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**THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING ANNOUNCES DETAILS  
FOR THE 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OBIE AWARDS  
CELEBRATING THE BEST OF OFF- AND OFF-OFF BROADWAY**

**New York, NY (January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022)** The American Theatre Wing (Heather Hitchens, President & CEO) is pleased to announce details for the 66th Annual Obie Awards, celebrating and honoring Off- and Off-Off-Broadway, including the list of co-chairs and judges, as well as the eligibility timeline and requirements.

The 2022 awards will be co-chaired by Obie-winning Director and Producing Artistic Leader **David Mendizábal** and veteran theatre critic **Melissa Rose Bernardo**.

The official 2020-22 season will include shows that have opened since the last Obies ceremony, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The awards ceremony will take place in November 2022, although an official date and venue will be announced at a later date. In addition to in-person work, virtual, digital, and audio work that has taken or will take place during this time period will also be eligible for consideration – a first in the history of the Obies.

“The bold, insistent spirit of Off- and Off-Off- Broadway has been an inspiration to all of us throughout this particularly challenging moment for live entertainment,” Hitchens said in a statement. “Our mission with the 2022 Obies is to support the stories seen on these stages and celebrate the talent and perseverance of the thousands of arts workers who make up this dynamic community. We are thrilled to have David and Melissa as our co-chairs, along with our entire panel of judges, whose wide array of diverse experience and perspective will help us continue to navigate these uncharted waters with eyes fixed squarely on that mission.”

The judges' panel for the 66th Annual Obie Awards, co-chaired by Mendizábal and Bernardo, includes actor & fight choreographer **Dave Anzuelo**, actor & playwright **Becca Blackwell**, scenic designer **Wilson Chin**, Obie-winning playwright **Haruna Lee**, theater critic & journalist **Soraya McDonald**, Obie-winning director & playwright **Lisa Peterson**, Obie-winning actor **Heather Alicia Simms**, and Obie-winning costume designer **Kaye Voyce**.

“Alongside our friends at the American Theatre Wing, we are proud to gather a sensational group of artists and journalists that make up this season’s panel of judges,” said Mendizábal and Bernardo. “The shutdown could not stop this community from creating excellent work. It is now up to us to make sure it doesn’t go unrecognized. To that end, we’ve tried to make the submission process as inclusive as

possible. As we continue to navigate the challenges that the pandemic presents, we will explore every opportunity to make as much work eligible for consideration as possible.”

Work that is presented at an Off or Off Off Broadway theater and/or company, whether virtual/digital, audio, or in person, is eligible for consideration. As a reminder, to submit a production for consideration, please upload information by [clicking this link](#). Digital and audio recordings may be uploaded directly utilizing the link provided. Please direct questions regarding Obie consideration to [info@obieawards.com](mailto:info@obieawards.com). For more information, visit [ObieAwards.com](http://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 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**

The American Theatre Wing is a not-for-profit organization, founded on the eve of America's entry into WWI by 7 suffragists and theatre makers who came together to support the nation by harnessing the power of theatre. More than a century later, ATW's vital work continues to be driven by the fundamental belief that theatre is essential to our economic, educational, and social and emotional well-being as a society.

Through a powerful suite of programs that address all aspects of the national theatre ecology, ATW encourages the discovery of theatre by people of all ages, nurtures talent on stage and off, creates pathways for success for students and young professionals, and encourages the development of the art form itself by recognizing and supporting innovative and excellent work with awards and grants. Building a just, equitable and inclusive American theatre is a guiding principle of all of ATW's work and programs.

ATW's Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative provides discovery, training, and career launching support to under-served young people. The Musical Theatre Songwriting challenge gives high school songwriters the opportunity to professionally record their original songs. SpringboardNYC provides a bridge from college to career for young actors working to establish themselves on Broadway. The digital Masterclass offerings for rising creative professionals provide free access to advice, insight, and training by theatre's top creative professionals. The Network for Emerging Theatre Leaders creates a pathway for young aspiring theatre administrators to have successful careers in the theatre by providing inside information, technical

assistance, networking opportunities, and mentoring. ATW incubates innovative theatre throughout the country with the National Theatre Company Grants and through the Jonathan Larson® Grants, which support emerging musical theatre writers with significant unrestricted support. ATW gives students, professionals and audiences alike a virtual backstage pass through the five-time Emmy-nominated “Working in the Theatre” documentary series which illuminates the creative process.

ATW is the founder and co-presenter (with The Broadway League) of the Tony Awards®, and the home to OBIE Awards.

Visit [AmericanTheatreWing.org](http://AmericanTheatreWing.org) to learn more about the extensive programming and grant opportunities for students, theatre professionals, and audiences. For the latest updates and news, follow the Wing on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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