



2016 AWARDS

The San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented its 2016 Craig Noel Awards on Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation in San Diego. The 15th annual awards ceremony drew nearly 600 people from as far as Los Angeles.

[Photos of the event.](#)

Actors of the Year:

Melissa Fernandes & Ro Boddie

Designer of the Year

Scenic designer Sean Fanning

Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work by a Small Theater

Diversionsary Theatre

Outstanding Young Artist Award and Sandra Ellis-Troy Scholarship

Reed Lievers – “Big River,” New Village Arts

Outstanding Dramatic Production

“Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre



Outstanding Resident Musical

“October Sky,” The Old Globe

Outstanding New Play & Performing Arts LIVE Prize

“Junk: The Golden Age of Debt” by Ayad Akhtar, La Jolla Playhouse

Outstanding Touring Production

“Beautiful: The Carole King Musical,” Broadway/San Diego

Outstanding Direction of a Play

Christy Yael-Cox, “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre

Outstanding Direction of a Musical

Glenn Paris & Kim Strassburger – “Sunday in the Park with George,” ion theatre

Outstanding Ensemble

August Wilson Repertory Company – Cygnet Theatre

Outstanding Solo Performance



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

Rosina Reynolds – “Golda’s Balcony,” New Village Arts

Outstanding Lead Performance in a Musical, Male

Justin Huertas – “Lizard Boy,” Diversionary Theatre

Outstanding Lead Performance in a Musical, Female

Carolyn Agan – “Ragtime,” San Diego Musical Theatre

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical, Female

Allison Spratt Pearce – “Gypsy,” Cygnet Theatre

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical, Male

Sean Allan Krill – “Sense and Sensibility,” The Old Globe

Outstanding Lead Performance in a Play, Male

Robert Smyth – “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?,” Intrepid Theatre

Outstanding Lead Performance in a Play, Female

Deborah Gilmour Smyth – “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Play, Male

Laurence Brown – “Seven Guitars,” Cygnet Theatre

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Play, Female

Kim Strassburger – “The Normal Heart,” ion theatre

Outstanding Music Direction

Don LeMaster – “Ragtime,” San Diego Musical Theatre

Outstanding Choreography

Colleen Kollar Smith – “American Rhythm,” Lamb’s Players Theatre

Outstanding Original Score

Tim Rosser – “The Boy Who Danced on Air,” Diversionary Theatre

Outstanding Scenic Design

John Lee Beatty – “Love’s Labor’s Lost,” The Old Globe

Outstanding Sound Design



Charles Coes & Nathan A. Roberts – “tokyo fish story,” The Old Globe

Outstanding Costume Design

Jennifer Brawn Gittings – “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show,” Cygnet Theatre

Outstanding Lighting Design

Howell Binkley – “Hollywood,” La Jolla Playhouse

Outstanding Projection Design

Blake McCarty – “Sunday in the Park with George,” ion theatre

Special thanks to these contributors:

The Seuss Foundation & Audrey Geisel

Mike Napoli & Performing Arts LIVE

Stanley Cohen

Yolanda Braunagel



Osborn and Dea Hurston

Jay and Julie Sarno

Ralph Johnson

Trina Kaplan

Also:

Musical direction/orchestrations: Justin Gray

Event photographer: Ion Moe

Slide show presenter: Leslie Crawford

Films/slide show/program design & event production: Pam Kragen

2016 Craig Noel Award nominations
announced

**Winners will be announced at the ceremony on Feb. 6
at new location**



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

SAN DIEGO (Jan. 1, 2017) — More than 90 local and national theatre artists representing 56 San Diego theatrical productions from 20 different producing companies will compete for the 2016 Craig Noel Awards, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle announced today.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, 404 Euclid Ave, San Diego, CA 92114.

Besides the categories below, the Critics Circle will also present the annual Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work by a Small Theater Company, which includes a cash award from his widow, Yolanda Braunagel; the Outstanding Young Actor & Sandra Ellis-Troy Scholarship; awards for Actor of the Year, Male and Female, and an inaugural award for Designer of the Year. Winners of these categories will be announced from the stage.

Nominees for the 2016 Craig Noel Awards:

MUSICAL CATEGORIES

Outstanding Music Direction

Charlie Alterman – “October Sky,” The Old Globe

Mark Danisovszky – “Sunday in the Park with George,” ion theatre



Tony Houck – “Oklahoma!,” New Village Arts

Don LeMaster – “Ragtime,” San Diego Musical Theatre

Elan McMahan – “Titanic, the Musical,” Moonlight Stage Productions

Outstanding Choreography

Paul David Bryant – “Ragtime,” San Diego Musical Theatre

Jill Gorrie – “42nd Street,” San Diego Musical Theatre

Colleen Kollar Smith – “American Rhythm,” Lamb’s Players Theatre

Ray Limon – “Jesus Christ Superstar,” Welk Resort Theatre

Nejla Y. Yatkin – “The Boy Who Danced on Air,” Diversionary Theatre

Outstanding Original Score

Deborah Gilmour Smyth – “Equivocation,” Lamb’s Players Theatre



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

Peter Golub – “Love’s Labor’s Lost,” The Old Globe

Robert Grossman – “Way Downriver,” North Coast Repertory Theatre

Erin McKeown – “Miss You Like Hell,” La Jolla Playhouse

Tim Rosser – “The Boy Who Danced on Air,” Diversionary Theatre

ACTING CATEGORIES

Outstanding Ensemble

“Manifest Destinitis,” San Diego Repertory Theatre

“Seminar,” InnerMission Productions

“Seven Guitars”/“King Hedley II,” Cygnet Theatre

“When the Rain Stops Falling,” Cygnet Theatre

“Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre Company



Outstanding Solo Performance

Mike Daisey – “The Trump Card,” La Jolla Playhouse

Bets Malone – “Tell Me on a Sunday,” The Broadway Theater

Rosina Reynolds – “Golda’s Balcony,” New Village Arts

Benjamin Scheuer – “The Lion,” The Old Globe

Keith A. Wallace – “The Bitter Game,” La Jolla Playhouse

Outstanding Lead Performance in a Musical, Male

Bryan Barbarin – “Big River,” New Village Arts

Jacob Brent – “The Drowsy Chaperone,” San Diego State University School of Theatre,
Television & Film

Jack French – “Oklahoma!” New Village Arts

Justin Huertas – “Lizard Boy,” Diversionary Theatre

Reed Livers – “Big River,” New Village Arts



Outstanding Lead Performance in a Musical, Female

Carolyn Agan – “Ragtime,” San Diego Musical Theatre

Melissa Fernandes – “Sunday in the Park with George,” Lion Theatre

Linda Libby – “Gypsy,” Cygnet Theatre

Daebreon Poiema – “Sister Act,” Moonlight Stage Productions

Sharon Rietkerk – “Sense and Sensibility,” The Old Globe

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical, Female

Bets Malone – “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show,” Cygnet Theatre

Nicole Pryor – “Ragtime,” San Diego Musical Theatre

Allison Spratt Pearce – “Gypsy,” Cygnet Theatre

Alexandra Slade – “Oklahoma,” New Village Arts



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

Wendy Waddell – “Fiddler on the Roof,” Welk Resort Theatre

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical, Male

Ron Bohmer – “October Sky,” The Old Globe

Cornelius Jones Jr. – “Sister Act,” Moonlight Stage Productions

Sean Allan Krill – “Sense and Sensibility,” The Old Globe

David McBean – “Ruthless! The Musical,” Moxie Theatre

Jonathan Sangster – “Oklahoma!”, New Village Arts

Outstanding Lead Performance in a Play, Male

Richard Baird – “Way Downriver,” North Coast Repertory Theatre

Ro Boddie – “Seven Guitars,” Cygnet Theatre

Ronobir Lahiri – “Disgraced,” San Diego Repertory Theatre



Claudio Raygoza – “The Normal Heart,” ion theatre

Robert Smyth – “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre Company

Outstanding Lead Performance in a Play, Female

Deborah Gilmour Smyth – “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre Company

Jo Anne Glover – “The Kid Thing,” Moxie Theatre

Cashe Monya – “Our Lady of Kibeho,” Moxie Theatre

Jennifer Paredes – “Lydia,” ion theatre

M’Lafi Thompson – “Brownsville Song (b-side for Tray),” Moxie Theatre

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Play, Male

Laurence Brown – “Jesus Hates Me,” ion theatre

Laurence Brown – “Seven Guitars,” Cygnet Theatre



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

Kevin Cahoon – “Love’s Labor’s Lost,” The Old Globe

Ross Hellwig – “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre Company

Antonio “TJ” Johnson – “Seven Guitars”/King Hedley II,” Cygnet Theatre

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Play, Female

Dana Fares – “Airline Highway,” ion theatre

Jennifer Paredes – “Seven Spots on the Sun,” InnerMission Productions

Erin Petersen – “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre Company

Kim Strassburger – “The Normal Heart,” ion theatre

Jacque Wilke – “Stupid F**king Bird,” Cygnet Theatre

DESIGN CATEGORIES

Outstanding Scenic Design



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

John Lee Beatty – “Junk: The Golden Age of Debt,” La Jolla Playhouse

John Lee Beatty – “Love’s Labor’s Lost,” The Old Globe

Kevin Depinet – “October Sky,” The Old Globe

Sean Fanning – “Manifest Destinitis,” San Diego Repertory Theatre

Sean Fanning – “Seven Guitars”/”King Hedley II,” Cygnet Theatre

Mark Wendland – “Rain,” The Old Globe

Outstanding Sound Design

Mark Bennett – “Junk: The Golden Age of Debt,” La Jolla Playhouse

Charles Coes & Nathan A. Roberts – “tokyo fish story,” The Old Globe

Emily Jankowski – “Brownsville Song (b-side for Tray),” Moxie Theatre

Bray Poor – “The Last Match,” The Old Globe

Ken Travis – “Rain,” The Old Globe



Outstanding Costume Design

Jennifer Brawn Gittings – “Manifest Destinitis,” San Diego Repertory Theatre

Jennifer Brawn Gittings – “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show,” Cygnet Theatre

Michael Krass – “Love’s Labor’s Lost,” The Old Globe

Janet Turner Pitcher – “Sunday in the Park with George,” ion theatre

Jeanne Reith – “American Rhythm,” Lamb’s Players Theatre

Outstanding Lighting Design

Howell Binkley – “Hollywood,” La Jolla Playhouse

Wen-Ling Liao – “The Boy Who Danced on Air,” Diversionary Theatre

Jason Lyons – “Love’s Labor’s Lost,” The Old Globe

Nathan Peirson – “The Miracle Worker,” Lamb’s Players Theatre



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

Ben Stanton – “Junk: The Golden Age of Debt,” La Jolla Playhouse

Japhy Weideman – “October Sky,” The Old Globe

Outstanding Projection Design

Jonathan Infante – “Titanic, The Musical,” Moonlight Stage Productions

Tara Knight – “Hollywood,” La Jolla Playhouse

Blake McCarty – “Sunday in the Park with George,” ion theatre

Michael McKeon – “Woody Guthrie’s American Song,” Intrepid Theatre Company

Shawn Sagady – “October Sky,” The Old Globe

DIRECTING CATEGORIES

Outstanding Direction of a Play

Rob Lutfy – “When the Rain Stops Falling,” Cygnet Theatre



CRAIG NOEL AWARDS

Kathleen Marshall – “Love’s Labor’s Lost,” The Old Globe

Jennifer Nelson – “Seven Guitars”/“King Hedley II,” Cygnet Theatre

Glenn Paris & Claudio Raygoza – “The Normal Heart,” ion theatre

Christy Yael-Cox, “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” Intrepid Theatre Company

Outstanding Direction of a Musical

Stephen Brotebeck – “The Drowsy Chaperone,” SDSU School of Theatre, TV & Film

Barbara Gaines – “Sense and Sensibility,” The Old Globe

Colleen Kollar Smith – “Big River,” New Village Arts

Sean Murray – “Richard O’Brien’s The Rocky Horror Show,” Cygnet Theatre

Glenn Paris & Kim Strassburger – “Sunday in the Park with George,” ion theatre

PRODUCTION CATEGORIES



Outstanding New Play

“Damascus” by Bennett Fisher – Wagner New Play Festival, University of California, San Diego

“Junk: The Golden Age of Debt” by Ayad Akhtar, La Jolla Playhouse

“The Last Match” by Anna Ziegler, The Old Globe

“The Last Tiger in Haiti” by Jeff Augustin, La Jolla Playhouse

“Manifest Destinitis” by Herbert Siguenza, San Diego Repertory Theatre

Outstanding Touring Production

“Beautiful: The Carole King Musical,” Broadway/San Diego

“Cabaret,” Broadway/San Diego

“Maestro,” 88 Entertainment at San Diego Repertory Theatre

“The Metromaniacs,” The Old Globe

“1918” – Le Moana, San Diego International Fringe Festival



Outstanding Dramatic Production

"Disgraced," San Diego Repertory Theatre

"Love's Labor's Lost," The Old Globe

"The Normal Heart," Ion Theatre

"Seven Guitars"/"King Hedley II," Cygnet Theatre

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," Intrepid Theatre Company

Outstanding Resident Musical

"Gypsy," Cygnet Theatre

"Lizard Boy," Diversionary Theatre

"October Sky," The Old Globe

"Ragtime," San Diego Musical Theatre



“Sunday in the Park with George,” ion theatre

“Titanic: The Musical,” Moonlight Stage Productions

SPECIAL CATEGORIES winners to be announced from
the stage

Outstanding Young Artist Award & Sandra Ellis-Troy Scholarship

Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work by a Small Theater

Actor of the Year, Male

Actor of the Year, Female

Designer of the Year