



**NOTICE TO NOMINEES:**

Please provide your contact information and digital color headshot, as soon as possible, to Merril Prager at [producer@jeffawards.org](mailto:producer@jeffawards.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

**Jeffrey Marks - Media Chair,**  
**[312-606-0400](tel:312-606-0400) or**  
**[media@jeffawards.org](mailto:media@jeffawards.org), or**  
**Merril Prager-Producer Equity Wing**  
**[producer@jeffawards.org](mailto:producer@jeffawards.org)**

**Editor's Note:**

**The complete list of Equity Jeff Awards nominees follows this release and is also available online in the Equity Awards section at [www.jeffawards.org](http://www.jeffawards.org)**

## **Jeff Awards Equity nominations honor outstanding 2017-2018 productions**

*Tuesday, August 28, 2018 - Chicago, IL* – Twenty-four world premiere plays and musicals seen first by Chicago audiences were among those receiving nominations by The Jeff Awards, announced today. A total of 178 nominations were made in 31 categories that honor Chicago Equity theatrical productions that opened between August 1, 2017 and July 31, 2018.

During the 2017-18 season, Jeff Awards judges attended opening nights of 141 Equity productions offered by 43 producing organizations and from these openings, 111 productions were “Jeff Recommended” and eligible for award nominations.

This season, the Goodman Theatre led the theatre scoreboard with 15 nominations, followed by Court Theatre with 13, Porchlight Music Theatre with 12, Marriott Theatre with 11, and 10 each for Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Paramount Theatre and Victory Gardens Theatre.

In the coveted Ensemble category, the Jeff Awards has now created two awards – one for Ensemble-Play and one for Ensemble-Musical or Revue. This year, five musical productions were nominated in their respective category, and eight plays were nominated in the Ensemble - Play category. Actors' Equity Association supports the Equity Jeff Awards by sponsoring these Ensemble awards. Additionally, for the first time, the Jeff Awards has separated out the Director-Play and Director-Musical categories into their respective Large and

Midsized divisions.

The 50th Annual Equity Jeff Awards ceremony honoring excellence in professional theatre produced within the greater Chicago area will be held on Monday, October 22nd, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace.

This year's Ceremony celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jeff Awards with special appearances and activities. Performances featuring cast members from nominated musicals and revues will also highlight the October 22nd ceremony. Pre-show appetizers and a cash bar will be offered from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, followed by the awards ceremony, directed by Michael Weber. A lavish buffet reception will immediately follow the ceremony.

Advance purchase tickets, which include the ceremony and pre- and post-show parties, are \$85 (\$65 for members of Actors' Equity Association, United Scenic Artists, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Stage Managers' Association, IATSE, The Dramatists Guild of America, and the American Federation of Musicians). Tickets at the door, if available, will be an additional \$10 per ticket. The evening is black tie optional, and the public is invited to attend. To purchase tickets, visit the Jeff Awards website at [www.jeffawards.org](http://www.jeffawards.org). For more information, contact Jeff Awards Equity Ceremony Producer Merrill Prager at [producer@jeffawards.org](mailto:producer@jeffawards.org).

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 Jeff members but also the team of Artistic and Technical theatre volunteers (the "A/T Team") which is comprised of artistic directors, producers, directors from major Chicago theatres, actors and designers. 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 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.

## **2018 EQUITY JEFF AWARD NOMINEES**

### **PRODUCTION - PLAY - LARGE**

"All My Sons" - Court Theatre

"Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)" - Goodman Theatre

"Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" - Court Theatre

"Macbeth" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater

"A View from the Bridge" - Goodman Theatre

**PRODUCTION - PLAY - MIDSIZE**

"The Cake" - Rivendell Theatre Ensemble  
"Jitney" - Congo Square Theatre Company  
"Machinal" - Greenhouse Theater Center in association with North Central College  
"Southern Gothic" - Windy City Playhouse  
"Traitor" - A Red Orchid Theatre

**PRODUCTION - MUSICAL OR REVUE - LARGE**

"Cabaret" - Paramount Theatre  
"Five Guys Named Moe" - Court Theatre  
"Fun Home" - Victory Gardens Theater  
"Million Dollar Quartet" - Paramount Theatre  
"Ragtime" - Marriott Theatre

**PRODUCTION - MUSICAL - MIDSIZE**

"Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story" - American Blues Theater  
"Hair" - Mercury Theater Chicago  
"Memphis" - Porchlight Music Theatre

**ENSEMBLE - PLAY**

"Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)" - Goodman Theatre  
"Jitney" - Congo Square Theatre Company  
"Machinal" - Greenhouse Theater Center in association with North Central College  
"Southern Gothic" - Windy City Playhouse  
"Support Group For Men" - Goodman Theatre  
"The Taming of the Shrew" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
"Traitor" - A Red Orchid Theatre  
"The Wolves" - Goodman Theatre

**ENSEMBLE - MUSICAL OR REVUE**

"Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story" - American Blues Theater  
"Five Guys Named Moe" - Court Theatre  
"Forever Plaid" - Theatre At The Center  
"Hair" - Mercury Theater Chicago  
"Million Dollar Quartet" - Paramount Theatre

**NEW WORK**

Dan Collins and Julianne Wick Davis - "Trevor the Musical" - Writers Theatre  
Ellen Fairey - "Support Group For Men" - Goodman Theatre  
Minita Gandhi - "Muthaland" - 16th Street Theater  
Keith Huff - "Six Corners" - American Blues Theater  
Boo Killebrew - "Lettie" - Victory Gardens Theater  
Aline Lathrop - "The Hero's Wife" - 16th Street Theater  
Leslie Liautaud, Carl Menninger, and Amy Rubenstein - "Southern Gothic" - Windy City Playhouse  
Novid Parsi - "Through The Elevated Line" - Silk Road Rising

**NEW ADAPTATION**

Jennifer Blackmer - "Alias Grace" - Rivendell Theatre Ensemble  
Robert Falls - "An Enemy Of The People" - Goodman Theatre  
Barbara Gaines and Ron West - "The Taming of the Shrew" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
David Kersner and Althos Low - "20,000 Leagues Under The Seas" - Lookingglass Theatre Company  
Brett Neveu - "Traitor" - A Red Orchid Theatre

**DIRECTOR - PLAY - LARGE**

Dexter Bullard - "Mies Julie" - Victory Gardens Theater  
Niegel Smith - "Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)" - Goodman Theatre  
Vanessa Stalling - "The Wolves" - Goodman Theatre  
Ivo Van Hove - "A View from the Bridge" - Goodman Theatre  
Chay Yew - "Lettie" - Victory Gardens Theater

**DIRECTOR - PLAY - MIDSIZE**

David H. Bell - "Southern Gothic" - Windy City Playhouse  
Cheryl Lynn Bruce - "Jitney" - Congo Square Theatre Company  
Jacob Harvey - "Machinal" - Greenhouse Theater Center in association with North Central College  
Michael Shannon - "Traitor" - A Red Orchid Theatre  
Lauren Shouse - "The Cake" - Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

**DIRECTOR - MUSICAL OR REVUE - LARGE**

Nick Bowling - "Ragtime" - Marriott Theatre  
Marc Bruni - "Trevor the Musical" - Writers Theatre  
Gary Griffin - "Fun Home" - Victory Gardens Theater  
Michael Heitzman - "42nd Street" - Drury Lane Productions  
Ron OJ Parson - "Five Guys Named Moe" - Court Theatre

**DIRECTOR - MUSICAL - MIDSIZE**

Daryl Brooks - "Memphis" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Lili-Anne Brown - "Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story" - American Blues Theater  
Brenda Didier - "Hair" - Mercury Theater Chicago

**PERFORMER IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE - PLAY**

Ian Bedford (Eddie) - "A View from the Bridge" - Goodman Theatre  
Janet Ulrich Brooks (Queen Elizabeth II) - "The Audience" - TimeLine Theatre Company  
Heather Chrisler (Young Woman) - "Machinal" - Greenhouse Theater Center in association with North Central College  
Edward Gero (U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia) - "The Originalist" - Court Theatre  
John Judd (Joe Keller) - "All My Sons" - Court Theatre  
Tara Mallen (Della) - "The Cake" - Rivendell Theatre Ensemble  
Caroline Neff (Lettie) - "Lettie" - Victory Gardens Theater  
Geno Walker (Terry Kilbourn) - "To Catch A Fish" - TimeLine Theatre Company  
Alex Weisman (Jordan) - "Significant Other" - Theater Wit and About Face Theatre  
Larry Yando (Dodge) - "Buried Child" - Writers Theatre

**PERFORMER IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE - MUSICAL**

Dawn Bless (Patti) - "A New Attitude: In Tribute To Patti LaBelle" - Black Ensemble Theater  
Matt Crowle (Charley Kringas) - "Merrily We Roll Along" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Jason Grimm (The Suspects) - "Murder For Two" - Marriott Theatre  
Rob Lindley (Bruce Bechdel) - "Fun Home" - Victory Gardens Theater  
Liam Quealy (Huey Calhoun) - "Memphis" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Nathaniel Stampley (Coalhouse Walker, Jr.) - "Ragtime" - Marriott Theatre  
Zachary Stevenson (Buddy Holly) - "Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story" - American Blues Theater  
Eli Tokash (Trevor) - "Trevor the Musical" - Writers Theatre  
Tiffany Topol (Girl) - "Once" - Paramount Theatre  
Kathy Voytko (Mother) - "Ragtime" - Marriott Theatre

### **SOLO PERFORMANCE**

Janet Ulrich Brooks (Eppie Lederer aka Ann Landers) - "The Lady With All The Answers" - Theatre At The Center  
Kate Fry (Emily Dickinson) - "The Belle of Amherst" - Court Theatre  
Minita Gandhi (Solo Performer) - "Muthaland" - 16th Street Theater  
Stacy Keach (Ernest Hemingway) - "Pamplona" - Goodman Theatre  
James Leaming (Solo Performer) - "This Wonderful Life" - American Blues Theater

### **PERFORMER IN A SUPPORTING ROLE - PLAY**

Sydney Charles (Matilda "Tillie" Binks) - "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" - Court Theatre  
Shannon Cochran (Lady Bracknell) - "The Importance of Being Earnest" - Writers Theatre  
Matt DeCaro (Winston Churchill/Harold Wilson/Tony Blair/Archbishop) - "The Audience" - TimeLine Theatre Company  
Matt DeCaro (Big Daddy) - "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" - Drury Lane Productions  
Deanna Dunagan (Nancy Reagan, First Lady of the United States) - "Blind Date" - Goodman Theatre  
Jason Grimm (Various Roles) - "Bunny Bunny: Gilda Radner, A Sort of Love Story" - Mercury Theater Chicago  
Anthony Irons (Steve) - "How To Use A Knife" - Shattered Globe Theatre  
Anthony Irons (Turnbo) - "Jitney" - Congo Square Theatre Company  
Keith Kupferer (Flynt) - "Cal in Camo" - Rivendell Theatre Ensemble  
Andrus Nichols (Beatrice) - "A View from the Bridge" - Goodman Theatre

### **PERFORMER IN A SUPPORTING ROLE - MUSICAL**

Jenna Coker-Jones (Amy) - "Company" - Mercury Theater Chicago  
Matt Crowle (Luther Billis) - "South Pacific" - Drury Lane Productions  
Shanésia Davis (Mrs. Wilkinson) - "Billy Elliot the Musical" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Sean Fortunato (Dad) - "Billy Elliot the Musical" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Veronica Garza (Roz) - "9 To 5: The Musical" - Firebrand Theatre  
Hollis Resnik (Fraulein Schneider) - "Cabaret" - Paramount Theatre  
Gavin Rohrer (Jerry Lee Lewis) - "Million Dollar Quartet" - Paramount Theatre  
Hannah Starr (Medium Alison) - "Fun Home" - Victory Gardens Theater  
Katherine Thomas (Sarah) - "Ragtime" - Marriott Theatre  
Aaron Umsted (Will Parker) - "Oklahoma!" - Marriott Theatre

### **PERFORMER IN A REVUE**

Yando Lopez (Jinx) - "Forever Plaid" - Theatre At The Center  
Lorenzo Rush, Jr. (Big Moe) - "Five Guys Named Moe" - Court Theatre  
Jasbir Singh Vazquez (Ensemble) - "Gaslight District" - The Second City e.t.c.

### **SCENIC DESIGN - LARGE**

Scott Davis - "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" - Court Theatre  
Kevin Depinet - "The Taming of the Shrew" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
Courtney O'Neill - "Plantation!" - Lookingglass Theatre Company  
Todd Rosenthal - "20,000 Leagues Under The Seas" - Lookingglass Theatre Company  
Todd Rosenthal - "The Doppelgänger" - Steppenwolf Theatre Company

### **SCENIC DESIGN - MIDSIZE**

Jeff Bauer - "How To Use A Knife" - Shattered Globe Theatre  
Scott Davis - "Southern Gothic" - Windy City Playhouse  
José Manuel Díaz-Soto - "The Explorers Club" - Citadel Theatre  
Angela Weber Miller - "Mary's Wedding" - First Folio Theatre  
Arnel Sancianco - "The Cake" - Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

### **COSTUME DESIGN - LARGE**

Mara Blumenfeld - "The Importance of Being Earnest" - Writers Theatre  
Linda Cho - "Schiller's Mary Stuart" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
Theresa Ham - "Ragtime" - Marriott Theatre  
Susan E. Mickey - "The Taming of the Shrew" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
Alison Siple - "In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play" - TimeLine Theatre Company

### **COSTUME DESIGN - MIDSIZE**

Paul Kim - "The Explorers Club" - Citadel Theatre  
Robert Kuhn - "Hair" - Mercury Theater Chicago  
Emily McConnell - "Hatfield & McCoy" - The House Theatre of Chicago  
Bill Morey - "Memphis" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Bill Morey - "Merrily We Roll Along" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Mieka van der Ploeg - "The Skin of Our Teeth" - Remy Bumppo Theatre Company

### **SOUND DESIGN - LARGE**

Robert E. Gilmartin - "Murder For Two" - Marriott Theatre  
Ray Nardelli - "Skeleton Crew" - Northlight Theatre  
André Pluess - "Hard Times" - Lookingglass Theatre Company  
André Pluess - "Macbeth" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
Rick Sims - "20,000 Leagues Under The Seas" - Lookingglass Theatre Company

### **SOUND DESIGN - MIDSIZE**

Christopher Kriz - "The 39 Steps" - Buffalo Theatre Ensemble  
Christopher Kriz - "The Heavens Are Hung in Black" - Shattered Globe Theatre  
Christopher Kriz - "Mary's Wedding" - First Folio Theatre  
Jeffrey Levin - "Machinal" - Greenhouse Theater Center in association with North Central College  
Jeffrey Levin - "Welcome to Jesus" - American Theater Company  
Stephen Ptacek - "The Skin of Our Teeth" - Remy Bumppo Theatre Company

### **LIGHTING DESIGN - LARGE**

Brian Sidney Bembridge - "Hard Times" - Lookingglass Theatre Company  
Christine Binder - "20,000 Leagues Under The Seas" - Lookingglass Theatre Company  
Jesse Klug - "Million Dollar Quartet" - Paramount Theatre  
Yael Lubetzky - "Cabaret" - Paramount Theatre  
Thom Weaver - "Macbeth" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater

### **LIGHTING DESIGN - MIDSIZE**

Nick Belley - "Hair" - Mercury Theater Chicago  
Cat Davis - "De Troya" - Halcyon Theatre  
Denise Karczewski - "Billy Elliot the Musical" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Lee Keenan - "Hatfield & McCoy" - The House Theatre of Chicago  
Rachel Levy - "Welcome to Jesus" - American Theater Company  
Eric Watkins - "Machinal" - Greenhouse Theater Center in association with North Central College  
Cat Wilson - "The Wolf at the End of the Block" - 16th Street Theater

### **CHOREOGRAPHY**

Christopher Carter - "Memphis" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Jared Grimes - "42nd Street" - Drury Lane Productions  
Josh Prince - "Trevor the Musical" - Writers Theatre  
Alex Sanchez - "Newsies" - Marriott Theatre  
Alex Sanchez - "Oklahoma!" - Marriott Theatre

### **ORIGINAL MUSIC IN A PLAY**

Justin Ellington - "Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)" - Goodman Theatre  
Christopher Kriz - "Mary's Wedding" - First Folio Theatre  
Shawn Pfautsch and Matt Kahler - "Hatfield & McCoy" - The House Theatre of Chicago  
André Pluess - "Hard Times" - Lookingglass Theatre Company  
André Pluess - "Macbeth" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater

### **MUSIC DIRECTION**

Jermaine Hill - "Memphis" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Michael Mahler - "Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story" - American Blues Theater  
Doug Peck - "Fun Home" - Victory Gardens Theater  
Abdul Hamid Royal - "Five Guys Named Moe" - Court Theatre  
Tom Vondafreddo - "Once" - Paramount Theatre

### **PROJECTION DESIGN**

Joseph A. Burke - "Elf the Musical" - Paramount Theatre  
Joseph A. Burke - "Women Laughing Alone With Salad" - Theater Wit  
Anthony Churchill - "Merrily We Roll Along" - Porchlight Music Theatre  
Stephan Mazurek - "Lettie" - Victory Gardens Theater  
Mark "Trace" Umstattd - "De Troya" - Halcyon Theatre

### **ARTISTIC SPECIALIZATION**

Christopher Carter - Movement/Musical Staging - "Five Guys Named Moe" - Court Theatre  
Matt Hawkins - Fight Choreography - "Macbeth" - Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
Eleanor Kahn - Properties Design - "Southern Gothic" - Windy City Playhouse  
Elizabeth Margolius - Movement Direction - "Machinal" - Greenhouse Theater Center in association with North Central College

## **MULTIPLE NOMINATIONS**

### **BY THEATRE COMPANY**

Goodman Theatre	15
Court Theatre	13
Porchlight Music Theatre	12
Marriott Theatre	11
Chicago Shakespeare Theater	10
Paramount Theatre	10
Victory Gardens Theater	10
Lookingglass Theatre Company	8
American Blues Theater	7
Greenhouse Theater Center in association with North Central College	7
Mercury Theater Chicago	7
Writers Theatre	7
Rivendell Theatre Ensemble	6
Windy City Playhouse	6
16 <sup>th</sup> Street Theater	4
Congo Square Theatre Company	4
Drury Lane Productions	4
A Red Orchid Theatre	4
TimeLine Theatre Company	4
First Folio Theatre	3
The House Theatre of Chicago	3
Shattered Globe Theatre	3
Theatre at the Center	3
American Theater Company	2
Citadel Theatre Company	2
Halcyon Theatre	2
Remy Bumppo Theatre Company	2
Theater Wit	2



## **BY PRODUCTION**

“Machinal”	7
“Five Guys Named Moe”	6
“Memphis”	6
“Ragtime”	6
“Southern Gothic”	6
“Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story”	5
“Fun Home”	5
“Hair”	5
“Macbeth”	5
“20,000 Leagues Under The Seas”	4
“The Cake”	4
“Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)”	4
“Jitney”	4
“Lettie”	4
“Million Dollar Quartet”	4
“The Taming of the Shrew”	4
“Traitor”	4
“Trevor the Musical”	4
“A View from the Bridge”	4
“Billy Elliot the Musical”	3
“Cabaret”	3
“Guess Who's Coming To Dinner”	3
“Hard Times”	3
“Hatfield & McCoy”	3
“Mary's Wedding”	3
“Merrily We Roll Along”	3
“42nd Street”	2
“All My Sons”	2
“The Audience”	2
“De Troya”	2
“The Explorers Club”	2
“Forever Plaid”	2
“How to Use A Knife”	2
“The Importance of Being Earnest”	2
“Murder For Two”	2
“Muthaland”	2
“Oklahoma!”	2
“Once”	2
“The Skin of Our Teeth”	2
“Support Group For Men”	2
“Welcome to Jesus”	2
“The Wolves”	2

**BY INDIVIDUAL**

Christopher Kriz	4
André Pluess	4
Janet Ulrich Brooks	2
Joseph A. Burke	2
Christopher Carter	2
Matt Crowle	2
Scott Davis	2
Matt DeCaro	2
Minita Gandhi	2
Jason Grimm	2
Anthony Irons	2
Jeffrey Levin	2
Bill Morey	2
Todd Rosenthal	2
Alex Sanchez	2

**SPECIAL NOTICE TO NEWS MEDIA**

Your *complimentary ticket* to the 50th Annual Equity Jeff Awards Ceremony will be held at the News Media Table at Drury Lane Oakbrook only if you make a reservation in advance with Jeffrey Marks at 312.606.0400 or [media@jeffawards.org](mailto:media@jeffawards.org).

**Names of award recipients will be released immediately following the ceremony on October 22 by email and on our website under Equity Awards at [www.jeffawards.org](http://www.jeffawards.org) .** Photos from the event will be available on our website.

A Media Curtain is available for your own photos. We will also have an interview area available to you and will assist in bringing interviewees to that area. If you need a quote or an interview with any Jeff Awards Committee member, please call or e-mail Jeffrey Marks at 312.616.0400 or [media@jeffawards.org](mailto:media@jeffawards.org).

The Jeff Awards Committee website, [www.jeffawards.org](http://www.jeffawards.org), lists all the current Equity nominees and statistics, along with previous recipients and nominees and other Jeff Awards information and news.