

MEDIA RELEASE

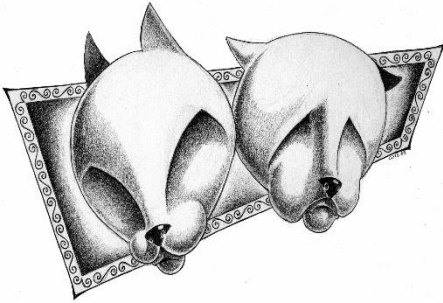
For Immediate Release
August 23, 2026



2026 CAT AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED!

Calgary, AB: Saturday, August 22, 2026, marked the 22nd annual CAT Awards, a celebration of Calgary's Community Theatre at the Pumphouse Theatre, hosted by Naheed Nenshi.

The annual CAT Awards is an event that celebrates the quality of work that Calgarians can expect to see from Community Theatre in Calgary and surrounding areas. The CAT Awards are produced by **Calgary-ACTS (Calgary's Alliance of Community Theatres)** which focuses on promoting community theatre in Calgary and area, by informing its members and the public of events related to the arts and providing a communication and support network for its members. Recipients of the CAT Awards are determined by a combined process of public nomination and adjudication. We encourage everyone to attend community theatre productions and then nominate their favourites throughout the upcoming 2026-2027 season. Please visit www.calgary-acts.com to nominate anyone, or if you have any questions about the CAT Awards or Calgary-ACTS.



This year, the CAT Awards are recognizing 52 productions from 21 different community theatre member companies, and 21 of these productions from 10 companies received nominations. Overall, there were 120 nominations spread out over 20 award categories. **The theme for this year was "A Night at the Museum".**

Calgary-ACTS is proud to name **Janos Zeller** as the recipient of the **Sandy Singer Award** for Outstanding Contribution to Community Theatre this year. Janos is recognized for his years of service as a producer, director, designer, mentor, educator, and actor with many local theatre companies.

Every year, theatre companies are given the opportunity to honour their exceptional volunteers. These volunteers are people who have gone above and beyond the normal to ensure that the show, project, or event they are working on is a success.

Recipients of the 2026 Volunteer Awards:

Chai Life Production – Byron Paul Hynes
Dewdney Players – Dayna Coles
Front Row Centre Players – Liv Dunow, Joey Sayer
Morpheus Theatre – James Ravenhill
Nose Creek Players – Haley Day
Scorpio Theatre – Thomas Hall
Take a Bow Community Theatre Society – Joanne McGilvray, Jorja Polischuk
Workshop Theatre – Sarah Ohlhauser

Congratulations to all recipients and nominees for a wonderful 2025-26 season! See you next year!

2026 CAT Awards Committee
Email: awards@calgary-acts.com

2026 CAT Award Recipients

Note: The Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role and Supporting Role categories have two recipients in each category (these results are recognized alphabetically).

Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role in a Musical

Sponsored by Chai Life Productions

Alex Hiatt as Christine Colgate in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels by Front Row Centre Players
and

Matt McPhail as Andre Thibault in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role in a Play

Sponsored by Rakhshanda Khattak Javeri and Husain Javeri

Ben Gaudet as Luc in Power Play by Full Circle Theatre
and

Nolan Peters as Theodore "Laurie" Laurence in Little Women by Morpheus Theatre

Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a Play

Sponsored by Symons Valley Players

Stephanie Bessala as Jo March in Little Women by Morpheus Theatre
and

Anne Hodgson as Abby Brewster in Arsenic and Old Lace by Workshop Theatre

Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a Musical

Sponsored by Nose Creek Players

Parker Knibb as Freddy Benson in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels by Front Row Centre Players
And

Tanis Laatsch as Sally Bowles in Cabaret by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Performance by a Chorus/Ensemble in a Musical

Sponsored by Alex Harrison Music

Cabaret by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Performance by a Chorus/Ensemble in a Play

Sponsored by Make More Creative

Taming of the Shrew by Full Circle Theatre

Outstanding Stagecraft

Sponsored by Pumphouse Theatre

Norm Foxcroft, Shelley Foxcroft, Evan Steel & Carmelle Steel - Little Shop of Horrors by
Claresholm Arts Society

Outstanding Choreography

Sponsored by Silver Stars Musical Revue Society

Danielle Desmarais - Cabaret by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Fight Direction

Sponsored by Workshop Theatre

Ian Pond - Taming of the Shrew by Full Circle Theatre

Outstanding Original Script or Adaptation &/or Composition

Sponsored by Take a Bow Community Theatre Society

Erin Weir & Megan Baldrey - Power Play by Full Circle Theatre

Outstanding Lighting Design in a Musical

Sponsored by Dewdney Players Group Theatre

Andrew Simon - Rock of Ages by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Lighting Design in a Play

Sponsored by Dropbear and Panda

Rebecca Orion - Taming of the Shrew by Full Circle Theatre

Outstanding Engineering/SFX in a Musical

Sponsored by Strathmore Theatre Players Guild

Kat Kellner - Rock of Ages by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Soundscape in a Play

Sponsored by On Staging Podcast

Thomas Hall - Guards! Guards! by Scorpio Theatre

Outstanding Direction of a Musical

Sponsored by Full Circle Theatre

Kay Astop - Cabaret by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Direction of a Play

Sponsored by Stuart Bentley

Cayley Wreggit - Taming of the Shrew by Full Circle Theatre

Outstanding Musical Direction

Sponsored by Scorpio Theatre

Chelsea Wellman & Alexander L. Shawn - Cabaret by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Costume Design

Sponsored by Ian Makes Stuff

Tawni Marie Evans - Taming of the Shrew by Full Circle Theatre

Outstanding Production of a Musical

Sponsored by Morpheus Theatre

Cabaret by Front Row Centre Players

Producers: Fred Amdur & Jeremy Walker

Director: Kay Astop

Musical Director: Chelsea Wellman

Orchestra Director: Alexander L. Shawn

Choreographer: Danielle Desmarais

Stage Manager: Haley Gerber

Outstanding Production of a Play

Sponsored by Front Row Centre Players

Taming of the Shrew by Full Circle Theatre

Producers: Erin Weir & Claire Bolton

Director: Cayley Wreggitt

Stage Managers: Meg Thatcher & Shannon Hipson

Calgary-ACTS extends our thanks to our 2026 Event Sponsors: **Company of Rogues, Theatre Alberta** and **Billyard Insurance Group – David Lanciault**.

As always, we appreciate the number of professional theatre participants who contributed to a variety of productions this year. The CAT Award Committee thank them for their participation and appreciate their efforts that help raise the bar for community theatre in Calgary and area.

For a full list of the nominees, please visit www.calgary-acts.com.