

# **AATE Distinguished Award Ceremony**

## **Saturday, July 29, 2023 at 6:00pm**

### **Sara Spencer Artistic Achievement Award: ROSEANN SHERIDAN**

Open to members or non-members of AATE, this award honors artistic theatre practice of long duration and wide recognition by either an established theatre for sustained and exceptional achievement or an individual who has accomplished meritorious achievement in the field of theatre for young audiences. It is named in honor of Sara Spencer, founder of Anchorage Press, President of CTC 1953-55 and one of the founders of the Children's Theatre Foundation.

Roseann has served as the Artistic Director of Children's Theater of Madison since 2007, where she has directed over 30 productions. Under her leadership, the company has garnered critical acclaim for its diversity of programming, educational offerings, and artistic excellence. She has been integral to rebuilding CTM from the brink of closure into the financially stable organization it is today, growing its audience and educational programs, and serving as a leader in the realization of the new Madison Youth Arts Center, providing CTM with a permanent home. Prior to CTM, she enjoyed a 17-year career at American Players Theatre (APT), an outdoor classical repertory company, where she was Producer and Associate Artistic Director. At APT, among other accomplishments, she launched an apprentice/internship program which has evolved into a robust aspect of the company today. She has taught and directed for regional and university theatres across the country. Roseann holds an MFA in Directing from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BA in Theater and Russian Studies from the University of Richmond.

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### **Don and Elizabeth Doyle Fellowship: MATEO HERNANDEZ**

Open to a student enrolled in a graduate degree program in a United States college or university with a theatre program that supports drama and theatre for youth, this award honors an outstanding graduate-level student of demonstrated artistic ability in the area of Theatre for Youth. The student must have at least one additional year of study to complete. In addition, the candidate should indicate a professional interest in pursuing career goals consistent with the legacy of the Doyles. It is named for Don and Elizabeth Doyle for a lifetime of creative work in Theatre for Youth and awarded annually by the Don and Elizabeth Doyle Fellowship Foundation.

Mateo Hernandez (they/he) is a queer, Latinx theatre maker, applied theatre practitioner, pedagogue, and scholar currently residing on the ancestral lands of the Tonkawa, Lipan-Apache, Karankawa, Comanche, and Coahuiltecan people, also known as central Texas. They are an MFA candidate in Drama & Theatre for Youth & Communities at The University of Texas at Austin where their research interests include queering pedagogies and performance for youth through transgender epistemologies, queer feminist of color critique, and abolitionist practices in art making. They have worked with companies such as Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Filament Theatre, UrbanTheatre Co., Teatro Vivo, Cara Mia Theatre Co., Chicago Children's Theatre and more. As a playwright, Mateo's writing centers issues of gender expression and identity within Latinx/Chicanx culture. His plays have been selected for readings with the Ingenio New Play Festival (Milagro Theatre/Teatro Vivo/Cara Mia), New Plays for Young Audiences: BIPOC Initiative (NYU Steinhardt), and Austin Latinx New Play Festival (Teatro Vivo). Mateo is also a company member with FYI (For Youth Inquiry) a performance company in Chicago, IL making participatory theatre around issues of reproductive justice. They hold a BFA in Theatre Education from The University of Texas at Austin.

[Mateohernandez.org](http://Mateohernandez.org)

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### **Distinguished Play Awards**

These awards honor playwrights and publishers of the most outstanding plays for young people published or written during the past calendar year (January to December). Published or unpublished plays are permitted. Plays may be nominated by publishers, or by members of AATE. Self-nominations are permitted. In accordance with AATE's Anti-Racism Plan, publishers must submit at least one play by a BIPOC author. The successful script should demonstrate superiority in execution, delineation of characters, theatricality, and appropriateness of the style. Selected scripts should respect young people's understandings and abilities, providing them with perspectives on their own experiences while enhancing their imagination and emotional growth. Plays in translation should be submitted in the appropriate category for source material; a play translated from an original play falls in Category A or C, and a play translated from an adaptation falls in Category C or D.

### **Distinguished Play Awards Category A: Plays Primarily for Middle and Secondary School Age Audiences: *DESVELADO* BY JOSÉ CASAS - *published by: Dramatic Publishing***

José Casas is a playwright and associate professor who heads the playwriting minor program at the University of Michigan. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild as well as a board member of Children's Theatre Foundation of America. He has a bachelor's degree in dramatic arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara; a master's degree in theatre arts from California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA); and an MFA in playwriting from Arizona State University. His plays include *la rosa grows beyond the wall*, *all brown all chingon*, *aDoBe*, *a million whispers all at once*, *the vine*, *la ofrenda*, *somebody's children* and *Flint*. His work has been included in a number of anthologies such as *The Bully Plays*, *Ethnodrama: An Anthology of Reality Theatre* and *Theatre for Youth II: More Plays With Mature Themes*. His published work includes *la ofrenda*, *14*, *somebody's children* and *Palabras del Cielo: An Exploration of Latina/o Theatre for Young Audiences*, which was awarded the AATE Distinguished Book Award. His plays *la ofrenda* and *somebody's children* were awarded both the Bonderman National Playwriting Award and the AATE Distinguished Play Award.

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**Distinguished Play Awards Category B: Plays Primarily for Pre-K and Elementary School Age Audiences: *BULLETPROOF BACKPACK* BY ERIC COBLE - published by *Dramatic Publishing***

Eric Coble was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and raised on the Navajo and Ute reservations in New Mexico and Colorado. His scripts for adults have been produced on Broadway (Tony- and Pulitzer-nominated *The Velocity of Autumn*), off-Broadway (*Bright Ideas*), in all 50 states of the U.S., and on several continents. His plays for young audiences include award-winning adaptations of Lois Lowry's *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue* as well as *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars*, *Ghosts in the Machine*, *Swagger*, *Cinderella Confidential* and a dozen other published scripts that have been produced at The Kennedy Center, Dallas Children's Theatre, Childsplay, Metro Theatre Company, Oregon Children's Theatre, First Stage, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Cleveland Play House, Adventure Stage, Alliance Theatre and many others. Awards include two AATE Distinguished Play Awards for Best Adaptation and the Charlotte Chorpenning Award for the body of work of a children's playwright.

**Distinguished Play Awards Category C: Adaptations from Existing Children's Literature Primarily for Pre-K and Elementary Age Audiences: *CARMELA FULL OF WISHES* BY ALVARO SAAR RIOS - published by *TRW Plays***

Alvaro Saar Rios is a Texican playwright living in Chicago. His plays have been seen in New York City, Mexico City, Hawaii, Chicago, and all over Texas. His collection of short plays *Musings of a Crazy Texican* was recently published by TRW. He is currently adapting his award-winning play *Luchadora!* into a novel and creating a new adaptation of Pam Muñoz Ryan's novel *Esperanza Rising*. <https://www.alvarosaarrios.com/>  
Instagram: @realcrazymex

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**Distinguished Play Awards Category D: Adaptations from Existing Children’s Literature Primarily for Middle and Secondary Age Audiences: *WISH, A MUSICAL* BY PAUL LEWIS - published by YouthPLAYS**

**Paul Lewis** is a Seattle-based playwright and composer whose work includes musical adaptations of two iconic children's books—*The Runaway Bunny* and *Caps for Sale*—both of which premiered at Boston Children's Theatre; *Lost in the Hills*, a musical adapted from a novel by Zane Grey; *Jill Trent Science Sleuth* (Cayuga College); *The Crossing, A Musical* (Theater Schmeater and Jewel Box Theatre), winner of a Seattle Times Footlights Award for promising new work; the full-length play *Oblivion* (Driftwood); and *The Hours of Life, A Musical* (Theatre22). His play *The Names* has had developmental readings at Equity Library Theatre of Chicago, FUSION, Atlantic Stage and The Field (NYC). Paul's one-act plays have been staged at theatres across North America and the UK, winning Best of Festival awards at a number of these. He is a member of BMI and the Dramatists Guild of America.

### **Distinguished Book Awards**

These awards honor an author and publisher for the outstanding book relating to any aspect of the field published during the past calendar year (January through December). The book should be one in which the scholarship or resources of the field is enhanced by its publication. Criteria may include, but are not limited to, logic and consistency of organization, thoroughness of topic coverage, writing style, philosophy and approach; and appropriateness for intended audience.

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**Distinguished Book Award: *HOPE IN A COLLAPSING WORLD: YOUTH, THEATRE, AND LISTENING AS A POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE* BY KATHLEEN GALLAGHER - published by University of Toronto Press**

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto, Kathleen Gallagher studies theatre as a powerful medium for expression by young people of their experiences and understandings. She has published 4 monographs, *Hope in a collapsing world: Youth, theatre, and listening as a political alternative* (UTP 2022, AATE Distinguished Book Award); *Why theatre matters: Urban youth, engagement, and a pedagogy of the real* (UTP 2014); *The theatre of urban: Youth and schooling in dangerous times* (UTP 2007, Outstanding Book Finalist AERA); *Drama education in the lives of girls: Imagining possibilities* (UTP 2000, Outstanding Book Award AERA) and 6 edited collections, *Global Youth Citizenry and Radical Hope* (Springer 2020); *In Defence of Theatre* (UTP 2016); *The Methodological Dilemma Revisited* (Routledge 2018); *Drama and Theatre in Urban Contexts* (Routledge 2013); *The Methodological Dilemma* (Routledge 2008); *How Theatre Educates* (UTP 2003), 49 book chapters and 55 refereed articles at the intersection of youth, theatre, and the social world. The research upon which her most recent monograph, *Hope in a Collapsing World*, is based considered young people's theatre-making and care-taking practices in Canada, India, Taiwan, Greece, and England. This project also produced [Towards Youth: a play on radical hope](#), a Verbatim play by playwright collaborator Andrew Kushnir, which premiered at Crow's Theatre in 2019 and [Finding Radical Hope](#), a documentary film screened at Crow's Theatre in 2020. Gallagher's current SSHRC-funded project is a five-year, multi-sited ethnography, [Global Youth \(Digital\) Citizen-Artists and their Publics: Performing for Socio-Ecological Justice](#) in which she is looking at youth theatre practices and youth activism on climate justice. Please visit [dramaresearch.ca](http://dramaresearch.ca).

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**Distinguished Book Award Honorable Mention: *SMALLEST CIRCLES FIRST: EXPLORING TEACHER RECONCILIATORY PRAXIS THROUGH DRAMA EDUCATION* BY MINDY R. CARTER, PHD - *published by University of Toronto Press***

Mindy R. Carter, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE) at McGill University (Montreal, QC). She holds a PhD from The University of British Columbia, an MA from Concordia University, a B.Ed from Lakehead University and an HBA from Dalhousie University in Theatre (acting). She conducts research in curriculum studies, drama and theatre education primarily, with in-service and pre-service teachers, with a focus on questions of social justice, art processes, and the relations of schooling. Her research projects and writing have provided international insight into teacher identity, pedagogy, arts-based research and creativity. Dr. Carter is the Editor in Chief of the Springer Arts Based Research book series, the Director of the Artful Inquiry Research Lab and Past President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education's Canadian Association of Curriculum Studies.

### **Playwrights for Change Awards**

Playwrights for Change is a national playwriting competition run by the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE). The mission of Playwrights for Change is to produce meaningful conversations that will ripple across our nation to provoke change. The goal is to spark conversation and discussion throughout classrooms, schools, and communities.

This year's theme for Playwrights for Change is "What No One Talks About". It can take courage to speak about a difficult topic. Sometimes we avoid talking about something really important among family and friends. What if we actually talked about what this is really all about? Instead of squabbling about the small stuff. What's at the heart of it that no seems to want to bring to the light. What should be trending? What should everyone be talking about?

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**Playwrights for Change Middle School Category Winner: *MASKS* BY ELENA M. MELOY**

**Playwrights for Change Middle School Category Runner Up: *THE 1.5 LIVES OF OLIVER PETERS* BY ANNABETH GLICK**

**Playwrights for Change High School Category Winner: *WHEN WE SAY GOODBYE* BY MACKENZIE BONILLA**

**Playwrights for Change High School Category Runner Up: *THE MECHANICS OF A GOODBYE* BY AGATHE ROBERT**

**Playwrights for Change Adult Category Winner: *HIKING* BY CLAUDIA HAAS**

**Playwrights for Change Adult Category Runner Up: *YOU, ME AND VICTOR HUGO!* BY CANDACE AMARANTE**

**Winifred Ward Scholar: ALEX TURNER**

This award honors a graduate-level scholar of demonstrated intellectual and artistic ability in child drama/theatre. Nominees are judged on the basis of scholarship, faculty recommendations, indication of strong professional interest and growth, successful performance in some aspect of children's theatre or creative drama work and other criteria. It is named in honor of Winifred Ward, often considered the 'mother of creative drama,' who taught at Northwestern University, developed the creative drama programming at Evanston Public Schools and launched the Children's Theater Conference, which became AATE. The Winifred Ward Scholarship is awarded annually by the Winifred Ward Memorial Fund, Inc. (WWMF) and selected by the Winifred Ward Scholarship Committee, appointed by the WWMF Board.

Alex Turner is a theatre-maker and educator originally from the D.C. metro area, now based in Brooklyn, NY. His career in teaching artistry began as an Allen Lee Hughes



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Fellow in School Programs at Arena Stage, where his curriculum-writing and classroom facilitation connected thousands of D.C. public school students with professional theatre. He has since taught courses in acting, playwrighting, clowning, Shakespeare, improvisation, stage combat and design with companies including Imagination Stage, Educational Theatre Company, National Players, and Young Actors Theatre. Onstage, he has performed with Folger Theatre, Imagination Stage, The Kennedy Center, National Players, Pointless Theatre Company, Rorschach Theatre, Theater Alliance, Washington Improv Theatre, and We Happy Few Productions.

Alex studied Theatre and Comprehensive (K-12) Education at the University of Richmond before pursuing his Master of Science in Educational Theatre degree at The City College of New York. He has been awarded the Arthur Miller Foundation Scholarship, NYC Men Teach Scholarship, and Jack Holman Memorial Fund Award for his work within the program. He is currently co-developing an interactive musical adaptation of Kobi Yamada's *What Do You Do With An Idea?* for preschool classrooms.

### **Distinguished Dissertation and Thesis Awards**

These awards honor research that focuses on questions pertinent to informal Drama in Education or to more formal Theatre produced for, by or with young people. The award includes two categories: Dissertation and Thesis.

**Distinguished Dissertation: "RE-WRITING THE DECLARATION: RE-WRITING THE PAST TO FIX THE FUTURE FROM A BLACK, QUEER, FEMINIST LENS" BY QUENNA L. BARRETT**

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Dr. Quenna Lené Barrett, a Chicago native, is a theater artist + practitioner whose work gathers folks of diverse backgrounds, centers marginalized identities, learns from Black radical wisdom, and then dreams collectively to act boldly through those learnings. Quenna is a director, performer, facilitator, and writer, specializing in devised and social justice theater. She has developed participatory, justice-and-theater-based programs at the University of Chicago's Arts + Public Life and at Goodman Theatre, where she most recently served as the Associate Director of Education and Engagement.

She is a company member with the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health's [For Youth Inquiry](#) Performance Company, an Associate Artist with [Pivot Arts](#), an adjunct professor at DePaul University and Columbia College Chicago, and a member of the leadership circle of the [Center for Performance and Civic Practice](#). Quenna received her BFA from NYU Tisch Drama, MA in Applied Theatre from USC, and EdD in Educational Theatre from NYU Steinhardt.

### **Distinguished Dissertation Honorable Mention: "PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH AND THEATRE: DECOLONIZING SECONDARY THEATRE EDUCATION THROUGH PROCESS-BASED CULTURALLY SUSTAINING PEDAGOGY AND METHODOLOGY" BY ZENA**

Dr. Zena (they/them) is a Theatre educator of over 30 years who started life in Alaska. Their experiential journey has led them to high schools in all 50 states and numerous colleges/universities in the U.S. and eight other countries to share/engage in/teach their passion. Additionally, three of those years were spent in Mongolia working with the Mongolian National Theatre's education program and a year with youth theatre programs in "The Jungle" in France. They believe that theatre education is not sufficient until it embraces and embodies true equity and justice at all levels.

### **Distinguished Thesis: "CAREWORK THEATRE PROJECT" BY JESSICA CORTEZ**

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Jessica Cortez (she/her) is a Chicana theatre artist from San Diego, CA based in Brooklyn, NY. Jessica graduated from the CUNY School of Professional Studies MA in Applied Theatre program where she was awarded the Graduate Apprenticeship for Diversity in Applied Theatre and now teaches as an Adjunct Professor. Jessica received her BA in both Ethnic Studies and Theatre Arts with a minor/certification in Leadership & Nonprofit Management from the University of San Diego. She has worked as a teaching artist with arts organizations including the Creative Arts Team, New York City Children's Theatre, Ping Chong + Company, Teatro Izcalli, and the San Diego Opera. Currently, Jessica works as Director of Programming at The People's Creative Institute. She has performed as an actor, puppeteer, stilt walker, ballet folklorico dancer, and fire spinner. In addition to performance, she also works as an Experiential Producer. Most recent productions include Animal Cracker Conspiracy's *TransMythical* at the La Jolla Playhouse Without Walls Festival, Do Lab's Live Painting Program at Lightning in a Bottle, and Little Amal Walks NYC. Jessica is also an alum of the Laundromat Project's Create Change Fellowship program.

### **Distinguished Thesis Honorable Mention: "AGAINST TYPE: FATPHOBIA, BIAS, AND TYPECASTING IN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE" BY LUCY KANIA**

Lucy Kania is a theatre teacher, director, designer, and fiction writer. She earned her MFA in Theatre Education from Emerson College in 2022, and has a BA in Drama from Tufts University. She has worked as a teacher, director, and costume designer for schools, camps, and youth theaters around Massachusetts, and currently teaches Drama at Brown Middle School in Newton, MA. Her research and teaching practice center on bringing attention to bias in educational theatre, and how we can build better, more affirming educational practices for all students.

### **The Johnny Saldaña Outstanding Professor of Theatre Education Award: MINDY R. CARTER, PHD**

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The award is open to any college/university professor who has demonstrated excellence in all of the following areas: teaching, research and/or creative activity, and service... Each category is broadly construed to include its constituent parts (e.g., teaching also includes advising and mentoring; service should be at the university, regional, and national levels, research and/or creative activity can be defined by the wide variety of professional practices widely recognized as research and creative activity in the academy). The award is open to faculty at any stage in their careers; it is not intended as a lifetime achievement award.

Mindy R. Carter, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE) at McGill University (Montreal, QC). She holds a PhD from The University of British Columbia, an MA from Concordia University, a B.Ed from Lakehead University and an HBA from Dalhousie University in Theatre (acting). She conducts research in curriculum studies, drama and theatre education primarily, with in-service and pre-service teachers, with a focus on questions of social justice, art processes, and the relations of schooling. Her research projects and writing have provided international insight into teacher identity, pedagogy, arts-based research and creativity. Dr. Carter is the Editor in Chief of the Springer Arts Based Research book series, the Director of the Artful Inquiry Research Lab and Past President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education's Canadian Association of Curriculum Studies.