

Dora Mavor Moore Awards



TAPA announces 2022 *George Luscombe Mentorship Award* Recipient **Karen Kaeja**

Co-Artistic Director of Kaeja d’Dance, Honoured with Biannual *George Luscombe Mentorship Award*

Toronto, ON (August 29, 2022) – The Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) announced today that this year’s recipient of the ***George Luscombe Mentorship Award*** is **Karen Kaeja**. This award recognizes an individual for “mentorship in performing arts” and is awarded every two (2) years.

Ms. Kaeja is the Co-Artistic Director of renowned dance company **Kaeja d’Dance**, and is an award-winning performer, choreographer, educator, community builder and project instigator. With over 30 years of gracing the stage, Kaeja has a remarkable track record of mentorship and has demonstrated her ability to challenge and nurture future generations of young dancers. She empowers her mentees and holds space for agency and individuality, which results in poignant work that resonates with the artists as well as enthralling audiences.

A Leader On and Off the Stage

Karen Kaeja is recognized by her contemporaries as a leader and mentor for artists both inside and outside the studio. She invests her time and knowledge and is a strong pillar of support for the artists she collaborates with. With a generous spirit and open heart, she encourages them to explore their individuality without imposing her own ideas. Naturally, many of her mentor/mentee relationships have evolved and blossomed into new and fruitful collaborations. Kaeja is noted to have shaped the confidence of generations of young artists, inspiring them to take risks and lead with conviction.

“I truly love mentoring and dramaturgy and have had the pleasure of doing so with many dance artists from all walks of life over the past two decades. Mentorship relationships permeate a lifetime of connection and communication. It gives me great pleasure to unravel, learn and deepen curious artists’ practices, while tending to the correlation of thinking, imaging and the moving body, within the creative process. For me, the mentor/mentee equation leans into an intimacy of minds that flourish, a kind of two-way symbiosis. I am always learning with my senses and my heart from the next generation.”

- Karen Kaeja, 2022 George Luscombe Award Recipient

TAPA
401 Richmond Street
Suite 350
Toronto, ON, M5V 3A8
tel. 416.536.6468
fax. 416.536.3463
tapa.ca

A program of the
Toronto Alliance for the
Performing Arts

Registered Charity
12378 5859 RR0001

About the Award

Revolutionary theatre founder and artistic director George Luscombe began Toronto Workshop Productions (TWP) in 1959, marking the beginning of the Canadian alternative theatre movement. His 27 years at TWP marked the longest tenure of any artistic director in Canada. The George Luscombe Mentorship Award recipient is chosen by a designated committee and receives a framed print by Theo Dimson, a copy of the book *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 the Kingfisher Foundation.

For more information visit tapa.ca/

XX

About the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA)

TAPA is a champion of theatre, dance and opera and aims for a unified voice to improve the environment for all theatre/dance/opera companies in Toronto, advocating for cultural municipal policy to effectively support an evolving sector on behalf of a large and diverse membership. In addition to the management of The Dora Mavor Moore Awards, other programs and services provided by TAPA include: Annual Arts Day at the City, **hipTIX** (offering \$5 tickets to students between the ages of 14 and 29), **citySPECIAL**, the Commercial Theatre Development Fund, the Travel Retreat Initiatives Program – **TRIP**, and the professional development TAPA Trade Series.

Website: www.tapa.ca Twitter: [@DoraAwards](https://twitter.com/DoraAwards) Hashtag: #Doras2022 Facebook: [torontoalliancefortheperformingarts](https://www.facebook.com/torontoalliancefortheperformingarts)

Media Contact:

Deanne Moser
DMPUBLIC
deanne@dmpublic.com
647-888-9388