



For Release:

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The complete list of Non–Equity Jeff Award nominees and recipients is also available online at: www.jeffawards.org

RECIPIENTS OF THE 45TH ANNUAL NON–EQUITY JEFF AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Chicago, IL (June 11, 2018) – The Jeff Awards announced recipients of the 45th Annual Non–Equity Jeff Awards on Monday, June 11, at the Athenaeum Theatre.

Top honors were awarded to Steep Theatre Company’s *Lela & Co.* and Griffin Theatre Company’s *Ragtime*. Other productions receiving multiple awards included Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre’s *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* and Interrobang Theatre Project’s *Foxfinder*. Strawdog Theatre Company received a Special Award for “30 years of collaboration as an innovative and provocative Ensemble.”

Between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, there were 136 eligible Non–Equity productions considered for Jeff Recommendation. Of those, 63 productions (or 46%) were recommended, including 15 world premieres. There were 45 productions that received at least one nomination, which represents the work of 32 theatre companies.

The Jeff Awards has been honoring outstanding theatre artists annually since it was established in 1968. With up to 55 members representing a wide variety of backgrounds in theatre (including producers, directors, actors, playwrights, designers, professors of theatre, entertainment lawyers and agents, and theatre lovers), the Jeff Awards is committed to celebrating the vitality of Chicago area theatre by recognizing excellence through its recommendations, awards, and honors. Opening night judges include not only the members but also Artistic & Technical theatre volunteers (the “A/T Team”), including Artistic Directors, producers, directors and artists from Chicago theatres. The Jeff Awards fosters the artistic growth of area theatres and theatre artists and promotes educational opportunities, audience appreciation, and civic pride in the achievements of the theatre community. Each year, the Jeff Awards judges over 300 theatrical productions and host two awards ceremonies. Originally chartered to recognize only Equity productions, the Jeff Awards established the Non–Equity Wing in 1973 to celebrate outstanding achievement in non–union theatre. The next Equity Awards will be held on Monday, October 22, 2018, at Drury Lane Oakbrook.

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2018 NON-EQUITY JEFF AWARD RECIPIENTS

ENSEMBLE

“Ragtime” – Griffin Theatre Company

PRODUCTION – MUSICAL

“Ragtime” – Griffin Theatre Company

PRODUCTION – PLAY

“Lela & Co.” – Steep Theatre Company

DIRECTOR – MUSICAL

Scott Weinstein – “Ragtime” – Griffin Theatre Company

DIRECTOR – PLAY

Robin Witt – “Lela & Co.” – Steep Theatre Company

PERFORMER IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE – MUSICAL

Jacquelyne Jones (Mrs. Lovett) – “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street”

– Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre

Philip Torre (Sweeney Todd) – “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street”

– Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre

PERFORMER IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE – PLAY

Cruz Gonzalez-Cadel (Lela) – “Lela & Co.” – Steep Theatre Company

Michael B. Woods (Cyrano) – “Cyrano” – BoHo Theatre

PERFORMER IN A SUPPORTING ROLE – MUSICAL

Katherine Thomas (Sarah) – “Ragtime” – Griffin Theatre Company

Missy Wise (Blanche) – “Bonnie & Clyde” – Kokandy Productions

PERFORMER IN A SUPPORTING ROLE – PLAY

Owais Ahmed (Bashir) – “The Invisible Hand” – Steep Theatre Company

Stella Martin (Sherry) – “Nice Girl” – Raven Theatre Company

NEW MUSICAL

Jay Paul Deratany, Joe Stevens, and Keaton Wooden – “The CiviliTy of Albert Cashier”

– Permoveo Productions i/a/w Pride Films and Plays

NEW PLAY

Loy A. Webb – “The Light” – The New Colony

MUSIC DIRECTION

Jeremy Ramey – “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street”

– Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre

CHOREOGRAPHY

Jenna Schoppe – “Yank! A World War II Love Story” – Pride Films and Plays

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY

Kyle Encinas – “The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity” – Red Theater Chicago

ORIGINAL MUSIC IN A PLAY

Jesse Case – “Foxfinder” – Interrobang Theatre Project

SOUND DESIGN

Justin Glombicki – “In the Soundless Awe” – Saltbox Theatre Collective

COSTUME DESIGN

Beth Laske–Miller – “Shockheaded Peter” – Black Button Eyes Productions

LIGHTING DESIGN

James Kolditz – “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street”
– Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre

SCENIC DESIGN

Eric Luchen – “Foxfinder” – Interrobang Theatre Project

MULTIPLE RECIPIENTS

BY THEATRE

Griffin Theatre Company	4
Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre	4
Steep Theatre Company	4
Pride Films and Plays	2 (1 with Permoveo Productions)
Interrobang Theatre Project	2

BY PRODUCTION

Ragtime	4
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street	4
Lela & Co.	3
Foxfinder	2

SPECIAL NOTICE TO NEWS MEDIA

The Jeff Awards website, www.jeffawards.org, lists all current nominees and statistics, along with other Jeff Awards information and news. Photos from the event will be available online. Please credit Joe Mazza / Brave Lux. If you need a quote or interview regarding the Non-Equity Awards, please contact Drew Blau at nonequitywing@jeffawards.org.