



DORA MAVOR MOORE
AWARDS

PRESENTED BY THE ROMANO D'ANDREA FOUNDATION

TAPA announces Michael Caldwell as the 2026 George Luscombe Mentorship Award Recipient

Toronto, ON (June 1, 2026) – The Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) today announced that **Michael Caldwell** is this year's recipient of the **George Luscombe Mentorship Award**, a bi-annual award recognizing extraordinary mentorship in the performing arts. Past recipients of the award include Paula Wing, Franco Boni, and Yvette Nolan.

One of Caldwell's several nominators, Lily Sutherland (Festival Director & Co-CEO, Fall for Dance North), wrote: "What distinguishes Michael is his instinct to lead through service. He consistently looks inward to ask what he can offer, and how his skills and experience can meaningfully support others. His work has always been rooted in bringing people together, fostering connection, and strengthening the broader arts ecosystem."

Michael Caldwell (he/him) is an artistic director, curator, producer, choreographer, dancer/actor, and arts advocate, based in Toronto. Currently, Caldwell serves as Artistic Director at SummerWorks, and as a Co-Curator for Festival of Dance Annapolis Royal, in Nova Scotia. He is a Guest Curator at Genderhouse Festival in Aarhus, Denmark, among other national and international contexts, acts as a consultant with various arts organizations, and is a mentor to many emerging artists/curators in the Canadian arts community. He has performed and collaborated with over 55 of Canada's esteemed performance creators and companies, working internationally and performing across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, over the last 20-plus years. His performances have earned him two Dora Mavor Moore Awards for outstanding performance in dance.

Says Caldwell: "I am thrilled to receive the George Luscombe Mentorship Award, and share this truly meaningful honour with all of the individuals that I've learned from, and who have learned from me, over my many years within Toronto's diverse performance sector. I view my role as one of service; I am in service to the creative communities around me and strive to make a tangible and lasting impact. Mentorship is a dynamic relationship, a space for listening and curiosity, for reciprocal learning, and for continued growth and exchange. This award bolsters my work and allows me to confidently continue building and deepening relationships in diverse communities of performance practice in Toronto, across Canada, and around the world."

The George Luscombe Award recognizes an individual for mentorship in the performing arts. 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.

Caldwell will receive 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 provided through the generous support of the Kingfisher Foundation.

The Dora Awards, Canada's largest and oldest awards program, celebrates the incredible talent within Toronto's professional theatre, dance, and opera communities.

The 46th Annual Dora Mavor Moore Awards presented by the Romano D'Andrea Foundation will take place at Meridian Hall on Monday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. The celebration will be hosted by Dora Award-winning actor **Amaka Umeh**. For additional information, please visit tapa.ca/doras.

Connect and Share: [BlueSky](#); [Instagram](#); [Facebook](#): #Doras2026

About the Dora Mavor Moore Awards

The Doras are named for Dora Mavor Moore (1888-1979), a well-loved teacher and director who helped establish Canadian professional theatre in the 1930s and 1940s. Recognizing the outstanding achievements in Toronto's performing arts industry, the Doras honour the creators of numerous theatre, dance and opera productions annually in the following divisions: General Theatre, Independent Theatre, Musical Theatre, Dance, Opera, Theatre for Young Audiences, Touring, and Innovation.

The Dora 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: Arts Week at the City, hipTIX (offering \$13 tickets to students between the ages of 14 and 29), TAPA RBC Artists Mentorship Program (TREAM), and the professional development TAPA Trade Series, featuring the Indie X Conference and Indie General Auditions.

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For this year's press kit including recipient images please click [here](#).

For images of past Dora Awards, please click [here](#).

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