



THE CARBONELL AWARDS
SOUTH FLORIDA'S THEATER & ARTS HONORS

Carbonell Awards Announce Winners for 2022-2023 Theater Season

**GableStage Wins 7 Awards Including Outstanding Play for
*Native Gardens***

**Maltz Jupiter Theater Wins 5 Awards Including Outstanding
Musical for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum***

**Zoetic Stage Wins 4 Awards Including Outstanding New
Work for *American Rhapsody***

(South Florida – November 14, 2023) The **Carbonell Awards**, South Florida's Theater & Arts Honors, today announced the winners in 20 competitive categories for the 2022-2023 theater season. This year's winners were announced in a glittery ceremony held last night at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center before several hundred performers, producers, directors, designers, publicists, and theater fans.

"More than 80 productions at nearly 30 different theatres were evaluated by a diverse group of more than 30 experienced judges representing all three participating counties (Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach). In late September, the Carbonell Awards revealed 120 nominees from 17 different theaters during last season," says Carbonell Board President **Gary Schweikhart**.

GableStage in Coral Gables was the biggest winner, picking up seven different Carbonell Awards, including:

- **Outstanding Production, Play**
Native Gardens
- **Outstanding Direction, Play**
Victoria Collado, *Native Gardens*
- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Male Role, Play**

David Kwiat, *Native Gardens*

- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Female Role, Play**
Diana Garle, *Native Gardens*
- **Outstanding Lighting Design, Play or Musical**
Blanca Forzán, *El Huracán*
- **Outstanding Sound Design, Play, or Musical**
Matt Corey, *Native Gardens*
- **Outstanding Costume Design, Play or Musical**
Camilla Haith, *Native Gardens*

Maltz Jupiter Theatre won five major awards this year, including:

- **Outstanding Production, Musical**
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Male Role, Musical**
Scott Cote, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*
- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Female Role, Musical**
Ashley McManus, *Sweet Charity*
- **Outstanding Music Direction**
Caryl Fantel, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*
- **Outstanding Choreography**
Ariel Reid, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

Zoetic Stage in Miami garnered four major awards, including:

- **Outstanding New Work, Play or Musical**
American Rhapsody, by Michael McKeever
- **Outstanding Direction, Musical**
Stuart Meltzer, *Next to Normal*
- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Female Role, Musical**
Jeni Hacker, *Next to Normal*
- **Outstanding Achievement of an Artistic Specialty**
Steven Covey for Video Projection Design, **#GRACED**

Area Stage in Miami Beach picked up two Carbonell Awards:

- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Male Role, Musical**
Tico Chiriboga, *The Little Mermaid*
- **Outstanding Scenic Design, Play, or Musical**
Frank J. Oliva, *The Little Mermaid* (Area Stage)

Winning one award each were:

Miami New Drama

- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Female Role, Play**
Saundra Santiago, *Anna in the Tropics*

Ronnie Larsen Presents in Wilton Manors

- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Male Role, Play**
Chris Anthony Ferrer, *Red Speedo*

As part of last night's Carbonell Awards Ceremony, seven **Special Awards** were also presented to eight distinguished honorees:

- **The George Abbott Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts**
Christine Dolen, the theatre critic for the *Miami Herald* from 1979 to 2015 and a longtime Carbonell judge.
- **The Vinnette Carroll Award** for significant achievement in advancing the cause of diversity, equality, and inclusion in South Florida theater.
Christina Alexander & Katie Christie, leaders of the South Florida Theatre League's AntiRacism Theatre Strategies Cohorts, in which over a dozen local theatres have participated.
- **The Charlie Cinnamon Award** which honors an individual who has contributed significantly to the support of the arts in South Florida and to the Carbonell Awards program.
Bill Hirschman, a former theatre critic for the *South Florida SunSentinel*, founder of Florida Theater On Stage, and a veteran Carbonell judge.
- **The Ruth Foreman Award** which recognizes contributions to South Florida theater development by an individual or group, for singular achievement and/or career contributions.
Maltz Jupiter Theatre, now celebrating its 20th Anniversary Season this year and Florida's largest award-winning LORT theatre.

- **The Bill Hindman Award** which honors significant, long-term contributions to the region's cultural life and onstage career achievement by performing artists based in South Florida.
James Samuel Randolph, a Professor in the Theater Division at New World School of The Arts and a Carbonell Award-winning actor who has appeared in over 100 plays, commercials, television shows and feature films.
- **The Howard Kleinberg Award** which honors an individual or organization for contributions to the health and development of the arts in South Florida.
Ronnie Larsen, actor-director-playwright-producer whose work has been seen in South Florida as well as Off-Broadway and around the world, and the creative force behind The Foundry in Wilton Manors.
- **The Bill von Maurer Award for Theatrical Excellence** which honors a theater company that exemplifies excellence for the totality of its programming: productions, educational outreach, developmental programs, and audiences served.
Slow Burn Theatre Company at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts for consistently presenting high-quality shows and which is dedicated to bringing dynamic, musical productions to diverse audiences.

At this year's awards ceremony, \$2,000 **Jack Zink Memorial Student Scholarships** were presented to **Diane Danyang Li** (Broward County), **Emily Moreland** (Palm Beach County), and **Addison Doris Stone** (Miami-Dade County).

The 46th Annual Carbonell Awards was produced by distinguished playwright, actor, and designer **Michael McKeever** and **Stuart Meltzer**, the founding artistic director of Zoetic Stage—both of whom have won multiple Carbonell Awards and previously produced and directed numerous Carbonell Ceremonies. Double 2023 Carbonell nominee **Caryl Fantel** returned as Music Director/Program Consultant. McKeever, Meltzer and Fantel were also award winners last night.

Sponsors of the 46th Annual Carbonell Awards include the **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Aventura Arts & Cultural Center,**

Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Broward Cultural Division, Marj O'Neill Butler, Carbonell Sculptures Ltd., Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, John Knox Village, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, Miami-Dade County Auditorium, The Dennis C. Moss Center (formerly The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center), *OutClique Magazine*, *South Florida Theater Magazine*, South Florida Theatre League, Mark Traverso & Conor Walton, and Donald R. Walters, P.A.

About The Carbonell Awards

The Carbonell Awards fosters the artistic growth of professional theater in South Florida by celebrating the excellence and diversity of our theater artists, providing educational scholarships, and building audience appreciation and civic pride by highlighting achievements of our theater community. More than 20 professional theater companies in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties participate in the awards process every year. The Carbonell Awards also celebrate the accomplishments of local artistic leaders by presenting various Special Awards.

Along with New York's Drama Desk and Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Awards, the Carbonell Awards are among the nation's oldest regional arts awards and predate others, including Washington, D.C.'s Helen Hayes Awards. The Carbonell Awards are named after the internationally renowned sculptor Manuel Carbonell, who designed the signature solid bronze and marble award given annually to Carbonell Award winners. Over the last 46 years, the Carbonell family has donated more than \$250,000 in awards. For more information, please visit www.carbonellawards.org.