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For Immediate Release

Jessie Award Winners 2019

Vancouver, BC – The 37th annual Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards were held on Monday, July 15th at **Bard on the Beach** in the BMO Mainstage in Vanier Park, an amazing theatrical venue in a magnificent setting. The awards celebrate excellence in professional theatre and salutes all the talent who contribute to Vancouver’s fantastic theatre scene. Fifty theatrical productions were nominated from last years’ dynamic theatre season.

The Jessie Awards are divided into three categories –Small Theatre, Large Theatre and Theatre for Young Audiences – along with a variety of special awards and prizes.

There were five shows awarded Jessies in the **Small Theatre** category, two of which tied with 4 Jessies each. Both were musicals, one a Stephen Sondheim show and the other, a new work locally conceived, written and produced. **The Snapshots Collective’s** production of Sondheim’s musical, ***Sweeney Todd: The Demon of Fleet Street*** garnered its 4 Jessies by saluting the exhilarating performances of **Warren Kimmel** and **Colleen Winton**, along with supporting actor **Oliver Castillo**, and also nabbed the award for Outstanding Musical Production. The cutting edge new Canadian musical, ***Les Filles du Roi***, produced by Fugue Theatre/Raven Theatre/Urban Ink/The Cultch, garnered 4 Jessies. The designers nabbed 3 of those awards: **Marshall McMahan** for Set Design, **Marshall McMahan** and **Konwahonwá:wi Stacey** for Costume Design, **Corey Payette** and **Kyra Soko** for Sound Design or Original Composition and **Corey Payette** winning for Outstanding Direction.

The remaining awards in this category **the frank theatre company/Queer Arts Festival’s** production of ***Camera Obscura (hungry ghosts)*** nabbed Outstanding Production with **James Proudfoot** winning for Lighting Design. **Alannah Ong** received a nod for her outstanding performance in ***The Ones We Leave Behind*** by Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre and Delinquent Theatre’s production of ***Never the Last***, gave **Molly MacKinnon** and **Christine Quintana** a Jessie for Significant Artistic Achievement for outstanding interdisciplinary

collaboration involving the imaginative integration of dance, live musical performance and theatre.

In the **Large Theatre** category **Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival** took the lead with 5 Jessies divided between three productions. ***Timon of Athens*** won 2 of these with lead actor **Colleen Wheeler** winning for her performance along with interminable award winner, **Drew Facey** for his set design. Their production of ***Lysistrata*** nabbed the **Critic's Choice Innovation Award** along with **Barbara Clayden** garnering a Jessie for her imaginative costumes. Bard on the Beach's joyous adaptation of the Beatles inspired version of **As You Like it** won for Outstanding Production of a Musical. **Théâtre la Seizième's** production followed with 4 Jessies for ***Le Soulier*** (The Shoe) that included actor **Félix Beauchamp** winning for his outstanding performance along with **David Paquet** acknowledged for Outstanding Original Script.

The remaining awards in this category were given to the **Arts Club Theatre Company** garnering two nods: one to **Nora McLellan** for her supporting role performance in ***The Matchmaker*** and the other to **Itai Erdal** for Lighting Design in ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***. The Outstanding Production and Significant Artistic Achievement Jessies were given to ***Kamloopa*** by The Cultch (*in partnership with Western Canada Theatre, Persephone Theatre and Gordon Tootoosis Nīkānīwin Theatre, and in collaboration with National Arts Centre Indigenous Theatre*). **Adam Grant Warren** nabbed the Jessie for Outstanding Performance in a Supportive Role for his heart wrenching work in **Touchstone Theatre's** production of ***Kill Me Now***.

The Theatre for Young Audiences category recognized **Carousel Theatre for Young People's** delightful new musical, ***Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play"*** for Outstanding Production with **Kayla Dunbar** getting a nod for Outstanding Artistic Creation. **Jake Walker** was awarded Outstanding Performance for his portrayal in ***Jack and the Magic Bean*** by **Presentation House Theatre**. This clever storytelling work with theatrical magic was also recognized for Significant Artistic Achievement for outstanding risky and improvised audience engagement. A Jessie was given to **Shizuka Kai, Jessica Oostergo** and **Brad Trenaman** for Outstanding Design for **Raven Spirit Dance's** ***Salmon Girl*** for ensemble design (set, costume, lighting).

There were also a number of additional awards. The Vancouver Now Representation and Inclusion Award was given to Heather Redfern and The Cultch, Grant Burnyeat received the Patron of the Arts Award and Stephanie Kirkland was acknowledged for her untiring work by receiving the Mary Phillips Prize for Behind the Scenes Achievement. Andrew Wheeler was awarded the John Moffat & Larry Lilo Prize and David Diamond received the GVPTA Career Achievement Award.

Holding Space Productions produced this year's ceremony that was fun, and moved quickly and effortlessly. Here's to another extraordinary year of a dynamic theatre season presented by our talented and rich community of artists. Bravo to all!

Below is a complete list of all winners.

37th Annual JESSIE AWARD WINNERS

Small Theatre

Outstanding Performance by an Actor – Small Theatre

Warren Kimmel – Sweeney Todd: The Demon of Fleet Street – The Snapshots Collective

Outstanding Performance by an Actress – Small Theatre

Colleen Winton - Sweeney Todd: The Demon of Fleet Street – The Snapshots Collective

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role – Small Theatre

Oliver Castillo - Sweeney Todd: The Demon of Fleet Street – The Snapshots Collective

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role – Small Theatre

Alannah Ong – The Ones We Leave Behind – Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre

Outstanding Lighting Design – Small Theatre

James Proudfoot – Camera Obscura (hungry ghosts) – the frank theatre company/Queer Arts Festival

Outstanding Set Design – Small Theatre

Marshall McMahan – Les Filles du Roi – Fugue Theatre/Raven Theatre/Urban Ink/The Cultch

Outstanding Costume Design – Small Theatre

Marshall McMahan & Konwahonwá:wi Stacey – Les Filles du Roi – Fugue Theatre/Raven Theatre/Urban Ink/The Cultch

Outstanding Sound Design or Original Composition – Small Theatre

Corey Payette & Kyra Soko - Les Filles du Roi – Fugue Theatre/Raven Theatre/Urban Ink/The Cultch

Outstanding Direction – Small Theatre

Corey Payette - Les Filles du Roi – Fugue Theatre/Raven Theatre/Urban Ink/The Cultch

Outstanding Production – Small Theatre

Camera Obscura (hungry ghosts) – the frank theatre company/Queer Arts Festival

Outstanding Production – Musical – Small Theatre

Sweeney Todd: The Demon of Fleet Street – The Snapshots Collective

Significant Artistic Achievement – Small Theatre

Molly MacKinnon & Christine Quintana – Never the Last – Delinquent Theatre - Outstanding interdisciplinary collaboration involving the imaginative integration of dance, live musical performance and theatre

Large Theatre

Outstanding Performance by an Actor – Large Theatre

Félix Beauchamp- Le Soulier - Théâtre la Seizième

Outstanding Performance by an Actress – Large Theatre

Colleen Wheeler – Timon of Athens – Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role – Large Theatre

Adam Grant Warren – Kill Me Now – Touchstone Theatre

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role – Large Theatre

Nora McLellan – The Matchmaker – Arts Club Theatre Company

Outstanding Lighting Design – Large Theatre

Itai Erdal – The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Arts Club Theatre Company

Outstanding Set Design – Large Theatre

Drew Facey - Timon of Athens – Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

Outstanding Costume Design – Large Theatre

Barbara Clayden – Lysistrata - Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

Outstanding Sound Design or Original Composition – Large Theatre

Malcolm Dow – Le Soulier - Théâtre la Seizième

Georgia Straight Outstanding Direction – Large Theatre

Esther Duquette & Gilles Poulin-Denis - Le Soulier - Théâtre la Seizième

Outstanding Production – Large Theatre

Kamloopa – The Cultch – *(in partnership with Western Canada Theatre, Persephone Theatre and Gordon Tootoosis Nīkānīwin Theatre, and in collaboration with National Arts Centre Indigenous Theatre)*

Outstanding Production - Musical – Large Theatre

As You Like it – Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

Significant Artistic Achievement – Large Theatre

Kim Senklip Harvey & Lindsay Lachance – Kamloopa - The Cultch – *(in partnership with Western Canada Theatre, Persephone Theatre and Gordon Tootoosis Nīkānīwin Theatre, and in collaboration with National Arts Centre Indigenous Theatre)* Outstanding decolonization of theatre spaces and practices.

Theatre for Young Audiences

Outstanding Performance – Theatre for Young Audiences

Jake Walker – Jack and the Magic Bean – Presentation House Theatre

Outstanding Design – Theatre for Young Audiences

Shizuka Kai, Jessica Oostergo, Brad Trenaman – Salmon Girl – Raven Spirit Dance - Ensemble Design (set, costume, lighting)

Outstanding Artistic Creation – Theatre for Young Audiences

Kayla Dunbar – Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are in a Play” – Carousel Theatre for Young People

Outstanding Production – Theatre for Young Audiences

Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are in a Play” – Carousel Theatre for Young People

Significant Artistic Achievement – Theatre for Young Audiences

Jack and the Magic Bean – Presentation House Theatre – Outstanding risky and improvised audience engagement

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Outstanding Original Script

David Paquet – Le Soulier (The Shoe) - Théâtre la Seizième

Critic’s Choice Innovation Award

Lysistrata – Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

Vancouver Now Representation and Inclusion Award

Heather Redfern and The Cultch

Patron of the Arts Award

Grant Burnyeat

Mary Phillips Prize for Behind the Scenes Achievement

Stephane Kirkland

Sam Payne Award for the Most Promising Newcomer

Taran Kootenayoo

John Moffat & Larry Lilo Prize

Andrew Wheeler

GVPTA Career Achievement Award

David Diamond

Sydney Risk Prize

Kamloopa by Kim Senklip Harvey

Colin Campbell Award for Excellence in Technical Theatre

Adrian Muir

Ray Michal Prize for Most Promising New Director

Marie Farsi

For further information visit - www.jessieawards.com

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