ROBERT MERRITT
AWARDS

2026 Award Finalists

Category:	Outstanding New Play by a Nova Scotian Playwright	
Production	**Playwright**	**Producing Company**
Coal Bowl Queen	Richie Wilcox	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
For Love Nor Money	Laura Teasdale	Mulgrave Road Theatre & Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Mischief	Lisa Nasson	Neptune Theatre with Tarragon Theatre & Native Earth Performing Arts
Talk Sexxxy	Lee-Anne Poole	The Landline Collective
While We Wait	Lily Falk, Franziska Glen, and Laura Stinson	Gale Force Theatre

Category:	Outstanding New Adaptation by a Nova Scotian Playwright	
Production	**Playwright**	**Producing Company**
FAT JULIET	Stevey Hunter	Eastern Front Theatre & Shakespeare by the Sea
Quixote!	Ken Schwartz	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT: The Walkabout Experience	Adapted by Drew Douris-O'Hara	Shakespeare by the Sea
The Haunting of Sleepy Hollow	Allen Cole and Ken Schwartz	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
The Secret Garden of An Sithean	Andrea Boyd	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Direction	
Director	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Franziska Glen	While We Wait	Gale Force Theatre
Mike Payette, with Associate Director Joelle Peters	Mischief	Neptune Theatre with Tarragon Theatre & Native Earth Performing Arts
Richie Wilcox	Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Richie Wilcox	Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
Stephanie MacDonald	Talk Sexxxy	The Landline Collective

Category:	Outstanding Musical Direction	
Musical Director	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Allen Cole	The Haunting of Sleepy Hollow	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Avery-Jean Brennan	Mamma Mia	Neptune Theatre
Jeremiah Sparks	Controlled Damage	Neptune Theatre & the National Arts Centre
Sarah Richardson	Little Shop of Horrors	Neptune Theatre
Stephen Muise	Annie	Savoy Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Choreography	
Choreographer	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Jade Douris-O'Hara	Robin Hood: The Legendary Musical Comedy	Shakespeare by the Sea
Liliona Quarmyne	Little Shop of Horrors	Neptune Theatre
Lisa Phinney Langley	The Three Questions	Phin Performing Arts
Sarah Prosper	The Haunting of Sleepy Hollow	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Stephane Gaudet	Mamma Mia	Neptune Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Fight Direction	
Fight Director	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Dylan Brentwood	Robin Hood: The Legendary Musical Comedy	Shakespeare by the Sea
Dylan Brentwood	Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT: The Walkabout Experience	Shakespeare by the Sea
Karen Bassett	Controlled Damage	Neptune Theatre & the National Arts Centre
Karen Bassett	Quixote!	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Kevin Robinson	How The Other Half Loves	Neptune Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Costume Design	
Costume Designer	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Andy Moro	Mischief	Neptune Theatre with Tarragon Theatre & Native Earth Performing Arts
Diego Cavedon Dias	Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Diego Cavedon Dias	Quixote!	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Diego Cavedon Dias	The Haunting of Sleepy Hollow	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Kaelen MacDonald	How The Other Half Loves	Neptune Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Scenic Design	
Scenic Designer	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Brenda Duran	Chase The Ace	Ship's Company Theatre
Jean-Pierre Cloutier	Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
Katrin Whitehead	The Secret Garden of An Sithean	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Lou Sheppard	Talk Sexxxy	The Landline Collective
Rachel Forbes	Little Shop of Horrors	Neptune Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Lighting Design	
Lighting Designer	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Jess Lewis	Little Shop of Horrors	Neptune Theatre
Jess Lewis	The Book of Ashes	Halifax Theatre for Young People
Leigh Ann Vardy	Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Leigh Ann Vardy	Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
MacKenzie Cornfield	While We Wait	Gale Force Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Sound Design	
Sound Designer	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Aaron Collier	Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Aaron Collier	Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
Colleen Arcturus MacIsaac and Lou Campbell	Flower Bed	The Villains Theatre
Jordan Palmer	The Huns	Matchstick Theatre
Stewart Legere	The Final Recordings of an Almost Extinct Bird	ZUPPA

Category:	Outstanding Original Score or Composition	
Composer	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Allen Cole and Ken Schwartz	The Haunting of Sleepy Hollow	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Eliza Rhinelander	Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT: The Walkabout Experience	Shakespeare by the Sea
Erin Donovan	While We Wait	Gale Force Theatre
Rachel Bruch	Icarus, Falling of Birds	Gale Force Theatre
Stewart Legere	The Final Recordings of an Almost Extinct Bird	ZUPPA

Category:	Outstanding Projection Design	
Projection Designer	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Aaron Collier	Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
Aaron Collier	Controlled Damage	Neptune Theatre & the National Arts Centre
Andy Moro	Mischief	Neptune Theatre with Tarragon Theatre & Native Earth Performing Arts
Christian Ludwig Hansen	The Final Recordings of an Almost Extinct Bird	ZUPPA
Mackenzie Cornfield	The Wizard of Oz	Neptune Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role	
Performer - Role	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Ardavan Taraporewala - Anoopjeet	The New Canadian Curling Club	Neptune Theatre
Burgandy Code - Don Quixote	Quixote!	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Garry Williams - Thomas	Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Hugh Ritchie - Seymour	Little Shop of Horrors	Neptune Theatre
Julie Martell - Donna	Mamma Mia	Neptune Theatre
Katie Ready-Walters - Mary	The Secret Garden of An Sithean	Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
Koumbie - Roz	Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
Lee-Anne Poole - The Playwright / Kristie	Talk Sexxxy	The Landline Collective
Lily Falk - Leo	While We Wait	Gale Force Theatre
Lisa Nasson - Brooke	Mischief	Neptune Theatre with Tarragon Theatre & Native Earth Performing Arts

Category:	Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role	
Performer - Role	**Production**	**Producing Company**
Burgandy Code - Granny	The Haunting of Sleepy Hollow	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
Jade Douris-O'Hara - Prince John	Robin Hood: The Legendary Musical Comedy	Shakespeare by the Sea
Karen Bassett - Dottie, Corrine, Ivy, Minnie	Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
Laura Stinson - Puppeteer	While We Wait	Gale Force Theatre
Lisa Nasson - Lucille Renauld and Others	Controlled Damage	Neptune Theatre & the National Arts Centre
Riel Reddick-Stevens - Althea Pearleen Oliver, Rose Reid, and Others	Controlled Damage	Neptune Theatre & the National Arts Centre
Ryan Brown - Orin Scrivello, DDS	Little Shop of Horrors	Neptune Theatre
Stephanie MacDonald - Pauline	Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Susan Stackhouse - Marjorie	Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Zach Faye - BBaller, Fabian, Mark, Shawn, Neil	Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble
Production	**Producing Company**
Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT: The Walkabout Experience	Shakespeare by the Sea
The Haunting of Sleepy Hollow	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre
The New Canadian Curling Club	Neptune Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Independent Production
Production	**Producing Company**
Talk Sexxxy	The Landline Collective
The Book of Ashes	Halifax Theatre for Young People
The Huns	Matchstick Theatre
The Three Questions	Phin Performing Arts
While We Wait	Gale Force Theatre

Category:	Outstanding Production
Production	**Producing Company**
Casey and Diana	Neptune Theatre
Coal Bowl Queen	HEIST, Ship's Company Theatre & Eastern Front Theatre
Little Shop of Horrors	Neptune Theatre
Mischief	Neptune Theatre with Tarragon Theatre & Native Earth Performing Arts
The Haunting of Sleepy Hollow	Two Planks and a Passion Theatre