1985	Ming Cho Lee	1976	John Houseman
1984	Jon Jory	1974	Paul Green
1983	Adrian Hall	1973	Ruth Mayleas
1982	Peter Zeisler	1972	Tennessee Williams
1981	Ellen Stewart	1971	Zelda Fichandler
1980	Lloyd Richards	1970	Roger L. Stevens
1979	Douglas Turner Ward	1969	Joseph Papp
1978	Gordon Davidson	1968	Rosamond Glider
		1967	Hallie Flanagan Davis

## SESSION 9 - MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

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### THE BARROW GROUP

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*The Barrow Group is a New York City theatre company and performing arts training center committed to sharing compelling, relevant stories that build community, inspire empathy, and create a more tolerant, open-minded society.*

Introduction of Zalmen Mlotek  
 Election of Trustees  
 NTC Business & Planning  
 Updates from:  
     WPI  
     Pipelines  
     Fundraising  
     Diversity in Leadership

## SESSION 10 - IDEA CAFÉ

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*The Idea Café was created in 2014 to provide an opportunity for the membership to brainstorm about new initiatives to connect, support and advocate for the American Theatre. This year, we explore Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and how it has influenced your planning, teaching, casting, hiring, institution building and/or artistic choices.*

**Save the Date! NTC Conference 2019,  
 December 6, 7 and 8 at the Players and More!**

Special Thanks to the Assistant to the Board of Trustees Katie Pedro  
 and Conference Staff  
 Starr Kirkland, Liz Frost, and George Pedraza

## NTC HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

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- 1925:** A group of leaders from top university programs call for a series of conferences that led to the founding of the National Theatre Conference (NTC).
- 1931:** At a conference at Northwestern University, the NTC is organized and adopts its name.
- 1936:** NTC membership is limited to 25 distinguished leaders.
- 1939:** NTC membership is increased to 50 distinguished leaders.
- 1941-'45:** NTC receives a five-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and initiates the War Bond Project, producing shows at community theatres nation wide. The purchase of a War Bond was the price of admission. After the war, NTC presents shows at army hospitals and conducts a program for veterans.
- 1946 -'51:** In recognition of NTC's efforts, the Rockefeller Foundation presents NTC with another, long term grant of \$155,000.
- 1947:** NTC initiates several large projects: The New York Tryout Studio, where young actors who were unemployed during the war were given the opportunity to present productions to agents; the successful NTC Touring Company (eventually the Brown County Playhouse of Indiana); The overseeing of six regional theatre conferences throughout the U.S.
- 1961:** NTC's Appraisal Project studies significant alterations to the American theatre since the end of WWII.
- 1967:** Person of the Year Award is established.
- 1975:** The now annual NYC meeting relocates to The Players.
- 1987:** The Paul Green Award is created.
- 1988:** Membership is increased to 120 distinguished leaders.
- 1989:** The Barrie and Bernice Stavis Award is created to honor an emerging playwright.
- 1996:** The Outstanding Theatre Award and the Emerging Professional Award (Formally NTC Scholarship Award) are created.
- 2010:** The Women Playwrights Initiative is launched. Membership is increased to 150 distinguished members.
- 2013:** Phase 1 of the Women Playwrights Initiative is completed.
- 2015:** Phase 2 of the Women Playwrights Initiative is completed.



# NTC

# national theatre conference

connecting, supporting and advocating for america's theatre since 1925

## ALASKA

Dawson Moore  
Arthur R. Rotch

## ARIZONA

E. Reid Gilbert  
Jacob Pinholster

## CALIFORNIA

Norma Bowles  
Risa Brainin  
Kirsten Brandt  
Tom Bryant  
Harry Elam  
Meredith Greenburg  
José Cruz González  
D.W. Jacobs  
Jean Prinz Korf  
Alma Martinez  
Michael F. Ramsaur  
Randy Reinholz  
Martha Richards  
D.L. Rosenberg  
Steve Rothman  
Jean Bruce Scott  
James Still  
Jim Volz  
Lisa Wolpe  
Christine Young

## CONNECTICUT

James Bundy  
Gary English

## DELAWARE

Sanford Robbins

## FLORIDA

Jim Helsingier  
Cameron Jackson

## GEORGIA

Justin Ellington  
Sharon Ott

## ILLINOIS

Kathleen Conlin  
Joel Fink  
John R. Poole  
J.R. (Jim) Sullivan

## INDIANA

Mark Alan Heckler  
R. Keith Michael  
Richard Rand  
Richard K. Thomas

## IOWA

Kim Marra

## KANSAS

Nicole Hodges-Persley  
Jack B. Wright

## KENTUCKY

Baron Kelly  
Michael S. Tick

## LOUISIANA

Gresdna Doty

## MARYLAND

Ian Gallanar

## MASSACHUSETTS

Benny Sato Ambush

## MICHIGAN

Anita González  
Priscilla Lindsay

## MINNESOTA

Sarah Rasmussen  
Barbara Reid

## MISSISSIPPI

Rhona Justice-Malloy

## MISSOURI

Jerry Genochio  
Felicia Londré  
Tom Mardikes  
Peter E. Sargent  
Steve Woolf

## MONTANA

Jere Lee Hodgkin

## NEBRASKA

Cindy Melby Phaneuf  
Paul Steger

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jeni Mahoney

## NEW JERSEY

Deborah Brevoort  
Ramon Delgado  
Mindi Dickstein  
Jill Dolan  
Holly Rhoades Logue  
Amy Saltz

## NEW MEXICO

Robert Benedetti  
Beverly Byers-Pevitts  
Gil Lazier

## NEW YORK

Milly Barranger  
Arthur Bartow  
Susan Bernfield  
Linda Burson  
Tisa Chang  
Linda Chapman  
Julie Crosby  
Julia Curtis  
Sherry Eaker  
John Clinton Eisner  
Bill Esper  
David Feldshuh  
Mira Felner  
Angelina Fiordellisi  
David Fuller  
Margot Harley  
Arlene Hutton  
Michael G. Keck  
Woodie King Jr.  
Bruce Levitt  
Shellen Lubin  
Muriel Miguel  
Lorca Peress  
Lisa Rothe  
Robert Schenkan  
Frank Trezza  
Elizabeth Van Dyke  
Donna Walker-Kuhne  
Talvin Wilks

## NORTH CAROLINA

Vivienne Benesch  
James Fisher  
David Hammond  
Ed Simpson  
Scott J. Parker

## OHIO

Elynmarie Kazle  
Edward Stern

## OREGON

Alison Carey  
Scott Palmer

## PENNSYLVANIA

Karla Boos  
Steve Broadnax  
Dan Carter  
Michael Hood  
Laurie McCants  
Susan Tsu

## RHODE ISLAND

Kym Moore

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Jim O'Connor  
Erica Tobolski

## TENNESSEE

Calvin MacLean

## TEXAS

Fran Dorn  
Liz Engelman  
Richard Isackes  
Susan Mickey  
Brant Pope  
KJ Sanchez

## UTAH

William J. Byrnes  
Charles Morey  
R. Scott Phillips

## VERMONT

Theodore Herstand

## VIRGINIA

Ralph Cohen  
David S. Leong  
David Weiss

## WASHINGTON

Kevin Maifeld  
Valerie Curtis-Newton  
Courtney Sale  
Barry Witham

## WASHINGTON D.C.

Nan Barnett

## WISCONSIN

Sheila Tousey