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**THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING AND THE VILLAGE VOICE
ANNOUNCE
RESCHEDULED DATE FOR 2020 OBIE AWARDS**

**THE 65TH ANNUAL OBIE AWARDS
CELEBRATING THE BEST OF OFF- AND OFF-OFF-BROADWAY
WILL PREMIERE DIGITALLY ON TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020**

New York, NY (July 7, 2020) — The American Theatre Wing (Heather Hitchens, President & CEO) and The Village Voice (Peter Barbey, CEO) have announced that the 65th Annual Obie Awards, New York's preeminent celebration of Off- and Off-Off-Broadway theater, are now set to premiere on [YouTube.com/AmericanTheatreWing](https://www.youtube.com/AmericanTheatreWing) on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 8:00pm EDT. The prerecorded ceremony, which was postponed for a moment of reflection in the wake of nationwide calls to end racial inequalities, will be hosted by comedian, actor and writer Cole Escola (Hulu's *Difficult People*, FXX's *Man Seeking Woman*, Amazon Prime's *Mozart in the Jungle*).

The show will feature special guest presenters Cynthia Erivo, LaTanya Richardson Jackson and Heidi Schreck, among others, as well as an encore presentation from the Obie Award-winning production of *Fela!*, featuring Obie Award-winner Saycon Sengbloh and Sahr Ngaujah. Playwright Michael R. Jackson will share a special performance of "Memory Song" from *A Strange Loop*.

As previously announced, members of the York Theatre Company revival of *Merrily We Roll Along* will be joined by members of the original Broadway and 2019 Fiasco Theater revival casts for a special performance of "Our Time" in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of its Obie Award wins. Songwriter and performer Shaina Taub (*The Devil Wears Prada*, *Suffragist*) will perform during the In Memoriam.

Before the show, Saycon Sengbloh, Broadway actress, pop/soul sensation N'Kenge, Obie Award-winner LaChanze and her daughter, Celia Rose Gooding (Broadway's *Jagged Little Pill*), accompanied by Adam Michael Tilford and Kenney M. Green from Marie's Crisis will join the

American Theatre Wing in raising a glass to the 2019-20 Off- and Off-Off-Broadway season with a sing-a-long. At 6:00pm, Saycon and N’Kenge will kick-off the pre-show festivities. LaChanze and Celia will join at 7:00pm to chat with guests and give a special live performance. The pre-show fundraiser, sponsored by Art Lab, will support the Wing’s efforts to support and sustain the theatre community in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can learn more and reserve your spot by visiting www.obieawards.com/preshow.

ViacomCBS is the Sustaining Sponsor, Athletics is the Design Partner, and the Howard Gilman Foundation is the Supporting Sponsor of the 2020 Obie Awards. For more information, visit 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.

ViacomCBS is the Sustaining Sponsor, Athletics is the Design Partner, the Howard Gilman Foundation is the Supporting Sponsor and Art Lab is the Pre-Show Sponsor of the 2020 Obie Awards. For more information, visit ObieAwards.com.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING

On the eve of America’s entry into World War I, seven suffragists - 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 the American Theatre Wing remains a touchstone for every program developed: to support theatre that is as vital, multi-faceted, and diverse as the American people. The Wing continues to champion bravery by supporting new artists and advances the future of American theatre by celebrating excellence and nurturing the next generation on the stage, behind the scenes, and in the audience.

The American Theatre Wing’s programs span the nation, providing theatre education opportunities for underserved students through the *Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative*, giving high school songwriters the opportunity to professionally record their original songs through the

Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge, developing the next generation of theatre professionals through the *SpringboardNYC* and *The Network* programs, incubating innovative theatre across the country through the *National Theatre Company Grants*, fostering the songs of American Theatre through the *Jonathan Larson® Grants*, and illuminating the creative process through the Emmy-nominated “*Working in the Theatre*” documentary series. In addition to founding the Tony Awards® - co-presented with The Broadway League - the American Theatre Wing co-presents the Obie Awards®, Off-Broadway’s highest honor, with The Village Voice.

Visit AmericanTheatreWing.org to gain insight into the American theatre artistic process and to learn more about the extensive programming and grant opportunities for students, aspiring & 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, where one can enjoy the history of Off- and Off-Off-Broadway by reviewing the rich repository of theatrical reviews.

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