



The San Diego Theatre Critics Circle announces the winners of its 2022 Craig Noel Awards

The awards returned in reduced form after COVID-related hiatus

SAN DIEGO (2/28/23)

After taking a two-year break as the result of the pandemic and its disastrous impact on the arts community, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle held its 19th Craig Noel Awards ceremony on Feb. 27, 2024, to honor the top achievements at local theaters.

The awards were held before a capacity crowd of nearly 280 people at the S.E.S. Portuguese Hall of San Diego in Point Loma.

Because of the smaller number of theater productions presented in San Diego in 2022 and because several of the Circle's members did not to return to reviewing full-time for personal safety reasons, the number of categories and awards presented was reduced by more than half.

The 21 awards were distributed among 10 local theaters, from small Roustabouts Theatre Co. to the Old Globe and La Jolla Playhouse. The one theater that received the most awards was CCAE Theatricals, which earned a combined four for its inaugural season last year at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

CCAÉ's world premiere musical "Witnesses," about five teen Jewish diarists who died at Nazi hands during World War II, won the evening's overall prize, Outstanding New Production. CCAE artistic director J. Scott Lapp also won the top musical prize for directing "Witnesses," and the company won one of two Don Braunagel Awards for

Outstanding Achievement at a Small Theater. Actor Nigel Huckle also won a featured acting award for his performance in CCAE's "The Light in the Piazza."

Here is the full list of awards.

The 2022 Craig Noel Award winners:

Outstanding New Production

- "Witnesses" – CCAE Theatricals

Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work at a Small Theater

- OnStage Playhouse
- CCAE Theatricals

***Outstanding Direction of a Musical**

- J. Scott Lapp – "Witnesses," CCAE Theatricals

***Outstanding Direction of a Play**

- Yari Cervas – "Desert Rock Garden," New Village Arts

Actor of the Year

- Megan Carmitchel
- * Berto Fernández

Outstanding Featured Performance in a Musical

- Nigel Huckle – "Light In The Piazza," CCAE Theatricals
- Amber Iman – "Lempicka," La Jolla Playhouse

***Outstanding Featured Performance in a Play**

- Kate Rose Reynolds – "Iron," The Roustabouts Theatre Co.
- Nancy Ross – "Sapience," Moxie Theatre and TuYo Theatre

***Outstanding Lead Performance in a Musical**

- Beau Brians – "Catch Me If You Can, The Musical," San Diego Musical Theatre

- Sebastian Montenegro – “In The Heights,” San Diego Musical Theatre

****Outstanding Lead Performance in a Play**

- Steven Lone – “Water By The Spoonful,” Cygnet Theatre
- Rosina Reynolds – “Iron,” The Roustabouts Theatre Co.

***Outstanding Solo Performance**

- Nathan Nonhof – “Black Séance,” Blindspot Collective & La Jolla Playhouse Without Walls Festival

***Outstanding Costume Design**

- Linda Cho – “Come Fall In Love -- The DDLJ Musical,” The Old Globe

***Outstanding Scenic Design**

- Yi-Chien Lee – “The October Night of Johnny Zero,” Backyard Renaissance

***Outstanding Lighting Design**

- Bradley King – “Lempicka,” La Jolla Playhouse

***Outstanding Specialty Artist**

- Kevin “Blax” Burroughs – Outstanding Achievements in Performance, Direction, Lighting & Choreography in 2022