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## **31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED**

***The Humans** Leads with 6 Nominations; **FUTURITY** is the Most Nominated Musical with 5, including Outstanding Musical; Outstanding Play Nominees, **Guards at the Taj** and **John**, also Earn 5 Nominations Each*

**New York, NY (March 30, 2016)** – The Off-Broadway League today announced nominations in 18 categories for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway. The Lortel Awards will be presented on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at NYU Skirball Center beginning at 7:00 PM EST. This year's event will once again benefit The Actors Fund.

Roundabout Theatre Company's *The Humans* leads this year's nominations with a total of 6, including acting nominations for Reed Birney and Jayne Houdyshell. *FUTURITY*, *Guards at the Taj* and *John* all tied with 5 nominations. Actress Leslie Kritzer earned two nominations for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical for her performances in *Gigantic* and *The Robber Bridegroom*. This year's Voting Committee chose to present the award for Outstanding Alternative Theatrical Experience to Signature Theatre's *Angel Reapers*, as well as a special award to Peter Nigrini in recognition of his projection design for *Grounded* at The Public Theater.

As previously announced, Signature Theatre's Founding Artistic Director **James Houghton** will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks** will be inducted onto the famed Playwrights' Sidewalk in front of the Lucille Lortel Theatre.

A breakfast reception honoring the nominees will take place on Wednesday, April 20, at Playwrights Horizons (416 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York).

The Off-Broadway League's Lortel Awards Producing & Administration Committee (Terry Byrne, Denise Cooper, Margaret Cotter, Carol Fishman, George Forbes, Michael Page, Catherine Russell, Lindsey Sag, and Seth Shepsle) produces the Lortel Awards Ceremony. Acclaimed writer/director Michael Heitzman returns to direct the Lortel Awards for the seventh consecutive year. The Lucille Lortel Awards are produced by special arrangement with the Lucille Lortel Foundation. Additional support is provided by Theatre Development Fund.

Representatives of the Off-Broadway League, Actors' Equity Association, Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, the Lucille Lortel Foundation, in addition to theatre journalists and academics and other Off-Broadway professionals, serve on the Voting Committee.

Members of the general public are welcome to view the 7:00 PM ceremony. Public tickets are \$75.00 and will be available starting Thursday, March 31, 2016, via phone at 212.998.4941, online at [www.nyuskirball.org](http://www.nyuskirball.org) and in person at the Skirball Center's Shagan Box Office (556 LaGuardia) from Tuesday – Saturday from 12 – 6 PM, and two hours before showtime.

For updates and news about the ceremony, hosts, presenters and media releases, visit [www.LortelAwards.org](http://www.LortelAwards.org). Follow the Lortel Awards on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/OffBroadwayNYC>, using the hashtag #LortelAwards and like the awards on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OffBroadwaycom-52621521267>.

## **2016 LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS NOMINATIONS**

### **Outstanding Play**

*The Christians*

Produced by Playwrights Horizons and Center Theatre Group  
Written by Lucas Hnath

*Eclipsed*

Produced by The Public Theater  
Written by Danaï Gurira

*Gloria*

Produced by Vineyard Theatre  
Written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

*Guards at the Taj*

Produced by Atlantic Theater Company  
Written by Rajiv Joseph

*John*

Produced by Signature Theatre  
Written by Annie Baker

### **Outstanding Musical**

*FUTURITY*

Produced by Soho Rep. and Ars Nova in association with Carole Shorenstein Hays  
Music by César Alvarez with The Lisps, Lyrics and Book by César Alvarez

*Iowa*

Produced by Playwrights Horizons  
Written by Jenny Schwartz, Music by Todd Almond, Lyrics by Todd Almond and Jenny Schwartz

*Southern Comfort*

Produced by The Public Theater  
Book and Lyrics by Dan Collins, Music by Julianne Wick Davis, Based on the Film by Kate Davis, Conceived for the Stage by Robert DuSold and Thomas Caruso

*Tappin' Thru Life*

Produced by Leonard Soloway, Bud Martin, Riki Kane Larimer, Jeff Wolk, Phyllis and Buddy Aeronson, Darren P. DeVerna/Jeremiah J. Harris and the Shubert Organization  
Written by Maurice Hines

*The Wildness: Sky-Pony's Rock Fairy Tale*

Produced by Ars Nova in collaboration with The Play Company  
Text by Kyle Jarrow & Lauren Worsham, Songs by Kyle Jarrow

### **Outstanding Revival**

*'Tis Pity She's a Whore*

Produced by Red Bull Theater  
Written by John Ford

*Cloud Nine*

Produced by Atlantic Theater Company  
Written by Caryl Churchill

*Mother Courage And Her Children*  
Produced by Classic Stage Company  
Written by Bertolt Brecht, Translated by John Willett

*The Robber Bridegroom*  
Produced by Roundabout Theatre Company in association with Daryl Roth  
Book and Lyrics by Alfred Uhry, Music by Robert Waldman

*Women Without Men*  
Produced by Mint Theater Company  
Written by Hazel Ellis

### **Outstanding Solo Show**

*The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey*  
Produced by Darren Bagert, Daryl Roth, Co-Produced by Jane Dubin, Curtis Forsythe, Michael Mayer, Diane Procter, Seaview Productions and Minerva Productions/Joshua Goodman  
Written and Performed by James Lecesne

*Forever*  
Produced by New York Theatre Workshop  
Created and Performed by Dael Orlandersmith

*Grounded*  
Produced by The Public Theater  
Written by George Brant  
Performed by Anne Hathaway

*Mike Birbiglia: Thank God For Jokes*  
Produced by Mike Berkowitz, Joseph Birbiglia, Ron Delsener and Mike Lavoie  
Written and Performed by Mike Birbiglia

### **Outstanding Director**

Rachel Chavkin, *The Royale*  
Anne Kauffman, *Marjorie Prime*  
Amy Morton, *Guards at the Taj*  
Liesl Tommy, *Eclipsed*  
Eric Tucker, *Bedlam's SENSE & SENSIBILITY*

### **Outstanding Choreographer**

Alexandra Beller, *Bedlam's SENSE & SENSIBILITY*  
Martha Clarke, *Angel Reapers*  
Maurice Hines, *Tappin' Thru Life*  
Paul McGill, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*  
David Neumann, *FUTURITY*

### **Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play**

Denis Arndt, *Heisenberg*  
Reed Birney, *The Humans*  
Timothée Chalamet, *Prodigal Son*  
Andrew Garman, *The Christians*  
Ed Harris, *Buried Child*

### **Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play**

Ito Aghayere, *Familiar*  
Georgia Engel, *John*  
Jayne Houdyshell, *The Humans*  
Chinasa Ogbuagu, *Sojourners*  
Phylicia Rashad, *Head of Passes*

**Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical**

Gabriel Ebert, *Preludes*  
Michael C. Hall, *Lazarus*  
Maurice Hines, *Tappin' Thru Life*  
Michael Luwoye, *Invisible Thread*  
Steven Pasquale, *The Robber Bridegroom*

**Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical**

Sophia Anne Caruso, *Lazarus*  
Alison Fraser, *First Daughter Suite*  
Annette O'Toole, *Southern Comfort*  
Mary Testa, *First Daughter Suite*  
Sammy Tunis, *FUTURITY*

**Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play**

Sanjit De Silva, *Dry Powder*  
Jonathan Hogan, *Hold On To Me Darling*  
Matt McGrath, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*  
Paul Sparks, *Buried Child*  
C.J. Wilson, *Hold On To Me Darling*

**Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play**

Alana Arenas, *Head of Passes*  
Lauren Klein, *The Humans*  
Jeanine Serralles, *Gloria*  
Lois Smith, *John*  
Myra Lucretia Taylor, *Familiar*

**Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical**

Greg Hildreth, *The Robber Bridegroom*  
Jeffrey Kuhn, *Southern Comfort*  
Or Matias, *Preludes*  
Chris Sarandon, *Preludes*  
Kevin Zak, *Clinton the Musical*

**Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical**

Eisa Davis, *Preludes*  
Karen Kandel, *FUTURITY*  
Leslie Kritzer, *Gigantic*  
Leslie Kritzer, *The Robber Bridegroom*  
Annie McNamara, *Iowa*

**Outstanding Scenic Design**

Mimi Lien, *John*  
Timothy R. Mackabee, *Guards at the Taj*  
G.W. Mercier, *Head of Passes*  
Emily Orling and Matt Saunders, *FUTURITY*  
David Zinn, *The Humans*

**Outstanding Costume Design**

Martha Hally, *Women Without Men*  
Toni-Leslie James, *First Daughter Suite*  
Clint Ramos, *Eclipsed*  
Anita Yavich, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*  
Donna Zakowska, *Angel Reapers*

**Outstanding Lighting Design**

Christopher Akerlind, *Grounded*  
Mark Barton, *John*  
Ben Stanton, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*  
Justin Townsend, *The Humans*  
David Weiner, *Guards at the Taj*

**Outstanding Sound Design**Matt Hubbs, *The Royale*Rob Milburn and Michael Bodeen, *Guards at the Taj*Fitz Patton, *The Humans*Will Pickens, *Grounded*Bray Poor, *Buzzer***SPECIAL AWARDS****Outstanding Alternative Theatrical Experience***Angel Reapers*

By Martha Clarke and Alfred Uhry

Produced by Signature Theatre

**Peter Nigrini, Projection Design, *Grounded*****HONORARY AWARDS****Lifetime Achievement Award**

James Houghton

**Playwrights' Sidewalk Inductee**

Suzan-Lori Parks

**NOMINATIONS BY SHOW**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
The Humans	6
FUTURITY	5
Guards at the Taj	5
John	5
The Legend of Georgia McBride	4
Preludes	4
The Robber Bridegroom	4
Eclipsed	3
First Daughter Suite	3
Grounded	3
Head of Passes	3
Southern Comfort	3
Tappin' Thru Life	3
Angel Reapers	2
Bedlam's SENSE & SENSIBILITY	2
Buried Child	2
The Christians	2
Familiar	2
Gloria	2
Hold On To Me Darling	2
Iowa	2

Lazarus	2
The Royale	2
Women Without Men	2
'Tis Pity She's a Whore	1
The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey	1
Buzzer	1
Clinton The Musical	1
Cloud Nine	1
Dry Powder	1
Forever	1
Gigantic	1
Heisenberg	1
Invisible Thread	1
Marjorie Prime	1
Mike Birbiglia: Thank God For Jokes	1
Mother Courage And Her Children	1
Prodigal Son	1
Sojourners	1
The Wildness: Sky-Pony's Rock Fairy Tale	1

### **ABOUT THE LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS**

The Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway were created in 1985 by the Off-Broadway League. The Lortel Awards recognize excellence in Off-Broadway by honoring the invaluable contribution of artists to the theatre community. Representatives of the Off-Broadway League, Actors' Equity Association, Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, the Lucille Lortel Foundation, in addition to theatre journalists and academics and other Off-Broadway professionals, serve on the Voting Committee. Awards may be given in the following categories: Play, Musical, Solo Show, Revival, Alternative Theatrical Experience, Director, Choreographer, Lead Actor and Actress in a Play and Musical, Featured Actor and Actress in a Play and Musical, Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Design. The following honorary awards may also be given: Lifetime Achievement Award, Body of Work (awarded to an institution), the Edith Oliver Service to Off-Broadway Award and induction onto the Playwrights' Sidewalk in front of the historic Lucille Lortel Theatre in New York City. For more information, please see [www.LortelAwards.org](http://www.LortelAwards.org).

### **ABOUT THE LUCILLE LORTEL FOUNDATION**

The Lucille Lortel Foundation was created by Lucille Lortel to foster excellence and diversity in the theatre, as well as to faithfully preserve the rich history and support the continued prosperity of Off-Broadway. The Foundation has several major programs, including its general operating support program that has provided millions of dollars to small to mid-size theatres in New York City, universities, and theatre service organizations. The Foundation created and maintains the Internet Off-Broadway Data Base ([www.IOBDB.com](http://www.IOBDB.com)). For a listing of all the Foundation's programs, previous Lortel Award nominees and recipients, information on the Lucille Lortel Theatre and Playwrights' Sidewalk, and much more, please visit [www.lortel.org](http://www.lortel.org).

### **ABOUT NYU SKIRBALL CENTER**

The Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts is the premier venue for the presentation of cultural and performing arts events for New York University and lower Manhattan. Founded by Jay Oliva (President Emeritus, NYU), the programs of the Skirball Center reflect NYU's mission as an international center of scholarship, defined by excellence and innovation and shaped by an intellectually rich and diverse environment. A vital aspect of the Center's mission is to build young adult audiences for the future of live performance. [www.nyuskirball.org](http://www.nyuskirball.org)

## **ABOUT THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND (TDF)**

THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND (TDF) was created in the conviction that the live theatrical arts afford a unique expression of the human condition that must be sustained and nurtured. It is dedicated to developing diverse audiences for live theatre and dance, and strengthening the performing arts community in New York City. Since 1968, TDF's programs have provided over 90 million people with access to performances at affordable prices and have returned over \$2.5 billion to thousands of productions. Best known for its TKTS Discount Booths, TDF's membership, outreach, access (including its internationally renowned Autism Theatre Initiative) and award-winning education programs — as well as its Costume Collection — have introduced thousands of people to the theatre and helped make the unique experience of theatre available to everyone, including students and people with disabilities. TDF honors include a 2011 Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture, a 2012 Tony Honor for Excellence for its Open Doors Arts Education Program, a 2012 New York Innovative Theatre Award for its support of the off-Off Broadway community, and a 2013 Lortel Award "Outstanding Body of Work Award." For more information about TDF go to: [www.tdf.org](http://www.tdf.org).

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