

**And the Winners Are...**

Halifax: Theatre Nova Scotia announces the winners of the 2023 Rober Merritt Awards .

The 2023 Merritts celebrate and reward excellence in Nova Scotian theatre production.

**The 2023 Merritt Awards Winners**

<b>Outstanding Performance            Leading Role            Stephanie MacDonald  <i>Dayboil</i></b>	<b>Outstanding Performance            Leading Role            Mary Fay Coady  <i>Lauchie, Liza &amp; Rory</i></b>
<b>Outstanding Performance            Supporting Role            GaRRy Williams  <i>Hamlet</i></b>	<b>Outstanding Performance            Supporting Role            Micha Cromwell  <i>The Stranger</i></b>
<b>Outstanding Costume Design            Kayla Cormier  <i>The Happy Prince</i></b>	<b>Outstanding Direction            Samantha Wilson  <i>Dayboil</i></b>
<b>Outstanding Lighting Design            Alison Crosby  <i>Dayboil</i></b>	<b>Outstanding Projection Design            Christian Ludwig Hansen  <i>#IAmTheCheese</i></b>
<b>Outstanding Choreography            Sarah Prosper  <i>Samqwan</i></b>	<b>Outstanding Musical Direction            Avery-Jean Brennan  <i>The Rocky Horror Show</i></b>
<b>Outstanding New NS Adaptation            Josh MacDonald  <i>#IAmTheCheese</i></b>	<b>Outstanding New NS Play            shalan joudry  <i>Koqm</i></b>
<b>Outstanding Original Score            Mike Ross (Rita MacNeil)  <i>Dear Rita</i></b>	<b>Outstanding Scenic Design            Andrew Cull  <i>Misery</i></b>
<b>Outstanding Original Score            Lindsay Kyte (Rita MacNeil)  <i>Dear Rita</i></b>	<b>Outstanding Sound Design            Aaron Collier  <i>Dayboil</i></b>
<b>Outstanding Performance Ensemble  <i>Dayboil</i>            Ship's Company Theatre</b>	<b>Outstanding Sound Design            Aaron Collier  <i>Dayboil</i></b>
<b>Outstanding Independent Production  <i>Samqwan</i>            Highland Arts Theatre</b>	<b>Outstanding Production  <i>Dayboil</i>            Ship's Company Theatre</b>
<b>Outstanding Emerging Production  <i>Crypthand</i>            Gale Force Theatre Co-operative</b>	<b>Wes Daniels Design Award            MacKenzie Cornfield</b>
<b>Outstanding Stage Manager Award            Heather Lewis</b>	<b>Wes Daniels Design Award            Brenda Duran</b>
<b>Outstanding Volunteer Award            Lara Lewis</b>	<b>Outstanding Technician            Thomas Rice</b>



Theatre Nova Scotia Professional Development Scholarship Lyndsey Kyte	RBC Chrysalis Emerging Artist Award Sara Graham
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------

The Robert Merritt Award winners were announced at a gala ceremony on March 23<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm at the Alderney Landing. Industry veteran and Nova Scotian icon Walter Borden received the Merritt **Legacy Award**.

The Merritts were hosted and produced this year by Dan Bray and Kat McCormack, with Stevey Hunter as the associate producer. The show featured an emerging artist showcase from artists: Deryl Ameyna - Sound Design, Mackenzie Cornfield - Projection Design, Sabrina Stace - Costume Design, Brenda Duran - Set Design, Oliver Dorfling - Costume Design, and Lucas Arab - Set/Prop Design.

The Merritt Awards are conducted by Theatre Nova Scotia and sponsored by our event partner Support4Culture, our awards are sponsored by IASTE 680, Sky Talent Group, Dalhousie Fountain School of Performing Arts, Christie Lites, Atlantic Illumination Entertainment Lighting, ACTRA Maritimes, Mount Allison University, Rosie Porter - Royal LePage, St. Francis Xavier University, and Strategic Arts Management

Theatre Nova Scotia is a provincial organization that serves individual theatre artists as well as organizations in the professional and community theatre realms. Our membership is diverse – from long-standing regional theatres to recent theatre school graduates and committed volunteer teams to high school students testing the waters at DramaFest.

Theatre Nova Scotia offers programs and services to support and highlight the vibrant and varied theatre activities throughout the province.

As well as hosting the Merritt Awards, TNS offers scholarships, communications, admin support, runs a library, and provides access to professional development opportunities. We also run 3 other major programs: the Nova Scotia High School DramaFest, PERFORM! artists-in-the schools program, and the Theatre Partnership Program that supports the theatre industry in this province by directing donations and resources we receive.

**For more information contact:**  
**Mark Ferraro-Hauck at Theatre Nova Scotia**  
**(Tel) 902 425-3876 Email: [mferraro-hauck@theatrens.ca](mailto:mferraro-hauck@theatrens.ca)**  
**[www.merrittawards.ca](http://www.merrittawards.ca)**  
**Media contact:**  
**[Marcus Jun Wei Wong](#)**