



THE CARBONELL AWARDS
SOUTH FLORIDA'S THEATER & ARTS HONORS

The Carbonell Awards Names Christine Dolen as Winner of Prestigious George Abbott Award & Solicits Nominations for Six Special Awards

(South Florida – July 12, 2023) **Gary Schweikhart**, president of the **Carbonell Awards**, South Florida's Theater & Arts Honors, today announced the recipient of this year's prestigious **George Abbott Award** which will be presented at the Carbonell Awards Ceremony on **Monday, November 13**, at 7:30 p.m. at the **Lauderhill Performing Arts Center** at 3800 NW 11th Place, Lauderhill, FL 33311. Tickets are only \$37 each (including facility fee) and will soon be available for public purchase.

[The George Abbott Award](#) [for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts](#) **Christine Dolen**



For only the second time since 1978, the prestigious George Abbott Award has a repeat recipient—Carbonell Awards co-founder **Jack Zink** received the award in 1989 and again, posthumously, in 2007. In 2023, the Abbott Award goes to longtime South Florida theatre critic and Carbonell judge **Christine Dolen**, who originally

received the honor 22 years ago.

The theatre critic for the *Miami Herald* from 1979 to 2015, Dolen is still a vibrant freelance reviewer and arts writer, primarily for ArtburstMiami.com. Her stories and reviews continue to appear in the *Miami Herald*, *Sun-Sentinel*, *New Times*, *Inspicio*, FloridaTheaterOnStage.com, and in other

print and online publications, including *American Theatre* magazine. She was also an editorial board member of the *Best Plays Theater Yearbook*.

Dolen holds bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Ohio State University, was a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University in 1984-85, and a senior fellow at Columbia University's National Arts Journalism program in 1999. Two years earlier, she was a member of the Pulitzer Prize drama jury.

Her previous honors include the Green Eyeshade in criticism from the Atlanta Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and first place in arts writing in the Missouri Lifestyle Journalism Awards. She has also received a Silver Palm Award, the South Florida Theatre League's Remy Award, and the Carbonells' Howard Kleinberg Award. In November 2011, *American Theatre Magazine* named her as one of a dozen of the country's most influential theater critics.

"It has been the great honor of my professional life to chronicle the evolution of South Florida theater for nearly 50 years. The thousands of hours I've spent watching and evaluating the work of dedicated artists throughout the region have meant so much to me that I'm still spending time in lots of darkened theaters, now for ArtburstMiami.com," says Dolen.

"I am so thankful that the Carbonell Awards board has chosen to recognize me a second time with the George Abbott Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts. My late friend and colleague, critic Jack Zink, is the only other two-time recipient," she adds. "I knew Mr. Abbott and spent many hours interviewing him when he was in his 90s and 100s (not a typo). His effervescent wife Joy became a dear friend with whom I presented the Abbott Award at the Carbonell ceremony for many years. Because of all that history, because of the stories and artists that continue to transport and inspire me, I am immensely grateful."

Previous Abbott Award winners since 2010 include internationally acclaimed composer and conductor **Michael Tilson Thomas**, cofounder and Artistic Director Laureate of the Miami Beach-based New World Symphony (2022); **Barbara & Lawrence E. Stein**, the founders of Actors' Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre (2022); **Kelley Shanley**, President & CEO of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts (2020); playwright, actor and scenic designer **Michael McKeever**, co-founder of Miami's

Zoetic Stage (2019); **Gail Garrison**, founding artistic director of City Theatre's Summer Shorts Festival (2018); former Kravis Center CEO **Judith Mitchell** (2016); **Shirley Richardson & Patricia E. Williams**, the co-founders of the M Ensemble, Florida's leading African-American theater company (2015); **Scott Shiller**, former executive vice president of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (2014); **Patrick Dupré Quigley**, founder, conductor and producing artistic director of Seraphic Fire (2013); **Mario Ernesto Sanchez**, founder and producing artistic director of Teatro Avante and the International Hispanic Theatre Festival of Miami (2012); **Jay H. Harris**, a member of The League of American Theatres and Producers (2011); and **Patrice Bailey**, Dean of Theater at New World School of the Arts (2010).

[Nominations Sought for Six Additional Carbonell Special Awards](#)

The Carbonell Awards program expects to announce this year's nominees in 20 specific categories in early September, and the recipients of this year's Special Awards a few weeks later, including:

- + **The Vinnette Carroll Award** for significant achievement in advancing the cause of diversity, equality, and inclusion in South Florida theater.
- + **The Charlie Cinnamon Award** honors an individual who contributes significantly to the support of the arts in South Florida and to the Carbonell Awards program.
- + **The Ruth Foreman Award** recognizes contributions to South Florida theater development by an individual or group, for singular achievement and/or career contributions.
- + **The Bill Hindman Award** honors significant, long-term contributions to the region's cultural life and onstage career achievement by performing artists based in South Florida.
- + **The Howard Kleinberg Award** honors an individual or organization for contributions to the health and development of the arts in South Florida.
- + **The Bill von Maurer Award for Theatrical Excellence** honors a theater company that exemplifies excellence for the totality of its programming: productions, educational outreach, developmental programs, and audiences served.

[How to Submit Nominations for Carbonell Special Awards 2023](#)

Before September 1, please email nominations to: gary@pr-bs.net. Please include the nominee's name, the name of the Special Award for which you are making a nomination, and why you believe he/she/they are worthy of consideration for this award.

The Carbonell Awards Board of Directors will review all nominations before selecting the recipients of this year's Special Awards.

About The Carbonell Awards:

The Carbonell Awards fosters the artistic growth of professional theater in South Florida by celebrating the 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 several Special Awards.

Along with New York's Drama Desk and Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Awards, the Carbonell Awards are among the nation's senior regional arts awards and predate others, including Washington, D.C.'s Helen Hayes Awards. The Carbonell Awards are named after Manuel Carbonell, an internationally renowned sculptor, who designed the original solid bronze and marble award in 1976. The signature trophy is given annually to all Carbonell Award winners. Over the last 47 years, the Carbonell family has donated more than \$250,000 in awards. For more information, please visit www.carbonellawards.org.

Attached Image:

Christine Dolen

(Photo courtesy of ArtburstMiami.com)

Available for Interview:

Gary Schweikhart

Carbonell Board President

561.756.4298 / gary@pr-bs.net

Media Contact:

Gino Campodónico

Adrienne Arsht Center

786.468.2228 / GCampodonico@arshtcenter.org