2015 Equity Election Results

Kate Shindle elected President of the union; all other officers reelected and 16 elected to Council

OFFICERS

President
Kate Shindle
Not elected: Nick Wyman, Larry Cahn

Vice President
Western Regional
Wyman, Larry Cahn

Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Karas

Central Regional Vice President
Melissa Robinet

EASTERN REGION

Principal
Tanya Pinkins

Vice President
Joanne Borts

Sid Solomon

Not elected: Jeff Blumenkrantz, Scott Evans, Christopher Gurr, Scott McGowan, Buzz Roddy, Karen D. Howell, Todd Buonopane, Matt DeAngelis, Joe Zaloom, Craig A. Meyer, Wally Dunn, Tom Helmer, John Christopher Jones, Stas Kmiec

Stage Manager
Ruth E. Kramer

Amber White

Not elected: Dan Zittel, Eric H. Mayer

The following candidates were nominated with no opposition and, pursuant to Rule VII(E)6 of the Nominations and Election Policy, have been deemed elected:

1st Vice President
Paige Price

2nd Vice President
Rebecca Kim Jordan

3rd Vice President
Ira Mont

Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Karas

Eastern Regional Vice President
Melissa Robinet

Central Regional Vice President
Dev Kennedy

EASTERN REGION

Principals
Dana Ivey, Maureen Moore, Kate O’Phalen

Vice Presidents
Joanne Borts, Sid Solomon

Not elected: Jeff Blumenkrantz, Scott Evans, Christopher Gurr, Scott McGowan, Buzz Roddy, Karen D. Howell, Todd Buonopane, Matt DeAngelis, Joe Zaloom, Craig A. Meyer, Wally Dunn, Tom Helmer, John Christopher Jones, Stas’ Kmiec

Stage Manager
Ruth E. Kramer

Amber White

Not elected: Dan Zittel, Eric H. Mayer

The following candidates were nominated with no opposition and, pursuant to Rule VII(E)6 of the Nominations and Election Policy, have been deemed elected:

Chorus
Bill Bateman

CENTRAL REGION

Principal
Rebecca Kim Jordan

Vice President
Paige Price

Vice President
Melissa Robinet

The following candidates were nominated with no opposition and, pursuant to Rule VII(E)6 of the Nominations and Election Policy, have been deemed elected:

Chorus
Ariane Dolan

Stage Manager
Malcolm D. Ewen

WESTERN REGION

Principal
Mary-Pat Green

Vice President
Jeff Marlow

Barbara N. Roberts

Not elected: Cynthia Marty, Jeffrey Christopher Todd, John Herzog, Mary Gutzi, Edgar Landa, Jeffrey B. Landman, Kyle Nudo

Not elected: Dana Ivey, Maureen Moore, Kate O’Phalen

The following candidates were nominated with no opposition and, pursuant to Rule VII(E)6 of the Nominations and Election Policy, they have been deemed elected:

Kate Shindle

Elected President

Vice Presidents

Wyman, Larry Cahn

Not elected:

Doug Carfrae

Kate Shindle

President

OFFICERS

Production Contract Negotiations Begin In July

The Production Contract negotiations will begin in July. The current contract is set to expire September 27, 2015. Final preparations for the negotiations will take place throughout June. Covering Broadway, national and tiered tours, the Production Contract is the union’s premier contract. In the 2013-2014 season, the contract generated 64,708 workweeks and is the highest earnings generator for Equity members. Equity’s Negotiating team will be co-chaired by First Vice President Paige Price and Third Vice President Ira Mont and includes members who have worked under the Production Contract. Executive Director Mary McColl will be the chief negotiator.

#EquityWorks: Theater News & Notes

Anaheim, CA - Equity has renewed its Letter of Agreement with 3D Theatricals with salary increases.

Bozder, CO - Equity has renewed its Letter of Agreement with Colorado Shakespeare Festival with salary increases.

Carmel, IN - Actors Theatre of Indiana has renewed its SPT Rider for another two years, increasing its Equity member contracts and workweeks by 24, over the next two seasons.

Fremont, CA - Made Up Theatre, specializing in sketch and improvisational comedy in the Bay Area, is producing its first professional, scripted production on an SBT Agreement.

Minneapolis, MN - TigerLion Arts, a transitional SPT producer, has worked with Equity to mount a small regional tour to local arboretums and outdoor venues with its original play, Nature. The production will employ five Equity members resulting in nearly 100 workweeks for members.

New York, NY - Founded by David Mamet and William H. Macy, Atlantic Theater Company marks its 30th anniversary season Off-Broadway this year.

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Barriers (continued from page 1)

Broadway productions, presenting plays dealing with disability issues, and producing a Ten-Minute Play Festival while inviting well-known playwrights to participate. Or, in short, by presenting and creating diverse stories and telling them with an authentic voice. Characters who are blind are played by actors who are blind; characters who use wheelchairs are played by performers who use wheelchairs. In 2011, several of the festival’s plays traveled to Croatia, thus bringing TBBT’s work to an international audience. In 2012, to mark the 22nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, TBBT was invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. “I’ve been with TBBT since 1997, back when it was Theater By the Blind,” says Equity member Pamela Sabaugh. “Though I am legally blind, I never considered myself a ‘blind’ actor, but rather an actor, first and foremost. TBBT, I felt, shared in this belief. Though our mission certainly is to advance the work of performers with disabilities — and changing perceptions — it has always been an integrated company of talented and diverse artists who are defined by the artistry they share, rather than whether or not they happen to have a disability. That’s not to say we haven’t had the chance to incorporate disability into a theater’s overall aesthetic, or to create work that’s been informed and enhanced by the disabled experience. But what has been most positive for me, is having had the chance to work, time and time again, on some extraordinary material, with gifted professionals.”

“I am, I think, the only company member who has actually become disabled over my time with TBBT,” says Ann Marie Morell. “I have MS and am now a wheelchair-user. It was in 2008 that we changed the name to Theater Breaking Through Barriers and made it known that we served performers of all disabilities. We are still an integrated company of performers with and without disabilities, and I believe that this is the only way to bring performers with disabilities to the mainstream. We show that our artists are able to work alongside each other and even make the audience forget that there is any ‘disability’ being represented because we have a great respect for comfort with each other as performers, not as ‘disabled’ performers. We are children, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, aunts, uncles, parents, and as a disabled performer, I believe that I can bring a different perspective to theater because of my daily challenges in life. Art does not come from my legs; it doesn’t come from someone else’s eyes or ears or any tangible physical attribute that we consider normal. It is much deeper. It is human.”

Equity member Anita D. Hollander says that Theater Breaking Through Barriers has given her the great pleasure of doing several shows and touring in Croatia and Japan. Hollander also serves as National Chair of the SAG/AFTRA National PWD Committee, Co-Chair of the NY Local SAG/AFTRA PWD Committee and on the AEA/Broadway League Coalition for more diversity and inclusion in Broadway and regional theaters. “It is in the audition,” she said, “where we can truly raise consciousness and give people ideas that will lead to our getting more work.”

“Broadway is still a stubborn nut to crack in the performer department although audience accessibility has improved and more people with disabilities are attending shows,” she added. “Regional theaters have done much better. Mixed Blood in Minneapolis; Deaf West in L.A.; Phamaly Theatre Company in Denver; Goodman Theatre in Chicago; Urban Improv in Boston; Sunlight and Ocean Professional Theatre in New Jersey and Barrow Street, Nyc’s Spoon and TBBT in New York have all cast PWDs. Over my 30-year career, I have seen the progress that can be made by never giving up. It’s an exhausting pursuit, but worth it in the end.”

Nicholas Viselli agrees that the mission to raise awareness for performers with disabilities is a difficult one, but he believes that we have never before been in a better position to effect positive change than we are right now.

“I have watched TBBT grow into a solid, highly respected Off-Broadway company, the first and only one of its kind, dedicated to advancing the work of artists with disabilities by presenting first-class art. While theater is truly a collaborative art, our need to invent and pioneer fresh ways to present our artists — to prove our fundamental point that disability does not diminish the quality of the art or the artist — raises the power of collaboration to a much higher level in our arena. We’ve proven this time and time again with all of our work. It is now time to forge ahead and continue raising the bar. The table has been set and we all gratefully look forward to what lies ahead.”

Congratulations to Equity’s 2015 Tony Award-Nominated Members

Best Book of a Musical & Best Original Score
Lisa Kron, Fun Home
Best Choreography
Joshua Bergasse, On the Town
Best Original Score
Sting, The Last Ship
Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play
Steven D. Boyer, Hand to God
Bradley Cooper, The Elephant Man
Ben Miles, Wolf Hall: Parts One & Two
Bill Nighy, Skylight
Alex Sharp, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play
Geneva Carr, Hand to God
Helen Mirren, The Audience
Elizabeth Moss, The Heidi Chronicles
Carey Mulligan, Skylight
Ruth Wilson, Constellations
Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical
Michael Cerveris, Fun Home
Robert Fairchild, An American in Paris
Brian D’Arcy James, Something Rotten!
Ken Watanabe, The King and I
Tony D. Yancey, On the Town
Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical
Kristin Chenoweth, On the Twentieth Century
Leanne Cope, An American in Paris
Beth A. Malone, Fun Home
Kelli O’Hara, The King and I
Chita Rivera, The Visit
Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play
Matthew Beard, Skylight
K. Todd Freeman, Airline Highway
Richard McCabe, The Audience
Alessandro Nivola, The Elephant Man
Nathaniel Parker, Wolf Hall: Parts One & Two
Micah Stock, It’s Only a Play
Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play
Anna Leigh Shorey, You Can’t Take It With You
Patricia D. Clarkson, The Elephant Man
Lydia Leonard, Wolf Hall: Parts One & Two
Sarah Stiles, Hand to God
Jolea White, Airline Highway
Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical
Christian Borle, Something Rotten!
Andy Karl, On the Twentieth Century
Brad Oscar, Something Rotten!
Brandon Uranowitz, An American in Paris
Max Von Essen, An American in Paris
Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical
Victoria Clark, Gig
Judy Kuhn, Fun Home
Sydney Lucas, Fun Home
Ruthie Ann Miles, The King and I
Emily Skeggs, Fun Home
Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre
Tommy Tune
Special Tony Award
John Cameron Mitchell

Area Liaison Hotline system
Call 877-AEA-1913

Equity has a national toll-free hotline system for members who live in area liaison and office cities. The number is 877-AEA-1913 (formerly the year of Equity’s founding). Each Area Liaison has its own extension, where members can access news and information in their region.

(1) Dial 877-AEA-1913
(2) Dial your city extension:
811 Atlanta
812 Austin/San Antonio
813 Boston
814 Buffalo/Rochester
815 Chicago
816 Cincinnati/Louisville
817 Cleveland
818 Dallas/Fort Worth
819 Denver
820 Detroit
821 Florida – Central
822 Florida – South
823 Houston
824 Kansas City
825 Las Vegas
826 Los Angeles
827 Milwaukee/Madison
828 Minneapolis/St Paul
829 Nashville
830 New Orleans
831 New York
832 Philadelphia
833 Phoenix/Tucson
834 Pittsburgh
835 San Diego
836 San Francisco
837 Seattle
838 St. Louis
839 Washington DC/Baltimore