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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING AND THE VILLAGE VOICE  
ANNOUNCE DATE, VENUE & JUDGES  
FOR THE 2020 OBIE AWARDS**

*The 65th Annual Obie Awards, celebrating the best of Off- and Off-Off-Broadway,  
will return to Terminal 5 on Monday, May 18, 2020*

**New York, NY (November 7, 2019)** — The American Theatre Wing (Heather Hitchens, President & CEO) and The Village Voice (Peter Barbey, CEO) are pleased to announce that the 65th Annual Obie Awards will return to New York’s Terminal 5 (610 West 56th Street) on Monday, May 18, 2020 to celebrate and honor Off- and Off-Off-Broadway productions that opened between May 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020. The 2020 awards will be co-chaired by Obie-winning scenic designer Rachel Hauck and choreographer Sam Pinkleton. Longtime Village Voice critic, Michael Feingold, will continue to serve as an advisor in the role of Chairman Emeritus.

“Every year, we see the impact that Off- and Off-Off-Broadway has in shaping empathy through the impressive work on stage,” said Hitchens. “In the last five years, we’ve been privileged to receive unequalled guidance from Michael Feingold, and as we look towards the future of the Obies, we are fortunate to have two incredible thought leaders and artists in Rachel and Sam. We look forward to seeing their wisdom and insight enhance the Obies this year.

The judges’ panel for the 65th Annual Obie Awards, co-chaired by Hauck and Pinkleton, includes Lighting & Sound America editor-in-chief, David Barbour, Obie-winning lighting designer Mark Barton, choreographer Camille Brown, Obie-winning actor/playwright David Greenspan, actor Jenny Ikeda, Producing Artistic Leader of the Obie-winning The Movement Theatre Company David Mendizábal, American Theatre Magazine senior editor Diep Tran and playwright Anne Washburn.

"We are deeply honored and completely thrilled to be joining the Obies team as the Co-Chairs of this season's Obie Awards. In collaboration with our friends at the American Theatre Wing and the Village Voice, and with the guidance of the estimable Michael Feingold, we are proud to gather the remarkable group of artists and journalists for this season's judges panel," said Hauck and Pinkleton. "Together, these artists bring a wide perspective and a deep well of expertise. With them, we are excited to celebrate the vanguard of live performance and rigorous work being made by many generations of theater makers in all corners of Off- and Off-Off-Broadway."

Productions that wish to invite consideration from the judges should visit [ObieAwards.com/about](https://www.obieawards.com/about) and click on the link to submit your show via the online portal. Please direct questions regarding Obie consideration to [ObieInvites@AmericanTheatreWing.org](mailto:ObieInvites@AmericanTheatreWing.org).

For more information, visit [ObieAwards.com](https://www.obieawards.com).

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### **ABOUT THE OBIE AWARDS**

The Village Voice created the Obie Awards, at the suggestion of then editor Jerry Tallmer, soon after the publication's own inception in 1955, to encourage the newly burgeoning Off-Broadway theater movement and to acknowledge its achievements. The Obies are structured with informal categories, to recognize artists and productions worthy of distinction in each theatrical year. Over the decades, the Obie Awards have played a major role in the Voice's long history of championing work of innovative and exceptional quality Off- and Off-Off Broadway. The Village Voice put the new downtown theater movement on the map with its in-depth coverage, becoming a forum for conflicting viewpoints which helped generate excitement over new works and new approaches to theater-making. The Obies have become a theatrical tradition, a meaningful way to acknowledge the best artistic achievements of downtown theater. The list of actors, writers, directors, and designers who have received Obies at pivotal moments in their careers is a virtual who's who of contemporary theater. While the categories of the awards have continued to change almost annually, the creative spirit remains the same. The Obie Awards salute a theatrical movement that's as important, and as vibrant, today as it was in 1955.

### **ABOUT THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING**

In 1917, on the eve of America's entry into World War I, seven suffragettes—all women of the theatre—came together to form The Stage Women's War Relief. Over a century later, the spirit and vision behind the founding of American Theatre Wing remains a touchstone for all we do. The Wing continues to champion bravery, with a focus on developing the next generation of brave artists. The Wing advances the future of American Theatre by celebrating excellence and nurturing the next generation: on stage, behind the scenes, and in the audience. We envision an American Theatre that is as vital, multi-faceted, and diverse as the American people.

The Wing's programs span the nation to invest in the growth and evolution of American Theatre. We provide theatre education opportunities for underserved students through the Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative, develop the next generation of theatre professionals through the SpringboardNYC and Theatre Intern Network programs, incubate innovative theatre across the country through the National Theatre Company Grants, foster the song of American Theatre through the Jonathan Larson® Grants, honor the best in New York theatrical design with the Henry Hewes Design Award, and illuminate the creative process through the Emmy-nominated "Working in the Theatre" documentary series. In addition to founding the Tony Awards® which are co-presented with The Broadway League, the American Theatre Wing co-presents the Obie Awards®, Off-Broadway's Highest Honor, with The Village Voice.

Visitors to [AmericanTheatreWing.org](http://AmericanTheatreWing.org) can gain inspiration and insight into the artistic process through the Wing's extensive media collection, and learn more about its programming for students, aspiring and working professionals, and audiences. For the latest updates and news, follow the Wing on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **ABOUT THE VILLAGE VOICE**

Founded in 1955 by a small group led by Norman Mailer, The Village Voice was the nation's first alternative newsweekly. The winner of three Pulitzers, it built a reputation for itself as an aggressive interrogator of 'the powers that be' as well as a reliable resource for finding and promoting cutting edge arts and culture. Over the years it was a home to a wide range of writers and artists, including e.e. Cummings, Katherine Anne Porter, James Baldwin and Ta-Nehisi Coates plus photographers Fred McDarrah and Sylvia Plachy, cartoonist Lynda Barry, investigative journalists Wayne Barrett and Tom Robbins, music writer Robert Christgau and film writer J. Hoberman, a virtual who's who of essential American political and cultural commentators.

On August 31, 2018, The Voice stopped publishing new material but The Village Voice archives are still available at [villagevoice.com](http://villagevoice.com), where one can enjoy the history of Off- and Off-Off-Broadway by reviewing the rich repository of theatrical reviews.

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