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## Further Update for 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Dora Mavor Moore Awards Nominations

**Soulpepper Theatre Leads in General Theatre Division with 13 Nods.**

**Aluna Theatre Heads up Independent Theatre Division with 9 Taps.**

***Spoon River* and *The Wild Party* Tie with 8 Nods each to Lead Musical Theatre Division.**

**Canadian Opera Company Front-runner in Opera Division.**

**DanceWorks and Harbourfront Centre's World Stage Fly High with a Tie of 7 Taps each in Dance Division.**

**Young People's Theatre Fronts Theatre for Young Audiences Division.**

Toronto, June 4, 2015 – Jacoba Knaapen, Executive Director of the **Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA)** has further updated the **General Theatre Division** nominations for the **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Dora Mavor Moore Awards** since the original June 1 announcement and June 2 update, summing up all the changes as follows:

"The nominations for the 2015 Dora Mavor Moore Awards in the categories of Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Scenic Design and Outstanding Lighting Design in the General Theatre Division are now withdrawn for Tarragon Theatre's Toronto staging of *An Enemy of the People*. As noted by Tarragon when they initially produced the play, the artists' work relating to these categories was based on the Schaubühne Theatre production in Germany, directed by Thomas Ostermeier, and was not wholly original to those nominated. All the nominees referenced above in these specific categories have officially requested for their names to be withdrawn. TAPA in no way wishes to misrepresent any of these artists and, as requested, has respected their wishes and withdrawn their nominations. This is in no way a reflection of the members of the Dora jury or their hard work and the commitment they have all demonstrated this past year. TAPA recognizes the complexity of contemporary theatre creation practices and apologizes for any administrative errors that may have led to these particular nominations."

As previously announced, **117 producing companies** registered eligible productions for the 2014-15 season; and **48 Dora Awards**, the Silver Ticket Award and the Audience Choice Award will be given out in a glittering ceremony on Monday, **June 22 at Harbourfront Centre's WestJet Stage** hosted by multi-award-winning actor and comedian **Gavin Crawford**.

### GENERAL THEATRE DIVISION:

**Soulpepper Theatre Company** leads the **General Theatre Division** with **13 nominations**, with an additional **8 nods** in the Musical Theatre Division bringing its total to **21** with its *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* leading its team with **6** including Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Performance - Male, Outstanding Performance - Ensemble.

**Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** is in second place in this division with **8 nominations** for *Tom at the Farm* including Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Performance - Male (x2), and Outstanding Performance - Female.

**Soulpepper's *Twelve Angry Men*** and **David Mirvish's *The Heart of Robin Hood*** (with **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Barry and Fran Weissler**) are also tapped for Outstanding Direction. (In total, **Mirvish** shows earned **13 nods - 6 taps** in General and **7** in Musical Theatre Divisions.)

**Soulpepper's *Twelve Angry Men***, **Tarragon Theatre's *An Enemy of the People*** and **Theatre Passe Muraille's *Hooked*** are all up for Outstanding Production as well in the General Theatre Division. (With **5 nominations** in the General Division - **3** for *Hooked* and **2** for *The De Chardin Project* - and **3** in Musical Theatre for *Life, Death and the Blues*, **Theatre Passe Muraille** tallies **8 taps** in total over both divisions.)

Adding to **Tarragon's 3 nods** for *An Enemy of the People* (including Outstanding Production and Outstanding Performance - Male), **Tarragon's *Abyss*** and ***Infinity*** (a co-production with **Volcano Theatre**) are up for Outstanding New Play to bring its total to **5**. **Theatre Passe Muraille's *Hooked*** and **VideoCabaret's *Trudeau and Lévesque*** (earning a total of **4**) are also up for Outstanding New Play.



## INDEPENDENT THEATRE DIVISION:

In the Independent Theatre Division, Aluna Theatre leads the pack with **9 nominations**: **8** for Modern Times Stage Company/Aluna Theatre's *Blood Wedding (Bodas de Sangre)* – including taps for Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Performance - Female and Outstanding Performance - Ensemble – and a sole nomination for *What I learned from a decade of fear* for Outstanding New Play.

Tying Modern Times Stage Company/Aluna Theatre's **8 nods** is Canadian Rep Theatre whose **8 taps** are divided between *How Do I Love Thee?* (**5 hits**) and *Watching Glory Die* (**3 taps**), with both nominated for Outstanding New Play. *How Do I Love Thee?* also earns nods for Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Performance - Female.

Three companies follow closely with **6 nods** apiece, each garnering them for a single show: *Suburban Beast - Concord Floral*, Actors Repertory Company - *Moment* and Quote Unquote Collective - *Mouthpiece*. Each of these three shows include picks for Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Performance - Ensemble. The Theatre Centre/6<sup>th</sup> Man Collective's *Monday Nights* also earned Outstanding Production and Outstanding Performance - Ensemble nods as part of its **5 hits**.

## MUSICAL THEATRE DIVISION:

In the Musical Theatre Division, *Spoon River* (Soulpepper Theatre Company) and *The Wild Party* (Acting Up Stage Company) lead the pack with **8 nods** each, followed closely by *Once* (David Mirvish) with **7 taps**, including Outstanding Production and Outstanding Performance - Ensemble for all three. In addition, *The Wild Party* and *Once* both get taps for Outstanding Performance - Male and Outstanding Performance - Female and *Spoon River* and *Once* each get a nod for Outstanding Direction. *Spoon River* also nabs an Outstanding New Musical/Opera pat along with Tapestry Opera for *Tapestry Briefs: Booster Shots*, Against the Grain Theatre for *#Uncle John* and Soundstreams' *Airline Icarus*. Young People's Theatre's *James and the Giant Peach* and Theatre Passe Muraille's *Life, Death and the Blues* are both up for Outstanding Production as well.

Canadian Stage leads Outstanding Touring Production (open to General Theatre and Musical Theatre/Opera) with **3** nominations for *Kiss & Cry*, *Nongogo* and *Ubu and the Truth Commission*.

## OPERA DIVISION:

In the Opera Division, Canadian Opera Company (COC) productions lead overall with a total of **14 nominations** as well as another **15** in categories shared with the Musical Theatre Division, making for a total of **29 nods**. The COC's *Die Walküre* earns the COC the most nods over the two divisions from its season, **9** in total, including Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Performance - Male, Outstanding Performance - Female and Outstanding Performance - Ensemble; while its *Falstaff* follows closely with **8**.

## DANCE DIVISION:

In the Dance Division, DanceWorks and Harbourfront Centre's World Stage tie for top spot with **7 nods** each with *elsewhere* (DanceWorks & adelheid dance projects) and *This Is a Costume Drama* (Harbourfront Centre's World Stage presents The Deitrich Group) each garnering **3 spots**. Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company follows with **4 taps** for different works in *Letters to Spain*. For Outstanding Production, **2** of Harbourfront Centre's World Stage taps are for that category (*Gudirr Gudirr* and *Me So You So Me*); Luminato earns its **2** in that category for *So Blue* and *Stones In Her Mouth* while Canadian Stage nabs **1** in the same category for *Dominion* (to bring its total to **5 nods**).

## THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES DIVISION:

The Theatre for Young Audiences Division sees Young People's Theatre (YPT) take the lead with **5 nods** with **3** for *To Kill a Mockingbird* including Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Performance - Individual and Outstanding Performance - Ensemble. (YPT also earns **4 taps** in the Musical Theatre Division for *James and the Giant Peach* including Outstanding Production as noted above as well as Outstanding Performance - Male and Outstanding Performance - Ensemble for a total of **9 hits**). Canada's Ballet Jorgen and Theatre Direct follow with **4 knocks** each for *The Velveteen Rabbit* and *Beneath the Banyan Tree* respectively, both up for Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Performance - Ensemble. Roseneath Theatre also tallies **4**: **2** for *Outside* and **2** for *The Money Tree*, both up for Outstanding New Play (as is *The Velveteen Rabbit*).

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See the accompanying complete list of nominees. The full list is also available online [www.tapa.ca](http://www.tapa.ca)

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Of note, designers Michael Levine, Ken Mackenzie and Lorenzo Savoini are each up for **3** awards – but of these, only Michael Levine competes against himself for Outstanding Scenic Design in the Musical Theatre/Opera Division for the Canadian Opera Company's *Bluebeard's Castle/Erwartung* and *Die Walküre*.



And for the first time, the **Pat and Tony Adams Freedom Fund for the Arts** provides a cash prize of \$1,000 each to the recipients of the **Outstanding Performance - Female** and **Outstanding Performance - Male** in the **General Theatre Division**.

As well, it was announced that the **Bluma Appel Community Trust** will continue its special gift: a **\$5,000** prize to be awarded at the Dora Awards ceremony on June 22 to the winning playwright of **Outstanding New Play** in the **General Theatre Division** for the ninth year in a row, in addition to the continuation of **Bluma's Indies** comprised of a cash prize of **\$1,000** per winning category in the **Independent Theatre Division**.

#### **ANCILLARY AWARDS:**

In addition, the recipients of the **Pauline McGibbon Award**, **George Luscombe Award** and **Leonard McHardy and John Harvey Award** were announced.

Toronto-based theatre director and creator **Mumbi Tindyebwa** is the recipient of the **2014 Pauline McGibbon Award**. It includes a \$7,000 prize and a medal designed by Dora de Pédery-Hunt and is presented to a member of Ontario's professional theatre community in the early stages of his or her career who has displayed a unique talent and a potential for excellence. The award is given each year by the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and is administered by the Ontario Arts Council. The founder and artistic director of IFT (It's A Freedom Thing) Theatre, she is also a 2015 co-director for the AMY (Artists Mentoring Youth) Project and has directed and assistant directed with such companies as Obsidian Theatre, Canadian Stage, and Buddies in Bad Times among others.

The winner of this year's **George Luscombe Award** is legendary dancer, choreographer and teacher **Peggy Baker**, Artistic Director of Peggy Baker Dance Projects and Artist-in-Residence at Canada's National Ballet School. The award recognizes an individual for mentorship in the performing arts community and is named after revolutionary theatre-maker George Luscombe who founded Toronto Workshop Productions in 1959. It is administered by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts and comes with original artwork by Theo Dimson, a copy of *Conversations with George Luscombe: Steven Bush in conversation with the Canadian Theatre visionary* and a cash prize of \$1,000 through the generous sponsorship of an anonymous donor. Ms. Baker has been honoured with numerous awards for her extraordinary achievements including the Governor General's Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Order of Canada, and the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts. Numerous dance artists - seasoned and emerging - count Baker among their top influences and are recipients of her warm generosity with her time and knowledge.

The recipient of the 2015 **Leonard McHardy and John Harvey Award** (LMJH Award) is **Sue Edworthy**. The award recognizes the important work of theatre, dance and opera administrators. Recipients of the LMJH Award have at least 10 years of demonstrated commitment to the performing arts, in addition to having made an impact on the industry in Toronto. Edworthy has worked in the non-profit performing arts sector for over fifteen years, working with organizations such as Artscape, Luminato, Opera Atelier and Theatre Passe Muraille. She founded Sue Edworthy Arts Planning in 2011, and is in demand as a social media, communications and strategic planning consultant.

#### **AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD:**

TAPA's **Audience Choice Award** is co-sponsored once again this year by *NOW Magazine* and Yonge-Dundas Square. The public is invited to choose a winner and vote for their favourite show from the list of nominees for Outstanding Production or they can choose their own! Theatre, dance and opera fans can cast their votes online at [www.nowtoronto.com/doras](http://www.nowtoronto.com/doras). The winner will be announced at the Dora Awards show ceremony and will receive a special plaque from *NOW Magazine*.

#### **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Dora Mavor Moore Awards**

**Toronto's Theatre, Dance and Opera Awards - Monday June 22, 2015**

Hosted by **Gavin Crawford**

**5:00pm-7:00pm Pre-Show Red Carpet & VIP Reception** at Harbourfront Centre's Lakeside Terrace, 235 Queens Quay West

**7:30pm Dora Mavor Moore Awards Show** at Harbourfront Centre's WestJet Stage, [235 Queens Quay West](http://235queensquaywest.com)

**10:30pm After-Party Under the Stars** beside the lake at Harbourfront Centre

Written by **Chris Earle**, Directed by **Edward Roy**, Musical Direction by **Waylen Miki**,

Lighting and Production Design by **Andrea Lundy**, Produced by **Jacoba Knaapen**.

**\$87.00 for Awards Show & After-Party Tickets** (General Admission),

available by calling the Harbourfront Centre **Box Office** at 416-973-4000 or online at <http://harbourfrontcentre.com>;

**\$15 After-Party Only Tickets** can be purchased only onsite at the event beginning at 10:30pm;

For **\$175 VIP Tickets** (Pre-show VIP Reception, Dora Awards Show, After-Party), email Scott Dermody at [scott@doras.ca](mailto:scott@doras.ca).

For information visit [www.tapa.ca](http://www.tapa.ca)

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*The Dora Mavor Moore Awards are administered by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). In addition to the Doras, other programs and services provided by TAPA include: T.O. TIX - Toronto's Official One Stop Ticket Shop at Yonge-Dundas Square and online at [www.totix.ca](http://www.totix.ca); Toronto's Official Theatre Guide; hipTIX, offering \$5 tickets to students between the ages of 14 and 29; citySPECIAL; the Commercial Theatre Development Fund; and the Travel Retreat Initiatives Program - TRIP. For more information visit [www.tapa.ca](http://www.tapa.ca) and [www.totix.ca](http://www.totix.ca).*