2026-2027

Eligibility Handbook



Dora Mavor Moore Awards

theatre dance opera

toronto alliance for the performing arts

MANDATE

From TAPA Strategic Plan 2024-2028

TAPA is a unique arts service organization that represents three separate disciplines comprised of professional theatre, dance and opera companies that range from commercial to not-for-profit organizations. TAPA is responsive to the changing environment and shifting artistic practices of the membership; and engages in a cyclical review process of the **Dora Mavor Moore Awards**.

TAPA is dedicated to listening and learning about the needs of these diverse members to effectively support their individual work, while also acting as a unified voice for the performing arts as a whole. Through a broad spectrum of partnerships and networks, TAPA has a proven track record of establishing new programs and services. TAPA is committed to advocating with all three levels of government to maintain and secure new funding to support arts and culture. In the time of the pandemic, TAPA demonstrated its expertise in the cultural ecosystem and the impact of its work was clearly evident and rippled throughout the sector. As a dynamic ASO, TAPA is a leader in building a strong and thriving creative sector.

Vision: A flourishing Toronto performing arts industry, where artists, arts organizations and audiences feel connected, engaged and empowered to lead positive change through the arts.

Mission: Supporting the growth of the Toronto performing arts sector, by facilitating learnings, connections and partnerships across industries, communities, organizations, groups and professionals.

Values:

1. **Equity**
   - Being an empowering and unified voice to amplify historically underserved artists and communities and change for arts organizations and artists through critical education, support and facilitation of learning around values that include access, pluralism and inclusion.
2. **Advocacy**
   - Facilitating conversations with civic stakeholders to build an understanding of the importance of the arts for the common good; and to secure continued financial support and recognition for theatre, dance, and opera, from all levels of government.
3. **Engagement**
   - Connecting members with each other through a range of platforms for learning, exchange and integrated community building.
4. **Membership-driven**
   - Maintaining a dialogue with performing arts organizations and arts workers to actively support and respond to their evolving needs through the reassessment of TAPA programs and services.
5. **Collaborative**
   - Embracing the experiences of the TAPA membership, Board and Committee members from across organizations and disciplines to elevate all voices.
6. **Resilience**
   - Maintaining a strong and supportive team to implement fluidity and transparency as an essential practice to be a catalyst for effective change.

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REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Before registering a production for the Dora Mavor Moore Awards (DMMA), please consult the following eligibility criteria.

To ensure the production is attended and adjudicated by the appropriate Dora Awards Division jury, please complete the online Show Registration Form in full, accessed by logging in to the TAPA website, and selecting the Show Registration link under the My TAPA tab.

TAPA Members are encouraged to register all season productions at the beginning of the membership year (September) or as early as possible, even if the full team is not yet in place.

The information provided by the Producer on the Show Registration Form will appear *exactly* as written in all TAPA print materials, unless otherwise updated by the Producer. TAPA is not responsible for any inaccuracies or errors in registration. Changes or updates to registration details must be submitted in writing by the Producer prior to the commencement of jury voting in May. Dora Awards credits must reflect the opening night credits in your show programme.

Registration must be completed and received by the Dora Awards Manager *28 calendar days* prior to opening night.

This deadline is non-negotiable. Submission of the Show Registration Form does not automatically qualify a production for inclusion in the Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

Producers will be advised automatically by the Dora Award registration form system that a registration has been received. If the Producer does not receive acknowledgment of receipt, it is the Producer's responsibility to contact the Dora Awards Manager immediately.

Producers will receive formal confirmation of registration within two (2) weeks of submission, which will include full confirmation details and additional procedures.

Questions or concerns can be directed to: scottd@tapa.ca

RULES & REGULATIONS

- A Producing Company must be a TAPA member in good standing at the Professional Member level in order to register for the Dora Awards. To be a member in good standing, Producers must:
  - Pay TAPA Membership dues in a timely manner
  - Register productions a **minimum of 28 calendar days** in advance of opening

- To be eligible in the current Dora season, a minimum of 60% of juror-eligible performances must occur before May 15. Production runs with less than 60% occurring before May 15 will be rolled into the following Dora season.

- Producers must provide **two (2) complimentary tickets if capacity permits** to each juror in the corresponding registration Division, as well as all Jury Chairs. Some ticket reservation restrictions are permitted on the Show Registration Form.

- **DO NOT** contact jurors directly. Questions must be directed to the Dora Awards Manager who will address your concerns. **DO NOT** automatically add jurors to promotional mailing lists.

- Provide *clear* and *accurate* information on the Show Registration Form. Incomplete or inaccurate information will not be processed. Any TBD information must be submitted by opening night.

- Requests for changes to registered show information must be submitted directly to the Dora Awards Manager before May 15. **Once voting begins, no additional changes will be accepted.**

- In exceptional cases where Producers wish to request minor corrections to otherwise accurate information after the nominees are announced (late May / early June), Producers have 24hrs following the Dora Nominee Press Conference to request such changes. If there are major inaccuracies in the information a Producer has provided, nominations will be withdrawn.

- Companies who have received a Dora Award for a production are no longer eligible in that same category for the same production. Individuals who have received a Dora Award are no longer eligible in that same category for the same role in the same production.

- Productions must take place within the City of Toronto (not the GTA); West to the border of Mississauga, North to the border of Vaughan/Markham, East to the border of Pickering.

Eligibility Criteria, Rules and Regulations are subject to change without notice.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

ALL DIVISIONS

1. Productions must be produced or presented by a Professional Member in good standing of TAPA. Productions are registered in the Division that best matches the discipline of the work.

2. Productions must be professional and must be described by their Producer as a professional work of dance, theatre or opera. All artists must be remunerated via some form of contract (CTA, ITA, Collective, Profit-Share, Honourarium).

3. Only the opening night cast of a production is eligible for performance awards. Requests for exceptions must be submitted to the Dora Awards Manager and will be assessed case-by-case.

4. Workshops, excerpts, works-in-progress and training productions are NOT eligible for the DMMA.

5. Digital/virtual/streamed-only productions are NOT eligible for the core DMMA, due to:

- equity challenges across the membership in producing digital content, including but not limited to financial and human resources
- TAPA is unable to provide equitable access to digital devices for the volunteer Dora jurors for adjudication purposes that would guarantee a unified experience
- not all TAPA members will be digitizing artistic programming

6. Productions in the Toronto Fringe Festival are NOT eligible for the DMMA.

7. No remount is eligible in the same Division if it has previously been considered by a jury within a five (5) year period.

> For theatre, a "remount" is defined as a production which, once closed, is remounted using the stage manager's copy of the prompt script and either of the following elements; the original set and costume designer and / or at least fifty (50%) percent of the speaking roles (five [5] lines or more) are played by artists engaged for the previous production. If a TAPA member revives a production with a different set and costume design and more than 50% new cast members, the production will be eligible for Dora consideration prior to the end of the five-year rule. No remount can be eligible for Outstanding New Work regardless of its production history.
>
> For dance, a "remount" is defined as a production which, once closed, is remounted by the original producer, with the work's choreographer or the choreographer's appointed representative (i.e. a rehearsal director) directing the work; or is remounted by the original producer with the choreography reconstructed based on archival footage and/or notation from the original production; and the original set and/or original costumes and/or original score or soundtrack are used.

8. If a remounted production becomes eligible again, it is not eligible in any category for which it has previously been awarded a Dora Award.

9. Productions are eligible for consideration in one (1) Division only.

10. Producers must register for the Dora Awards at least four weeks (28 calendar days) prior to the opening performance. **IN ORDER TO BE FAIR TO ALL TAPA MEMBERS, THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

11. The Dora Awards Manager shall rule on questions regarding eligibility. Any exceptions will be reviewed by the Dora Eligibility Committee, and then the TAPA Board of Directors. Requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Dora Awards Manager at least one (1) month prior to the opening performance. (see page 25)

12. Deceased are not eligible for consideration unless they died during the current Dora season.

13. Producers determine who is considered for any and all award categories pertinent to the production registered. It is beyond the mandate of jurors to determine eligibility. **Producers are strongly recommended to consult with production's creative team.**

14. A minimum of three (3) eligible candidates must be registered in a category in order for that category to proceed to voting. (see Voting Procedures section for more details)

DORA AWARD CATEGORIES (31)

GENERAL THEATRE DIVISION (5 Awards)
- Outstanding Production
- Outstanding New Work
- Outstanding Direction
- Outstanding Performance
- Outstanding Achievement in Design

INDEPENDENT THEATRE DIVISION (5 Awards)
- Outstanding Production
- Outstanding New Work
- Outstanding Direction
- Outstanding Performance
- Outstanding Achievement in Design

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES DIVISION (5 Awards)
- Outstanding Production
- Outstanding New Work
- Outstanding Direction
- Outstanding Performance
- Outstanding Achievement in Design

DANCE DIVISION (5 Awards)
- Outstanding Production
- Outstanding Original Choreography
- Outstanding Original Sound Composition
- Outstanding Performance
- Outstanding Achievement in Design

MUSICAL THEATRE DIVISION (5 Awards)
- Outstanding Production
- Outstanding New Work
- Outstanding Creative Direction
- Outstanding Performance
- Outstanding Achievement in Design

OPERA DIVISION (5 Awards)
- Outstanding Production
- Outstanding New Work
- Outstanding Creative Direction
- Outstanding Performance
- Outstanding Achievement in Design

TOURING (1 Award)
- Outstanding Touring Production

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

GENERAL THEATRE DIVISION (5 categories)

- A production that is produced, co-produced, or part of the official season of a venued company **must** be registered in the General Theatre Division.

- A production with a budget greater than **$125,000*** in a venue with **150 seats** or more **must** be registered in the General Theatre Division. A production with either a budget of less than $125,000* **or** in a venue with 150 seats or less can choose to register in the Independent Theatre Division.

  this includes all creation/production expenses and funds contributed by presenters, co-producers and in-association partners, and excludes all expenses associated with touring.* ***Due consideration will be given to a member company's registration history and placement precedent for those production applications bordering the threshold during this transition period.*

- To be eligible in this Division, the production must run a minimum of **seven (7) performances**, and must be open to the general public in the City of Toronto. Previews and/or invited dress rehearsals MAY be included, as options for jurors to attend, at the discretion of the producer.

Outstanding Production
All productions which meet the eligibility criteria and are registered in the General Theatre Division are eligible for this award. This award is for the producing company. Third-party producers may be individually named.

Outstanding New Work
A person(s) identified as playwright(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **new work** that has its **world premiere** in Toronto in any language; or any person(s) identified as playwright(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **production** originating in Toronto* of a **work** that is registered for the Doras ***for the first time***, ie. the **Toronto premiere** of a new Canadian play that had its world premiere elsewhere with the past five (5) years. This award goes to the playwright(s)/creator(s), and is not an award for the production. Eligibility in this category is granted once, regardless of recurring eligibility in different Divisions. Production script must be provided to TAPA.

Original translations or adaptations into either official language (English or French) originating in Toronto* are eligible for this award. The original playwright(s) and translator(s) must be acknowledged in the registration for this category.

** A production originating in Toronto is defined for the purposes of the DMMA as follows: the production company (producer) responsible for the creation of the production is based in Toronto; OR the independent artist (playwright/creator) responsible for the creation of the production is a resident of Toronto.*

Outstanding Direction

A person(s) named by the producer as engaged for the purpose of directing the production are eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. The Director is responsible for conceptualizing and/or staging the production. Movement director(s) and/or choreographers may also be included.

Outstanding Performance

Individuals: Individual performers from the opening night cast who are named by the producer are eligible, provided that the production meets all other eligibility criteria.

Ensembles: The producer may choose to register all or some of the performers (minimum of 2 on-stage performers) in a production which meets all other eligibility criteria. A performer may NOT be registered both as an individual performer and as a member of an Ensemble. Each performer may only be listed ONCE, either as an Individual OR as part of an Ensemble, but not both.

** For registering your ensemble, you might consider the following as non-prescriptive guidelines:*

1. *Performance involving several performers whose roles are of equal importance.*
2. *2 (two) or more performers taken as a whole that reflect a degree of cohesion in their work.*
3. *An ensemble cast made up of performers in which these performers are assigned roughly equal amounts of importance in a production.*
4. *An ensemble performance is characterized by a group of performers appearing to be so deeply dependent on each ensemble member's contribution that the work of this group is greater than the sum of its parts.*

Outstanding Achievement in Design

A person(s) engaged to design, conceptualize, co-ordinate or direct the realization of either the scenic, costume, lighting, sound, puppetry, projection, video/digital media elements, or other designs for a production produced or co-produced by a TAPA member is eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. A single design discipline will be awarded.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

MUSICAL THEATRE DIVISION (5 categories)

- All productions that are described and promoted as musical theatre must be registered in the Musical Theatre Division.

- To be eligible in this Division, a production must run a minimum of **three (3) performances,** and must be open to the general public in the City of Toronto. Previews and/or invited dress rehearsals MAY be included, as options for jurors to attend, at the discretion of the producer.

Outstanding Production
All productions described and promoted as musicals and which meet the eligibility criteria are eligible. This award is for the producing company. Third-party producers may be individually named.

Outstanding New Work
A person(s) identified as composer(s)/librettist(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **musical work** that has its **world premiere** in Toronto in any language; or any person(s) identified as composer(s)/librettist(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **production** originating in Toronto* of a **musical work** that is registered for the Doras ***for the first time***, ie. the **Toronto premiere** of a new Canadian musical that had its world premiere elsewhere within the past five (5) years. This award goes to the composer(s)/librettist(s)/creator(s), and is not an award for the production. Eligibility in this category is granted once, regardless of recurring eligibility in different Divisions.

Original translations or adaptations into either official language (English or French) originating in Toronto* are eligible for this award. The original composer(s)/librettist(s)/creator(s) and translator(s) must be acknowledged in the registration for this category.

** A production originating in Toronto is defined for the purposes of the DMMA as follows: the production company (producer) responsible for the creation of the production is based in Toronto; OR the independent artist (playwright/creator) responsible for the creation of the production is a resident of Toronto.*

Outstanding Creative Direction
A group of persons named by the producer engaged as **Director**, **Musical Director** and/or **Choreographer** for the purpose of conceptualizing and/or directing the creative vision of a production; conceptualizing and/or conducting live music played or sung; and creating and/or staging dance choreography and/or specialized movements are together eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria.

Outstanding Performance

Individuals: Individual performers from the opening night cast who are named by the producer are eligible, provided that the production meets all other eligibility criteria.

Ensembles: The producer may choose to register all or some of the performers (minimum of 2 on-stage performers) in a production which meets all other eligibility criteria. A performer may NOT be registered both as an individual performer and as a member of an Ensemble. Each performer may only be listed ONCE, either as an Individual OR as part of an Ensemble, but not both.

** For registering your ensemble, you might consider the following as non-prescriptive guidelines:*

1. *Performance involving several performers whose roles are of equal importance.*
2. *2 (two) or more performers taken as a whole that reflect a degree of cohesion in their work.*
3. *An ensemble cast made up of performers in which these performers are assigned roughly equal amounts of importance in a production.*
4. *An ensemble performance is characterized by a group of performers appearing to be so deeply dependent on each ensemble member's contribution that the work of this group is greater than the sum of its parts.*

Outstanding Achievement in Design

A person(s) engaged to design, conceptualize, co-ordinate or direct the realization of either the scenic, costume, lighting, sound, puppetry, projection, video/digital media elements, or other designs for a production produced or co-produced by a TAPA member is eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. A single design discipline will be awarded.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

OPERA DIVISION (5 categories)

- All productions that are described and promoted as opera must be registered in the Opera Division.

- To be eligible in this Division, a production must run a minimum of **three (3) performances**, and must be open to the general public in the City of Toronto. Previews and/or invited dress rehearsals MAY be included, as options for jurors to attend, at the discretion of the producer.

Outstanding Production
All productions described and promoted as operas and which meet the eligibility criteria are eligible. This award is for the producing company. Third-party producers may be individually named.

Outstanding New Work
A person(s) identified as composer(s)/librettist(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for **an opera work** that has its **world premiere** in Toronto in any language; or any person(s) identified as composer(s)/librettist(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **production** originating in Toronto* of an **opera work** that is registered for the Doras ***for the first time***, ie. the **Toronto premiere** of a new Canadian opera that had its world premiere elsewhere within the past five (5) years. This award goes to the composer(s)/librettist(s)/creator(s), and is not an award for the production. Eligibility in this category is granted once, regardless of recurring eligibility in different Divisions.

Original translations or adaptations into either official language (English or French) originating in Toronto* are eligible for this award. The original composer(s)/librettist(s)/creator(s) and translator(s) must be acknowledged in the registration for this category.

** A production originating in Toronto is defined for the purposes of the DMMA as follows: the production company (producer) responsible for the creation of the production is based in Toronto; OR the independent artist (playwright/creator) responsible for the creation of the production is a resident of Toronto.*

Outstanding Creative Direction
A group of persons named by the producer engaged as **Director**, **Musical Director** and/or **Choreographer** for the purpose of conceptualizing and/or directing the creative vision of a production; conceptualizing and/or conducting live music played or sung; and creating and/or staging dance choreography and/or specialized movements are together eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria.

Outstanding Performance

Individuals: Individual performers from the opening night cast who are named by the producer are eligible, provided that the production meets all other eligibility criteria.

Ensembles: The producer may choose to register all or some of the performers (minimum of 2 on-stage performers) in a production which meets all other eligibility criteria. A performer may NOT be registered both as an individual performer and as a member of an Ensemble. Each performer may only be listed ONCE, either as an Individual OR as part of an Ensemble, but not both.

**To register an ensemble, the producer might consider the following as non-prescriptive guidelines:*

1. *Performance involving several performers whose roles are of equal importance.*
2. *2 (two) or more performers taken as a whole that reflect a degree of cohesion in their work.*
3. *An ensemble cast made up of performers in which these performers are assigned roughly equal amounts of importance in a production.*
4. *An ensemble performance is characterized by a group of performers appearing to be so deeply dependent on each ensemble member's contribution that the work of this group is greater than the sum of its parts.*

Outstanding Achievement in Design

A person(s) engaged to design, conceptualize, co-ordinate or direct the realization of either the scenic, costume, lighting, sound, puppetry, projection, video/digital media elements, or other designs for a production produced or co-produced by a TAPA member is eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. A single design discipline will be awarded.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

INDEPENDENT THEATRE DIVISION (5 categories)

- A production that is produced by a non-venued company and NOT part of a venued company's season may register in the Independent Theatre Division subject to the following criteria:

- A production with a budget less than **$125,000*** in a venue with **150 seats** or less **must** be registered in the Independent Theatre Division. A production with either a budget greater than $125,000* **or** in a venue with 150 seats or more can choose to register in the General Theatre Division (maximum budget of $175,000 if choose Independent Theatre Division).

  this includes all creation/production expenses and funds contributed by presenters, co-producers and in-association partners, and excludes all expenses associated with touring.* ***Due consideration will be given to a member company's registration history and placement precedent for those production applications bordering the threshold during this transition period.*

- To be eligible in this Division, a production must run a minimum of **seven (7) performances**, and must be open to the general public in the City of Toronto. Previews and/or invited dress rehearsals MAY be included, as options for jurors to attend, at the discretion of the producer.

Outstanding Production

All productions which meet the eligibility criteria and are registered in the Independent Theatre Division are eligible for this award. This award is for the producing company. Third-party producers may be individually named.

Outstanding New Work

A person(s) identified as playwright(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **new work** that has its world premiere in Toronto in any language; or any person(s) identified as playwright(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **production** originating in Toronto* of a **new work** that is registered for the Doras ***for the first time***, ie. the **Toronto premiere** of a new Canadian play that had its world premiere elsewhere within the past five (5) years. This award goes to the playwright(s)/creator(s), and is not an award for the production. Eligibility in this category is granted once, regardless of recurring eligibility in different Divisions.

Original translations or adaptations into either official language (English or French) originating in Toronto* are eligible for this award. The original playwright(s) and translator(s) must be acknowledged in the registration for this category.

** A production originating in Toronto is defined for the purposes of the DMMA as follows: the production company (producer) responsible for the creation of the production is based in Toronto; OR the independent artist (playwright/creator) responsible for the creation of the production is a resident of Toronto.*

Outstanding Direction

A person(s) named by the producer as engaged for the purpose of directing the production are eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. The Director is responsible for conceptualizing and/or staging the production. Movement director(s) and/or choreographers may also be included.

Outstanding Performance

Individuals: Individual performers from the opening night cast who are named by the producer are eligible, provided that the production meets all other eligibility criteria.

Ensembles: The producer may choose to register all or some of the performers (minimum of 2 on-stage performers) in a production which meets all other eligibility criteria. A performer may NOT be registered both as an individual performer and as a member of an Ensemble. Each performer may only be listed ONCE, either as an Individual OR as part of an Ensemble, but not both.

** For registering your ensemble, you might consider the following as non-prescriptive guidelines:*

1. *Performance involving several performers whose roles are of equal importance.*
2. *2 (two) or more performers taken as a whole that reflect a degree of cohesion in their work.*
3. *An ensemble cast made up of performers in which these performers are assigned roughly equal amounts of importance in a production.*
4. *An ensemble performance is characterized by a group of performers appearing to be so deeply dependent on each ensemble member's contribution that the work of this group is greater than the sum of its parts.*

Outstanding Achievement in Design

A person(s) engaged to design, conceptualize, co-ordinate or direct the realization of either the scenic, costume, lighting, sound, puppetry, projection, video/digital media elements, or other designs for a production produced or co-produced by a TAPA member is eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. A single design discipline will be awarded.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES DIVISION (5 categories)

- All productions that are described and promoted as productions for young audiences must be registered in the Theatre for Young Audiences Division.

- A production must run a minimum of **three (3) performances** in the City of Toronto, though not necessarily in one location. Previews and/or invited dress rehearsals MAY be included, as options for jurors to attend, at the discretion of the producer.

Outstanding Production
All productions described and promoted for children or young audiences and which meet the eligibility criteria are eligible. This award is for the producing company. Third-party producers may be individually named.

Outstanding New Work
A person(s) identified as playwright(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **new work** that has its world premiere in Toronto in any language; or any person(s) identified as playwright(s)/creator(s) by a TAPA member for a **production** originating in Toronto* of a **new work** that is registered for the Doras ***for the first time***, ie. the **Toronto premiere** of a new Canadian play that had its world premiere elsewhere within the past five (5) years. This award goes to the playwright(s)/creator(s), and is not an award for the production. Eligibility in this category is granted once, regardless of recurring eligibility in different Divisions.

Original translations or adaptations into either official language (English or French) originating in Toronto* are eligible for this award. The original playwright(s) and translator(s) must be acknowledged in the registration for this category.

** A production originating in Toronto is defined for the purposes of the DMMA as follows: the production company (producer) responsible for the creation of the production is based in Toronto; OR the independent artist (playwright/creator) responsible for the creation of the production is a resident of Toronto.*

Outstanding Direction
A person(s) named by the producer as engaged for the purpose of directing the production are eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. The Director is responsible for conceptualizing and/or staging the production. Movement director(s) and/or choreographers may also be included.

Outstanding Performance

Individuals: Individual performers from the opening night cast who are named by the producer are eligible, provided that the production meets all other eligibility criteria.

Ensembles: The producer may choose to register all or some of the performers (minimum of 2 on-stage performers) in a production which meets all other eligibility criteria. A performer may NOT be registered both as an individual performer and as a member of an Ensemble. Each performer may only be listed ONCE, either as an Individual OR as part of an Ensemble, but not both.

** For registering your ensemble, you might consider the following as non-prescriptive guidelines:*

1. *Performance involving several performers whose roles are of equal importance.*
2. *2 (two) or more performers taken as a whole that reflect a degree of cohesion in their work.*
3. *An ensemble cast made up of performers in which these performers are assigned roughly equal amounts of importance in a production.*
4. *An ensemble performance is characterized by a group of performers appearing to be so deeply dependent on each ensemble member's contribution that the work of this group is greater than the sum of its parts.*

Outstanding Achievement in Design

A person(s) engaged to design, conceptualize, co-ordinate or direct the realization of either the scenic, costume, lighting, sound, puppetry, projection, video/digital media elements, or other designs for a production produced or co-produced by a TAPA member is eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. A single design discipline will be awarded.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

DANCE DIVISION (5 categories)

- All productions that are described and promoted as dance must be registered in the Dance Division.

- To be eligible in this Division, a production must run a minimum of **three (3) performances**, and must be open to the general public in the City of Toronto. Previews and/or invited dress rehearsals MAY be included, as options for jurors to attend, at the discretion of the producer.

Outstanding Production

All productions described and promoted as dance and which meet the eligibility criteria are eligible. This award is for the producing company. Third-party producers may be individually named.

Outstanding Original Choreography

A person(s) engaged as a choreographer(s) by a TAPA member for a new work that has its world premiere in Toronto; or any person(s) engaged as a choreographer by a TAPA member for a new work originating in Toronto* that is registered for the Doras ***for the first time***, ie. the **Toronto premiere** of new Canadian choreography that had its world premiere elsewhere within the past five (5) years. This award goes to the choreographer(s), and is not an award for the production. Eligibility in this category is granted once, regardless of recurring eligibility in different Divisions.

** A production originating in Toronto is defined for the purposes of the DMMA as follows: the production company (producer) responsible for the creation of the production is based in Toronto; OR the independent artist (playwright/creator) responsible for the creation of the production is a resident of Toronto.*

Outstanding Original Sound Composition

Any person(s) engaged to conceptualize, co-ordinate or direct the realization of original music or sound for a dance work produced or co-produced by a TAPA member that has its world premiere in Toronto, or for a dance piece originating in Toronto* that is registered for the Doras ***for the first time***, ie. the **Toronto premiere** of new Canadian sound composition that had its world premiere elsewhere within the past five (5) years, provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in composition of original music or original sound, either live or pre-recorded.

** A production originating in Toronto is defined for the purposes of the DMMA as follows: the production company (producer) responsible for the creation of the production is based in Toronto; OR the independent artist (playwright/creator) responsible for the creation of the production is a resident of Toronto.*

Outstanding Performance

Individuals: Individual performers from the opening night cast who are named by the producer are eligible, provided that the production meets all other eligibility criteria.

Ensembles: The producer may choose to register all or some of the performers (minimum of 2 on-stage performers) in a production which meets all other eligibility criteria. A performer may NOT be registered both as an individual performer and as a member of an Ensemble. Each performer may only be listed ONCE, either as an Individual OR as part of an Ensemble, but not both.

** For registering your ensemble, you might consider the following as non-prescriptive guidelines:*

1. *Performance involving several performers whose roles are of equal importance.*
2. *2 (two) or more performers taken as a whole that reflect a degree of cohesion in their work.*
3. *An ensemble cast made up of performers in which these performers are assigned roughly equal amounts of importance in a production.*
4. *An ensemble performance is characterized by a group of performers appearing to be so deeply dependent on each ensemble member's contribution that the work of this group is greater than the sum of its parts.*

Outstanding Achievement in Design

A person(s) engaged to design, conceptualize, co-ordinate or direct the realization of either the scenic, costume, lighting, sound, puppetry, projection, video/digital media elements, or other designs for a production produced or co-produced by a TAPA member is eligible for this award provided the production meets all other eligibility criteria. A single design discipline will be awarded.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

TOURING DIVISION (1 category)

- A production that is produced by a non-member of TAPA that is presented by a TAPA member company may register in the Touring Division.

- To be eligible for Outstanding Touring Production, a production must run a minimum of **three (3) performances**, and must be open to the general public in the City of Toronto. Previews and/or invited dress rehearsals MAY be included, as options for jurors to attend, at the discretion of the producer.

Outstanding Touring Production

All touring productions which meet all the eligibility criteria can be registered. In this category, the TAPA member company is *presenting* an existing work, and does not have artistic input. This award is for productions not originating in Toronto and not co-produced with a TAPA member. Touring productions are not eligible for any other awards. The Recipient, which shall be the company presented by a TAPA member, is presented with a plaque.

VOTING PROCEDURES

JUROR ATTENDANCE

Jury members may not vote for productions they have not attended ***at any stage of voting***. This applies to productions that jurors may have seen previously (for instance a show from the Fringe that is remounted), as the remount may not be identical to the original production. Proof of attendance must be provided to Jury Chairs for every production. Jury Chairs will track juror attendance for every production and will inform producers of jurors unavailable to attend.

Jurors must attend at least 85% of the total number of registered productions in their Division. In the event that a juror falls below this threshold, that juror may not be eligible to vote at the end of the season.

Juror attendance records will be provided to the Dora Manager, who will verify that jurors have not voted for productions they have not attended. If a juror votes for a production they have not attended or for which they have not provided substantiation, their ballot in that round of voting will not be counted.

JUROR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Jurors must state if they have a conflict of interest in any production registered in their Division. For the purposes of the DMMA, a conflict of interest is defined as (but not limited to) the following:
(a) when a juror participates (paid or unpaid) as part of a registered production's administrative, creative, and/or technical team;
(b) when a juror is employed by the production company/companies that registered the production or is a member of its governing body; or
(C) when a juror is related by birth or marriage, including Common Law status, to any individual who meets criteria (a) and (b).

The Jury Chair for the Division will record any conflict of interest. Jurors who have a conflict of interest with a registered production may not vote for that production ***in the first round of voting***, which creates the short-list. Should the production appear on the short-list after the first round of voting, the juror with the conflict may vote for the production in the second and third ballots.

Juror conflict of interest records will be provided to the Dora Manager, who will verify that jurors have not voted for productions with which they have a conflict on the first ballot. If a juror votes for a production with which they have a conflict on the first ballot, their ballot in that round of voting will not be counted.

VOTING PROCEDURES

BALLOT PROCEDURES

The number and nature of votes received shall not be disclosed by the Dora Manager to anyone, including TAPA and Dora staff and Boards, the juries or to any other person or entity at any time, excepting the Boards' Presidents for scrutineering control. The names of the nominees shall not be made public until the Dora Nominee Press Conference, and the names of the recipients shall not be made public until the presentation of the Dora Mavor Moore Awards Ceremony.

No member of the jury may abstain from voting in any category, excepting the first round, nor may they vote for fewer than the prescribed number of candidates in any category. Jury members may not vote for productions they have not attended. Should a juror fail to submit a ballot during any round of voting, they will not be eligible to vote in remaining rounds, including tie-breakers.

There must be a minimum of three (3) eligible candidates in a category in order to proceed with voting, which must proceed in all three rounds as long as a minimum of two (2) eligible candidates remaining is met. In the event insufficient eligible candidates remain in a category, no award will be given in that category for that season. In such a situation, the producer may register the same production, should it be remounted (even within the 5 year minimum) in any subsequent seasons, in any/all categories in which no award was given. They will retain original eligibility status.

Once voting has begun, in the event that a registered candidate in any award category in any Division at any stage of the voting process chooses to withdraw their candidacy from consideration, the candidate in question shall be removed from the ballot without substitution. Withdrawn short-listed and nominated candidates shall NOT be replaced by the next runner-up. In the event of only one (1) eligible candidate remaining in a category due to withdrawals, no award will be given in that category for that season. In such a situation, the producer may register the same production, should it be remounted (even within the 5 year minimum) in any subsequent seasons, in any/all categories in which no award was given. They will retain their original eligibility status.

FIRST ROUND (short list):

The Dora Awards Manager shall create and distribute to each juror a web-based electronic ballot with the full list of eligible candidates in every category. The Dora Manager shall tabulate the votes of each jury in every category. Every candidate named by any juror shall be included on the short list.

- Each juror shall short list a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of five (5) candidates in Production, New Work and Direction categories, and ten (10) in Performance and Design categories.
- Jurors *may* choose to abstain in a category during this round.
- Jurors with a conflict of interest with an eligible production ***may not*** vote for that production in any category in this round of voting.

SECOND ROUND (nominees):
The Dora Awards Manager shall create and distribute to each juror a web-based electronic ballot with the short-listed candidates for each category. The Dora Manager shall tabulate the votes of each jury in every category. The nominees shall be the first five (5) eligible candidates for Production, New Work and Direction categories, ten (10) for Performance categories, and eight (8) for Design categories, to receive the highest cumulative points.

- Each juror shall rank the candidates in the following order: first (1st) place through fifth (5th) place for Production, New Work and Directions categories, with five (5) points through one (1) point corresponding to their selections, respectively; first (1st) place through tenth (10th) place for Performance categories, with ten (10) points through one (1) point corresponding to their selections respectively; first (1st) place through eighth (8th) place for Design categories, with eight (8) points through one (1) point corresponding to their selections.
- Jurors *must* assign all five (5), eight (8), or ten (10) levels of places.
- Jurors with a conflict of interest with an eligible production ***may*** vote for that production in any category in this round of voting.

In the event of a (or several) tie(s), nominees in excess of the allotted spots will be dropped. The minimum number of nominees shall be two (2), and maximum number of nominees shall not exceed five (5), eight (8), and ten (10). In the case of a five-way tie (or more) for second place or a four-way tie for third place, the tie shall be broken by first tabulating the number of jurors who voted for each candidate. If this does not break the tie, the points attributed to each tied candidate shall transfer to ordinals and be re-tabulated.

THIRD ROUND (recipients):
The Dora Awards Manager shall create and distribute to each juror a web-based electronic ballot containing a list of nominees in each category. The Dora Manager shall tabulate the votes of each jury in each category. The recipients in each category of each Division shall be the nominee receiving the highest number of cumulative points.

- Each juror shall rank the nominees in the following order: first (1st) place to their first choice receives 4 points, second (2nd) place to their second choice receives 2 points, third (3rd) place to their third choice receives 1 point.
- Jurors *must* assign all three (3) levels of places.
- Jurors with a conflict of interest with an eligible production ***may*** vote for that production in any category in this round of voting.

TIE-BREAKERS:
In the event of a tie, each juror will be sent a tie-breaking ballot wherein they are asked to select one (1) of two (2) or more candidates. If this measure does not break the tie, the Jury Captain's vote will be used to break the tie in confidence. The Jury Captain will be selected by the respective juries and will be a juror with the lowest number of missed productions and conflicts of interest.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

The Dora Awards Manager makes every effort to remain impartial, transparent, consistent and fair with any questions regarding Dora Awards registration eligibility, in discussion and consultation with the TAPA member company submitting a production for consideration.

In the event that a production or elements of a production are deemed ineligible based on details supplied in the Show Registration application as compared with the Eligibility Criteria and Rules & Regulations contained in this document, a producer may elect to appeal the initial eligibility decision made by the Dora Awards Manager.

1. Request for eligibility appeal must be submitted in writing to the Dora Awards Manager, addressed to the "Dora Awards Eligibility Committee."

2. Appeal request will be forwarded to the Dora Awards Eligibility Committee for review at earliest convenience, along with any relevant documentation.

3. Dora Awards Eligibility Committee will recommend a course of action:

    - Appeal Request Granted
    - Appeal Request Denied
    - Appeal Request Conditionally Granted