

— 2025 — CELEBRATING

The National TYA/USA Awards and the Childrens Theatre Foundation of America's Orlin Corey Medallion Awards



David Kilpatrick



Mireya Hepner



Dr. Manuel Morán

— 2025 HONOREES —



Andrew Morton – Sofa Stories



Filament Theatre – FORTS! Build your Own Adventure

2025 HONOREES



The Orlin Corey Medallion Award honors recipients for their significant achievements for the enrichment of children in the United States and Canada through nurturing artistic work in theatre and the arts. The Award is named in honor of Orlin Corey for his thirty-four years of service and leadership on the board of the Childrens Theatre Foundation.



David Kilpatrick

David Kilpatrick is the Senior Director of Education Programs and Productions at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, where he oversees the Education Division's Music Education, Theater Education, and Dance Education portfolios, including school and family programming with the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera. From producing new work onstage for young audiences to behind-the-scenes presentations for all ages, and from career development programs for aspiring artists to 'try on' arts experiences for beginners, David works with the Education Programs and Productions team to support arts learning, both broad and deep, locally and nationally. Prior to his current role at the Center, David was the Manager of Theater for Young Audiences for nearly ten years, where he helped produce more than 25 world premiere commissions and supported the *New Visions/ New Voices* new work development initiative. In addition, David has worked with The New Victory Theater, Walnut Street Theatre, taught for NYU's Study Abroad programs and directed for NYU's New Plays for Young Audiences.



Mireya Hepner

Mireya Hepner is a Theatre Producer and Founder of In Other People's Shoes Productions (a new TYA/USA company). Mireya also teaches Theatre Management & Organizational Structure for USC School of Dramatic Arts. She has served for 35+ years in American theatre including 14 seasons as the Artistic Director of MainStreet Theatre Company (Rancho Cucamonga, CA/ Lewis Family Playhouse) where she received acclaim for curating and collaborating on 40 AEA productions for young people and families. A veteran of professional and family theatre she has also worked for Parson's Nose Productions introducing classics to school kids, The Walt Disney Company developing touring shows for children, Radio City Productions, and numerous theatres in New York, Los Angeles, Regional Theatre, Off-Broadway and touring shows. José Cruz González summarizes her contributions by saying, "Her producing skills are her magic."

**CHILDRENS
THEATRE
FOUNDATION**
of america

CTFA is delighted to be back with TYA/USA in an awards ceremony that recognizes outstanding achievement in theatre for, with and about young people.

This is how the ongoing work of the Childrens Theatre Foundation of America can work for YOU.

We are committed to helping you create new work through grant programs:

- > **Concept Development Grants** for innovative schemes and dreams at the beginning of their creative journeys
- > **Project Fulfillment Grants** for major projects of national or local significance, ready to be shared with the world
- > **Aurand Harris Grants** supporting small and mid-sized theatres and individuals for travel, equipment, and artistic development

We celebrate individuals and organizations making a lasting impact on our field through awards:

- > **Orlin Corey Medallion** - Celebrating sustained artistry, integrity, innovation and equity
- > **Reba R. Robertson Award** - Recognizing an outstanding American high school drama teacher

By partnering with national service organizations, we provide support through the Alvin Cohen Fund for:

- > **Underwriting Conference Performances**
- > **Sponsoring Inspirational Keynote Addresses**
- > **Presenting Groundbreaking Research And New Play Development Models**

Please consider letting us support you and YOUR work by applying for a grant, nominating someone for an award, and attending conference events offered by TYA/USA or The American Alliance for Theatre and Education



The National TYA/USA Awards honor excellence in the field of Theatre for Young Audiences. Selected by a committee of peers from nominations made by TYA/USA members, awards are given annually in the following categories:



HAROLD OAKS AWARD FOR SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE IN TYA

Dr. Manuel Morán

Manuel Antonio Morán Martínez was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and has worked as an actor, singer, writer, composer, puppeteer, theater and film director and producer in his country, Latin America, Europe and the United States. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of SEA, Society of the Educational Arts, Inc., with offices in Puerto Rico, Florida and New York City. Celebrating its 39 years in 2024, SEA's objective is to offer a real entertainment alternative, with cultural value and educational quality, for kids, the youth and adults through bilingual educational programs like workshops, seminars, theater and other cultural artistic expressions.



TYA ARTISTIC INNOVATION AWARD

FORTS! Build Your Own Adventure

FORTS! Build Your Own Adventure began with the question, 'What if we created an environment where children's self-directed creative play was revered and supported and designed the way we would a piece of scripted theatre with professional adult performers?' Rethinking the hierarchy of whose creative impulse 'deserved' rigorous dramaturgy and attention from the best designers in Chicago led us to the work as it exists today. FORTS is both a play (the noun) and a play (the verb). Just like a play (noun), it's a carefully built and designed world, an emotional journey, an imaginatively designed story. But instead of watching the actors have all the fun, the audience gets to really, really play (verb).

FORTS! Build Your Own Adventure was commissioned and produced by Filament Theatre, a vital cultural anchor of Chicago's north side that imagines a world where young people are the experts and adults are allies working to build a just world. A sector leader in innovative new work development and international co-production models, Filament serves approximately 8500 patrons annually through theatre programming, camps, school residencies, and classes. Please visit filamenttheatre.org for more information.



TYA COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Andrew Morton

Andrew Morton (he/him) is a Queer British immigrant, playwright, and theatre-maker known for his work in arts-integrated education and socially engaged performance. He lives in Detroit, where he works as a teaching artist and consultant with various arts and social service organizations and is the founding producing artistic collaborator at Every Soul Arts, which provides creative arts opportunities for young people experiencing homelessness. Morton's contributions to the arts and arts education have been recognized with multiple awards, including a 2020 Kresge Artist Fellowship from Kresge Arts in Detroit and the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion for excellence in theatre education. In 2024, he was named one of six Detroit theatre workers you should know by American Theatre Magazine. Morton's plays have been produced across the US and internationally in the UK, Australia, and Canada. His award-winning play *Bloom*, inspired by urban gardeners in Flint, Michigan, is available through Dramatic Publishing, Inc.

A Message From Sara Morgulis (TYA/USA) And Suzan Zeder (CTFA)

This is a complicated time for TYA theatres, artists and educators facing unprecedented challenges with audience attendance, educational intervention, and political pressures that threaten our core values.

Once again the Childrens Theatre Foundation of America (CTFA) and TYA/USA have joined together to celebrate exemplary achievement in Theatre for Young Audiences in a moment when both our field and our Foundation need it most!

- The support that CTFA provides through donor supported grants, awards and partnerships, have never been more needed.
- The leadership that TYA/USA has shown through a variety of programs, a network of information and communication, and events such as this one, will help us look towards the future in solidarity and communion with each other.

We Salute the Recipients of these achievement awards who have created work dedicated to the belief that theatre can make a positive difference in the lives of children and in society as a whole.

These honorees lead by the example of their being and the innovation in their craft. They are extraordinary human beings who embody integrity, excellence and kindness in the work they produce themselves and the work they mentor from others.

We are proud to be in their company and thrilled to honor them today!

2025 ORLIN COREY MEDALLION PATRONS



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Thank You! Additional donations received after print deadline are listed on our website:

2025 Patrons of the Orlin Corey Medallion Awards – <https://www.childrenstheatrefoundation.org/page-23/page-42/>

Designated Support & Sponsors

Michael D. Wood Family Fund

21st Century Initiative Sponsorship for Institutional Leadership & Development 2024-2025



Founded in 1965, TYA/USA is a national service organization whose mission is to promote the power of professional theatre for young audiences through excellence, collaboration, and innovation across cultural and international boundaries. TYA/USA offers a variety of programming that connects professionals working in the sector through in-person gatherings and virtual sessions; provides opportunities for field-wide learning and leadership development; disseminates field news and research through a variety of print and online channels; and advances the field both internally and externally through a range of advocacy efforts. We serve over 1,200 member theatres, organizations, and individual artists nationwide.



Founded in 1958, the Childrens Theatre Foundation directly assists theatres, artists, scholars and organizations through its ongoing grant-giving and fellowship programs. In addition, CTFA annually honors exceptional achievement in the field through its Orlin Corey Medallion Awards and biannually honors an Outstanding American High School Drama Teacher through its Reba R. Robertson Award. CTFA believes that our future success, resiliency, and sustainability relies on placing equity at the center of every aspect of what we do. We define equity as a collaborative, continual process to ensure fair access to all. CTFA challenges and supports theatre artists to achieve excellence and equity in service to young people.

The TYA/US awards were created by Carrie Trenholm – www.trenholmglass.com

The CTFA awards were created by Alex Vernon and Sara Olmstead Thomas – alexandolmstead.com

For a complete list of Orlin Corey Medallion recipients and Medallion Patron Donors – www.childrenstheatrefoundation.org