

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES – TYA/USA

2026 NATIONAL AWARDS

CHILDRENS THEATRE FOUNDATION – CTFA

2026 ORLIN COREY MEDALLION AWARD



Barbara Zinn Krieger

Harold Oaks Award for Sustained Excellence in TYA



Red

TYA Artistic Innovation Award



KSU & Smith-Gilbert Gardens Family Theatre Project

TYA Community Impact Award



Janet Stanford

CTFA Orlin Corey Medallion Award



Mosaic Youth Theatre

CTFA Orlin Corey Medallion Award



Deborah Wicks LaPuma

CTFA Orlin Corey Medallion Award

Harold Oaks Award for Sustained Excellence in TYA: Barbara Zinn Krieger

Barbara Zinn Krieger, librettist and producer, is the Founder and Artistic Director of New York City Children's Theater. NYCCT is nationally recognized for creating original works for the very young, as well as mainstage productions that center the emotional lives of children and reflect the diversity of New York City. Barbara's original librettos, as well as her artistic leadership, have helped shape New York City's theatrical landscape for more than four decades.

TYA Artistic Innovation Award: Red

Red an immersive dance performance for 12 to 36 month-olds and their families, explores the bold experience of toddlerhood through joyful chaos and rough-and-tumble play. Developed through creative research sessions with very young children, this performance looks to toddlers as experts and invites them to co-create the performance world as it unfolds. *Red* is a collaborative effort between creators Amanda Pintore, Olivia Hemeddo, and Jisun Myung.

TYA Community Impact Award: Kennesaw State University Department of Theatre and Performance Studies & Smith-Gilbert Gardens for the KSU & Smith-Gilbert Gardens Family Theatre Project

is an eco-inspired partnership co-created by Nicole B. Adkins, Vanita Keswani, Emily Kitchens, Andrea Washington, Lauren Lee, and KSU faculty, students, community partners, and young people. Together, collaborators create immersive site-specific performances that invite intergenerational audiences to play, connect, and nurture relationships with the natural world and one another.

JANET STANFORD — CTFA's 2026 Orlin Corey Medallion Award Recipient, is the Founding Artistic Director at Imagination Stage, Atlanta. Since joining the company in 1993, Stanford has produced 160 shows, directed 55, written 9, commissioned 50 new works, and introduced innovative educational programs that prioritize social justice and finding a young person's unique identity or "voice" through theater arts. Her work has enriched the TYA landscape.

MOSAIC YOUTH THEATRE — CTFA's 2026 Orlin Corey Medallion Award Recipient. Founded in 1992 by Rick Sperling, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is now one of Southeast Michigan's most highly regarded cultural treasures. Their critically acclaimed student-driven performances and national and international tours have brought worldwide attention to Detroit as a center for arts and culture while shining a spotlight on the area's talented young people and creating new and diverse audiences.

DEBORAH WICKS LAPUMA — CTFA's 2026 Orlin Corey Medallion Award Recipient, is the most produced TYA artist in the USA and her songs have graced the stages of every State in the USA. She has been nominated and won more Helen Hayes Awards than any other composer. Debbie is a giver and doer. She volunteers at her church choir, gives time to the TYA-USA board and on panels for Artistic TYA searches. She is a giver and a doer, setting the standard for kindness, dignity, and high expectations.



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 above, named categories.



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.

Childrens Theatre Foundation of America – CTFA

Once again, the Childrens Theatre Foundation of America and TYA/USA have joined together to celebrate exemplary achievement in Theatre for Young Audiences and 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.

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

– Suzan Zeder, Trustee, President of the Board

Theatre for Young Audiences – TYA/USA

It is a joy to celebrate these remarkable leaders whose work reflects the very best of Theatre for Young Audiences. From deep community impact to bold artistic innovation, each honoree is expanding what is possible in our field and ensuring that young people experience high-quality TYA across the nation.

– Sara Morgulis, Executive Director, TYA/USA

2026 Orlin Corey Medallion Patrons



ORLIN COREY

Suzan Zeder

Alexandra López

Marilee & Bob Miller
In Memory of Orlin Corey

Gayle Sergel Brown

Mary Hall Surface

Miriam Gonzales

Rives Collins

In Memory of Don Doyle

Kassie Misiewicz

Carol North & Nicholas Kryah
In Honor of Suzan Zeder

David & Stephanie Kilparick

Brian Guehring

José Cruz González

Moses Goldberg

Gloria Bond Clunie

Michelle Kozlak

Bug Andrews

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Jeremy Kissling

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Marilee & Bob Miller

In Honor of Dorothy Webb

Sharnita Johnson

James Still

2026 Orlin Corey Medallion Patron Sponsor

Shirley Trusty Corey *in Memory of Orlin Corey*

Thank You for your Support! Additional donations receive after print deadline are listed on our website.
2026 Patrons of the Orlin Corey Medallion Awards – <https://www.childrenstheatrefoundation.org/page-23/page-42/>

Art for the Artist

Special works of art have been commissioned by CTFA for the presentation of the traditional CTFA Medallion each year. CTFA's 2026 Corey Medallion Award Artist is **SUSAN E MICKEY** an award winning costume designer with a career in theatre, film and television. Susan's costumes have graced the stage in almost every major regional theatre in America but her most lengthy artistic collaboration was with the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta where she designed over 58 productions spanning 30 years. She previously led theatre programs at the University of Texas at Austin and Boston University, and now works from her studio in North Carolina. <https://www.susanmickey.com>

TYA/USA – Our Mission

To connect, cultivate, and advocate for the field of Theatre for Young Audiences by providing opportunities and resources in programming, professional development, research, and leadership.

Programming

We offer year-round programming by hosting an annual Festival and Conference and full Virtual track, as well as other in-person regional events. We hold partnerships within the sector to support new work development, such as the TYA/USA & Alliance TVY Development Program and the New Plays for Young Audiences Program at NYU Steinhardt.

Professional Development

We promote a national network of dialogue, exchange, and field-wide learning through in-person breakout sessions and virtual workshops in our Webinar Library, which holds over 120 webinars from 2013 on.

Research

We partner with outside stakeholders to provide our industry with data that analyzes trends, tracks progress, and highlights the ways our field can expand impact. Our newly launched TYA Research & Scholarship Working Group seeks to advance and diversify scholarship and publications across the sector.

Leadership

We make an investment in the field's next generation of leaders by hosting our Emerging Leader Fellowship Program, which offers funding for national travel and mentorship to students, independent artists, and emerging career professionals.

We also honor artistic excellence, innovation, and lasting impact of our field's leaders through our Annual Awards.

CHILDRENS THEATRE FOUNDATION
of america

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

- > Founders Grants for innovative major projects of significance
- > Aurand Harris Theatre Grants and Individual Fellowships

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

- > Orin Corey Medallion
- > Reba R. Robertson "Teacher's" Award

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

- > Underwriting Conference Performances
- > Keynote Speakers
- > Research



Founded in 1965, Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (TYA/USA) is the leading national member service organization for the professional field of theatre for children and families, representing theatres, organizations, and individual artists across 45 states. TYA/USA is the United States Center for the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ).