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32nd ANNUAL LUCILLE LORTEL AWARDS
TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017 AT NYU SKIRBALL CENTER

*Costume Designer **William Ivey Long** to be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award;*
*Theatre Executive **Harold Wolpert** to receive the Edith Oliver Service to Off-Broadway Award;*
***Lynn Nottage** to be inducted onto the Playwrights' Sidewalk*

*Committee adds new category of **Outstanding Projection Design***

New York, NY (February 2, 2017) – The Off-Broadway League today announced details for the 2017 Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway. The 32nd Annual Lucille Lortel Awards will be handed out on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at NYU Skirball Center for Performing Arts, beginning at 7:00pm EST.

Among the special honors to be presented this year – award-winning Costume Designer, **William Ivey Long**, will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. A multiple Lortel Award nominee, Mr. Long is also a fifteen-time Tony Award nominee and six-time winner. **Lynn Nottage** will be inducted onto the famed Playwrights' Sidewalk in front of the Lucille Lortel Theatre. Ms. Nottage is a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and a screenwriter, whose plays have been nominated for multiple Lortel Awards, including *Ruined*, which received the 2009 Lortel Award for Outstanding Play. Theater Executive **Harold Wolpert** will be honored with the Edith Oliver Service to Off-Broadway Award. Mr. Wolpert recently stepped down from his post as Managing Director of the Roundabout Theatre Company after 11 years. During his career, he has led all management, finance, administration, production, marketing, operations and labor relations for some of the largest and most-recognized not-for-profit theatre companies in the country.

President of the Off-Broadway League, **Adam Hess**, also announced that the Lucille Lortel Awards will be adding the new category of *Outstanding Projection Design*. Said Hess, "Off-Broadway theatre continues to be the home for innovative and ground-breaking theatre. The Off-Broadway League is proud to continue to honor the designers that play such a vital role in Off-Broadway's success."

Members of the general public are welcome to attend the 7:00 PM ceremony. Public tickets are \$75.00 and will be available starting April 4, via phone at 212.998.4941, online at www.nyuskirball.org and in person at the Skirball Center's Shagan Box Office (556 LaGuardia Pl.) from Tuesday – Saturday from 12 – 6 PM, up until two hours before showtime.

Important Dates

March 31, 2017	2016-2017 Off-Broadway season ends
April 4, 2017	Nomination Meeting – Nominations announced via press release late afternoon
April 4, 2017	Public tickets go on sale
April 26, 2017	Nominees' Breakfast at Playwrights Horizons

May 7, 2017

Award Ceremony at NYU Skirball Center

The Off-Broadway League's Lortel Awards Producing & Administration Committee (Pamela Adams, Terry Byrne, Margaret Cotter, Carol Fishman, George Forbes, Danielle Karliner Naish, 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 eighth 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.

For updates and news about the ceremony and media releases, please visit www.LortelAwards.org. Follow the Lortel Awards (#LortelAwards) on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/OffBroadwayNYC> and like on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LortelAwards>.

To download hi-res images of our honorees, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2jvK6jK>.

ABOUT OUR HONOREES

William Ivey Long

William Ivey Long was recently nominated for an Emmy Award for his work on *Grease: Live!* for the FOX Television Network. He designed the re-imagining of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (starring Laverne Cox and Tim Curry), also for FOX. He is currently represented on Broadway with *A Bronx Tale: The Musical*; and *Chicago*, now in its 21st year. He recently completed a 4 year elected term as Chairman of the Board for The American Theatre Wing. Mr. Long has been nominated for 15 Tony Awards, winning 6 times. Other Broadway credits include: *On The Twentieth Century*, *Cabaret* (2014 and 1998 revivals), *Bullets Over Broadway*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Tony Award), *Big Fish*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*; *Don't Dress for Dinner*; *Hugh Jackman: Back on Broadway*; *Catch Me If You Can*, *Pal Joey*, *9 to 5*, *Young Frankenstein*; *Curtains*; *Grey Gardens* (Tony Award); *The Producers* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Awards); *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *La Cage Aux Folles*; *The Boy from Oz*; *Hairspray* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Cabaret*; *Contact* (Hewes Award); *The Music Man*; *Annie Get Your Gun*; *Swing*; *Smokey Joe's Café*; *Crazy for You* (Tony, Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Guys and Dolls* (Drama Desk Award); *A Christmas Carol*; *Six Degrees of Separation*; *Lend Me a Tenor* (Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Nine* (Tony, Drama Desk, Maharam Awards). Recent Off-Broadway productions include *The Belle of Amherst* with Joely Richardson, *Bunty Berman Presents*; *Lucky Guy* and *The School for Lies*. Mr. Long made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 2014 with his designs for *The Merry Widow* starring Renée Fleming and Kelli O'Hara. He has also designed for such artists as Mick Jagger, Siegfried and Roy, the Pointer Sisters, Joan Rivers, and for choreographers Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp, Peter Martins, David Parsons and Susan Stroman. He serves as Production Designer for North Carolina's oldest running seasonal outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*, which was the 2013 recipient of the Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre. He returns in 2015 for his 45th season with the production. Mr. Long holds honorary degrees from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina at Asheville, and The College of William and Mary. He was the recipient of the Morrison Award (1992), the UNC Chapel Hill Playmakers Award (1994), the National Theatre Conference "Person of the Year" award (2000), the Order of the Long Leaf Pine (2001), the Distinguished Career Award from the Southeastern Theatre Conference (2002), the Raleigh Medal of Arts (2010), and the 2004 North Carolina Award presented by Governor Easley. Mr. Long earned an undergraduate degree in history from The College of William and Mary, was a Kress Fellow at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and then earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in stage design from Yale University School of Drama. Upcoming projects include *Little Dancer* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. He was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 2005.

Lynn Nottage

Lynn Nottage is a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and a screenwriter. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. *Sweat* (Susan Smith Blackburn Prize) moved to Broadway after a sold out run at The Public Theater. It premiered and was commissioned, Oregon Shakespeare Festival American Revolutions History Cycle/Arena Stage, *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Lilly Award, Drama Desk Nomination), *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama

Critics' Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award), *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play), *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE Award), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Las Meninas*, *Mud*, *River*, *Stone*, *Por'knockers*, *Antigone Project* and *POOF!*. She is the co-founder of the production company, Market Road Films, whose most recent projects include *The Notorious Mr. Bout* directed by Tony Gerber and Maxim Pozdorovkin (Premiere/Sundance 2014), *First to Fall* directed by Rachel Beth Anderson (Premiere/ IDFA, 2013). Nottage is the recipient of a PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award, Literature Award from The Academy of Arts and Letters, Columbia University Provost Grant, Doris Duke Artist Award, The Joyce Foundation Commission Project & Grant, Madge Evans-Sidney Kingsley Award, MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, the Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award, the inaugural Horton Foote Prize, Helen Hayes Award, the Lee Reynolds Award, and the Jewish World Watch iWitness Award. Her other honors include the National Black Theatre Fest's August Wilson Playwriting Award, a Guggenheim Grant, Lucille Lortel Fellowship and Visiting Research Fellowship at Princeton University. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, where she has been a faculty member since 2001. She is also an Associate Professor in the Theatre Department at Columbia School of the Arts.

Harold Wolpert

Harold Wolpert, a three-time Tony Award winner, is a leader and strategist with over 25 years of experience in all aspects of arts administration at major not-for-profit theatre companies where he has produced or managed over 250 shows. Notably, he has served in executive roles with Roundabout Theatre Company, as Managing Director, and as General Manager for Manhattan Theatre Club and the Alley Theatre. Wolpert grew up in and is a product of the Off-Broadway community, where he has been fortunate to have worked with and supported some of the theatre's finest talent. He began his career at the beloved Circle Repertory Company followed by Manhattan Theatre Club. During his time at Roundabout, the company deepened its longstanding roots in Off-Broadway with the opening of the acclaimed Roundabout Underground. In the industry, Wolpert is recognized as a national leader in the not-for-profit field and as one of the foremost not-for-profit leaders and managers in the country. He has also been recognized as a leader in the industry through 13 years of service on the Off-Broadway League Board of Directors and to the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), most recently as LORT Vice President, Executive Committee member, chair of several LORT negotiating committees, and a key member of LORT's Diversity Initiative Steering Committee. He is currently a member of Theatre Communications Group's Board of Directors. In the community, Wolpert has always been actively engaged locally, including serving as a teacher, consultant, grants panelist and volunteer. He was an adjunct lecturer for the Brooklyn College MFA Program in Performing Arts Management for 9 years, and recently was a guest lecturer for Shanghai Theatre Academy. He also served as Board Chairman of AIDS Foundation Houston, where he led the organization's fundraising efforts. Currently, he volunteers for The Trevor Project, the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24. A Philadelphia native, Wolpert earned a Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Pennsylvania.

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.

ABOUT THE LUCILLE LORTEL FOUNDATION

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). 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.

ABOUT NYU SKIRBALL CENTER

NYU 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. NYU Skirball's mission is to showcase and support diverse and eclectic talent from around the world, while cultivating audiences for live performance through deeper engagement opportunities. For more information visit: 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 theater and dance and strengthening the performing arts community in New York City. Since 1968, TDF's programs have provided over 92 million people with access to performances at affordable prices and have returned over \$2.7 billion to thousands of productions. Best known for its TKTS Discount Booths, TDF's membership, outreach, access (including its newly formed Autism Theatre Initiative), and education programs—as well as its Costume Collection—have introduced thousands of people to the theater and helped make the unique experience of theater available to everyone, including students and people with disabilities. Recent 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, a 2013 Lucille Lortel honor for "Outstanding Body of Work" in support of the Off-Broadway community, a 2016 "Friend of Off-Broadway" honor from The Off-Broadway Alliance, and New York City's 2016 TITLE II ADA Sapolin Public Service Award. For more information, go to tdf.org.

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