

# OBIE AWARDS®

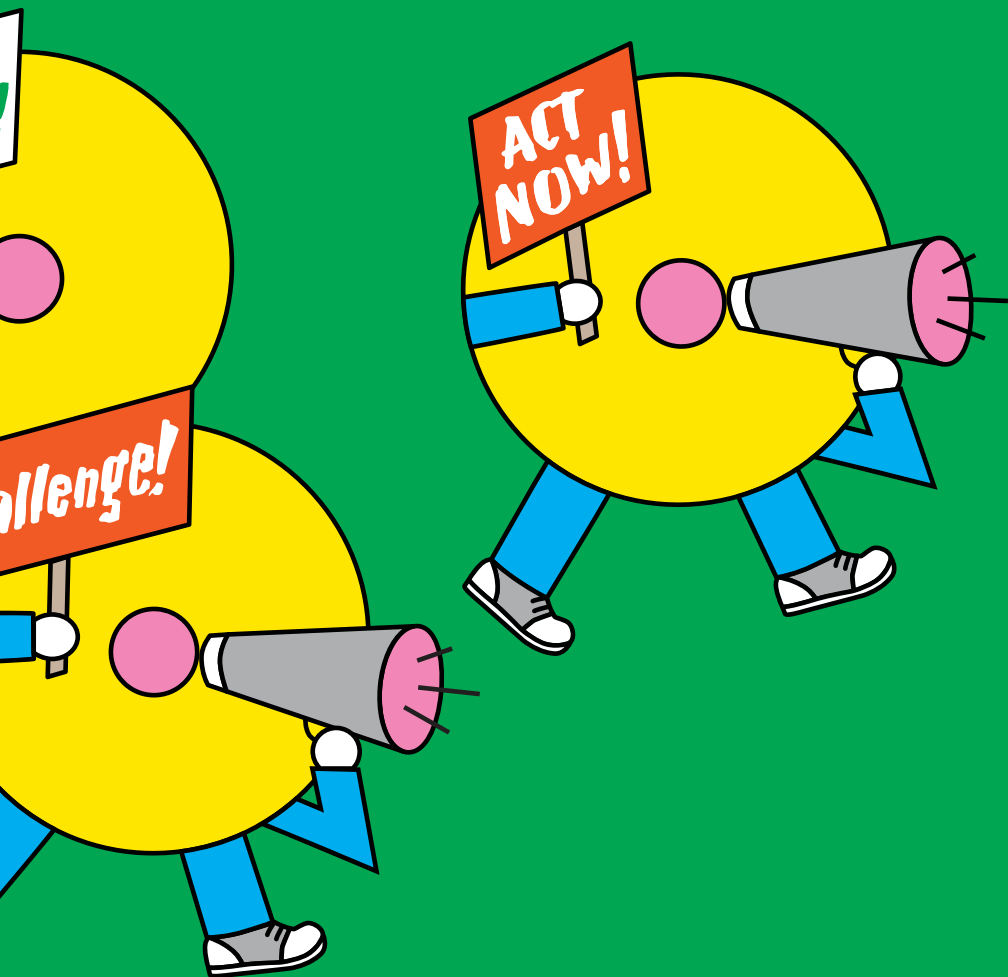
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The 62nd Annual  
Obie Awards

Off-Broadway's  
Highest Honor

Monday, May 22, 2017  
Webster Hall

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Co-Presented by *The Village Voice* & American Theatre Wing

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**VOICE**

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THEATRE  
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The American Theatre Wing  
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on Off and Off-Broadway stages.

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**OBIE AWARDS**<sup>®</sup>

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**HOST**

**Lea DeLaria**  
Comedian, Jazz Musician, and Actress

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**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Paula Vogel**  
Playwright

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**JUDGES**

The Obie Awards differ from other awards in structure. There are no formal nominations and the voting does not necessarily culminate in one award to a single recipient in each category. The Judges may vote for multiple Obies in any category where outstanding achievement deserves recognition. Members of this year's Obie Awards judging panel were:

**Michael Feingold**  
Chairman of the Obie Award Judges  
Columnist, *The Village Voice*

**Ayad Akhtar**  
Playwright

**Melissa Rose Bernardo**  
*Entertainment Weekly* Theatre Critic

**J. Smith Cameron**  
Actress

**Darius de Haas**  
Actor and Singer

**Miriam Felton-Dansky**  
*The Village Voice* Theatre Critic

**Daphne Rubin-Vega**  
Actress

2017 is a year of action. In response, our third annual design collaboration with the Obies reflects Off-Broadway's relevance in the social and political climate of our time. We were inspired by Off-Broadway as a forum to explore sensitive issues, give voice to the voiceless, and promote a sense of community. We worked with illustrator and designer Seymour Chwast, known for his powerful political posters, to inject a sense of activism, engagement, and progress to the signature Obies O. Our studio looks forward to another year of great Off-Broadway theater.

Act Now!

HOST

## Lea DeLaria



Lea DeLaria seems to have achieved overnight stardom with her SAG Award-winning stand-out role as "Carrie 'Big Boo' Black" in the Netflix hit series "Orange is the New Black." However, DeLaria's multi-faceted career as a comedian, actress, and jazz musician, has in fact, spanned decades.

Lea holds the distinction of being the first openly gay comic on television in America which led to countless television and film roles portraying Police Lieutenants, PE Teachers, and the Lesbian who inappropriately hits on straight women. Selected TV credits: "Broad City," "Awkward," "Clarence," "Californication," "One Life to Live," "Law and Order: SVU," "Will and Grace," "The Oblongs," "Friends," and "Matlock." Upcoming films: Pixar's *Cars 3* and *Support the Girls*. Selected film credits: *First Wives Club*, *Dear Dumb Diary*, and *Edge of Seventeen*.

She's received Obie and Theatre World Awards, and a Drama Desk nomination for her portrayal as "Hildy" in the Public Theater's revival of *On The Town*, an Ovation nomination for *The Boys From Syracuse*, and has played both Eddie and Dr. Scott in the gender-bending Broadway musical *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Lea was the featured vocalist at the 50th Anniversary of the Newport Jazz Festival, and has performed in some of the most prestigious houses in the world including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Chicago Symphony, Hollywood Bowl, The Royal Albert Hall, and the Sydney Opera House. Lea has five records on the Warner Jazz and Classics label, and her book *Lea's Book of Rules for the World* is in its third printing at Bantam Doubleday and Dell. Her sixth record, *House Of David delaria+bowie=jazz*, was released in the Summer of 2015 to critical acclaim.

Follow Lea DeLaria on Twitter and Instagram @realleadelaria and on Facebook. [www.delariadammit.com](http://www.delariadammit.com)



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Jeremiah J. Harris  
Darren P. DeVerna  
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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Paula Vogel

Paula Vogel made her Broadway debut this season with her newest work, *Indecent*. The play was commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American Revolutions and Yale Repertory Theatre. In close collaboration with director Rebecca Taichman, *Indecent* was developed at the Sundance Theatre Lab in 2013. It has been produced at Yale Repertory Theatre and La Jolla Playhouse in Fall 2015. It was produced Off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre in May 2016 and is currently running on Broadway at the Cort Theatre.

*Don Juan Comes Home From Iraq*, her previous play, was written for the Wilma Company in Philadelphia. With director Blanka Zizka and company members, Paula Vogel conducted interviews with veterans of the Iraq/Afghanistan wars, and received funding from the Pew Charitable Trust and Independence Foundation to conduct a year-long workshop with veterans in Philadelphia. Her play *How I Learned to Drive* received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Lortel Prize, Drama Desk, Outer Critics and New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play, as well as winning her second Obie. Most recently it was produced in Mandarin in Beijing. Other plays include *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *The Mineola Twins*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Hot 'N' Throbbing*, *Desdemona*, and *Baby Makes Seven*, *The Oldest Profession*, and *A Civil War Christmas*. In 2004-2005 she was playwright in residence at Signature Theatre. Theatre Communications Group has published four books of her work.

In addition, Paula Vogel continues her "bootcamps," playwriting intensives, with community organizations, theatre companies, subscribers and writers across the globe. Her most recent teaching was at Sewanee, Shanghai Theatre Academy and Nanjing University; her upcoming teaching includes University of Texas in Austin, the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis and workshops for



neighborhood residents near the Vineyard Theatre in New York.

Most recent awards include the American Theatre Hall of Fame, Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award, the Lilly, the William Inge and the 2015 Thornton Wilder. She is honored to have three awards dedicated to emerging playwrights in her name: The American College Theatre Festival, the Paula Vogel Award given annually by the Vineyard Theatre, and the recent Paula Vogel mentor's award by Philadelphia Young Playwrights. From 1984 to 2008, Paula Vogel founded and ran the playwriting program at Brown University; during that time she started a theatre workshop for women in Maximum Security at the Adults Correction Institute in Cranston, Rhode Island. It continues to this day, sponsored by the Pembroke Center for Women at Brown University. From 2008-2012 she was the O'Neill Chair at Yale School of Drama.

She now writes and lives in Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

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ABOUT THE OBIES

## Off-Broadway's Highest Honor



Obie winners Camryn Manheim and Nilaja Sun at the 2007 Obie Awards

Each May, the Obie Awards celebrate excellence and achievement in Off-Broadway theatre. The Obie Awards were created in 1955 by *Village Voice* theatre editor Jerry Tallmer, and have since become the freewheeling wild child of New York's theatre awards world. Just as they are today, the awards were purposely structured with informal categories, to recognize those persons and productions worthy of distinction each theatre season.

The list of actors, directors, writers and designers whose careers have been launched by the Obies is a who's who of theatre. The categories for the awards have changed almost annually, but the spirit remains the same. The Obie Awards are an important part of both *The Village Voice's* and the American Theatre Wing's long history of honoring excellent work and brave voices on Off and Off-Off Broadway stages.



congratulates  
all this year's  
Obie  
winners!

“All great artists  
draw from the same resource:  
the human heart,  
which tells us that we are all more alike  
than we are unalike.”

– *Maya Angelou*

**YES TO ARTISTS!**

–m

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Kudos  
to the 2017  
Obie Award  
winners!

*CeCe and Lee Black*

MAY 11, 2016 - MAY 11, 2017

## In Memoriam

Thomas Toner	Florence Henderson
Yukio Ninagawa	Pauline Oliveros
William Herz	Fritz Weaver
Beth Howland	Alice Drummond
Peter Shaffer	Margaret Whitton
Phyllis Curtin	Joseph Mascolo
Fred M. Caruso	Gisela May
Ann Morgan Guilbert	Dick Latessa
Desmond Heeley	Gordon Hunt
Noah Goldstein	Willa Kim
Gordon Connell	Richard C. Martinez
Anita Alpert Herman	David Berry
Kenneth L. Geist	George S. Irving
Elie Wiesel	Carrie Fisher
John McMartin	Debbie Reynolds
Michael Warren Powell	Carl Weber
John Gruen	Barbara Tarbuck
Pat Lysinger	Laurie Carlos
Marni Nixon	Nat Hentoff
Zelda Fichandler	Wayne Barrett
Gloria DeHaven	Roberta Peters
James Houghton	Maggie Roche
David Huddleston	Leon Katz
John Vaccaro	Mary Tyler Moore
Patrice Munsel	Kevin Geer
Fyvush Finkel	Professor Irwin Corey
Conrad Ward	Alec McCowen
Steven Hill	Max Ferra
Richard Peaslee	Barbara Gelb
Gene Wilder	Harvey Lichtenstein
Jon Polito	Barbara Carroll
Ann Harris	Miriam Colon
Jack Hofsiss	Shamsuddin Abdul Hamid
Edward Albee	Fred Weintraub
D. Keith Mano	Derek Walcott
Bill Nunn	Hugh Hardy
Oscar Brand	Robert Audy
Gordon Davidson	Trisha Brown
Oscar Kosarin	David Storey
Rene Ceballos	Tommy Page
Andrzej Wajda	Linda Hopkins
Dario Fo	Stu Hamstra
Cecilia Hart Jones	Clifton James
Nicole Haran	Martha Lavey
Howard Davies	Jonathan Demme
Tammy Grimes	William M. Hoffman
John O'Creagh [Jonathan Regis Cray]	Nora Mae Lyng
Robert Vaughn	Edwin Sherin
Harlan P. Kleiman	William David Brohn

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and the teams at  
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and The Village Voice  
on the 2017 Obie Awards!

**YES TO ARTISTS!**

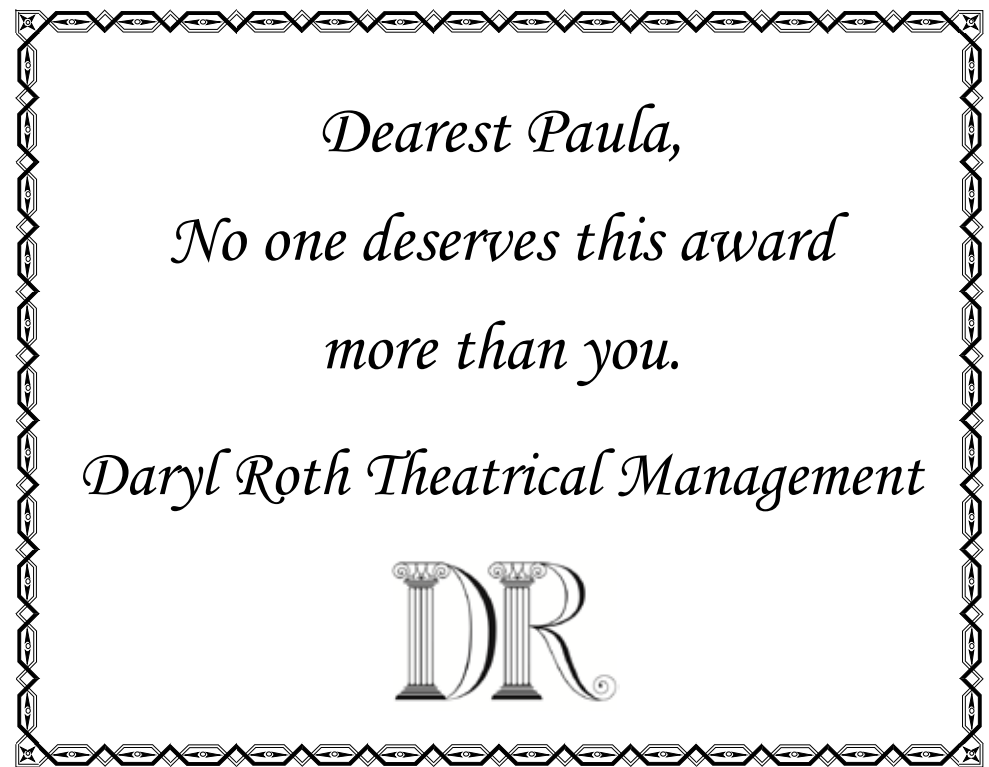


*James and Heather Higgins*





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ABOUT

## American Theatre Wing

One hundred years ago, on the eve of America's entry into World War I, seven suffragettes—all women of the theatre—came together to form The Stage Women's War Relief. A century later, the spirit and vision behind the founding of American Theatre Wing remains a touchstone for all we do. The Wing continues to champion bravery, with a focus on developing the next generation of brave artists. The Wing advances the future of American Theatre by celebrating excellence and nurturing the next generation: on stage, behind the scenes, and in the audience. We envision an American Theatre that is as vital, multi-faceted, and diverse as the American people.

The Wing's programs span the nation to invest in the growth and evolution of American Theatre. We provide theatre education opportunities for underserved students through the Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative, develop the next generation of theatre professionals through the SpringboardNYC and Theatre Intern Network programs, incubate innovative theatre across the country through the National Theatre Company Grants, foster the song of American Theatre through the Jonathan Larson® Grants, honor the best in New York theatrical design with the Henry Hewes Design Award, and illuminate the creative process through the Emmy-nominated "Working in the Theatre" documentary series. In addition to founding the Tony Awards® which are co-presented with The Broadway League, the American Theatre Wing co-presents the Obie Awards®, Off Broadway's Highest Honor, with *The Village Voice*.

Visitors to [americantheatrewing.org](http://americantheatrewing.org) can gain inspiration and insight into the artistic process through the Wing's extensive media collection, and learn more about its programming for students, aspiring and working professionals, and audiences. Follow the Wing on Twitter and Instagram @TheWing, and on Facebook.com/TheAmericanTheatreWing.

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ABOUT

## The Village Voice

Founded in 1955 by a small group that included Norman Mailer, *The Village Voice* was the nation's first alternative newsweekly. Over the years it has been a home to a wide range of writers and artists, from e.e. Cummings and Katherine Anne Porter to Ezra Pound, James Baldwin, photographer Sylvia Plachy, cartoonist Lynda Barry, investigative journalists Wayne Barrett and Tom Robbins, music writer Robert Christgau, and film writer J. Hoberman, among many others. The *Voice*, which has won three Pulitzers, has always been an aggressive interrogator of the powers that be, as well as a force for finding and promoting cutting edge arts and culture.

Under new ownership and editorial leadership in 2016, *The Village Voice* is rededicating itself to being an indispensable resource for progressive New Yorkers of all sorts. This year, the *Voice* will be unveiling an updated design for the paper, new world-class writing and editing talent, and a state of the art digital platform. Our current portfolio of products reaches an audience of over 2 million with the print paper (120,000 circulation and growing), a robust website, independently produced lifestyle events, with content focused on arts, food, fashion, culture, music, politics and more.

Thanks,  
thanks,  
thanks  
to our host  
and dear  
friend,  
Lea  
DeLaria!

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THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following for their participation in and support of the 2017 Obie Awards:

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Heartfelt gratitude to all our Presenters and Performers, and to our Volunteers.

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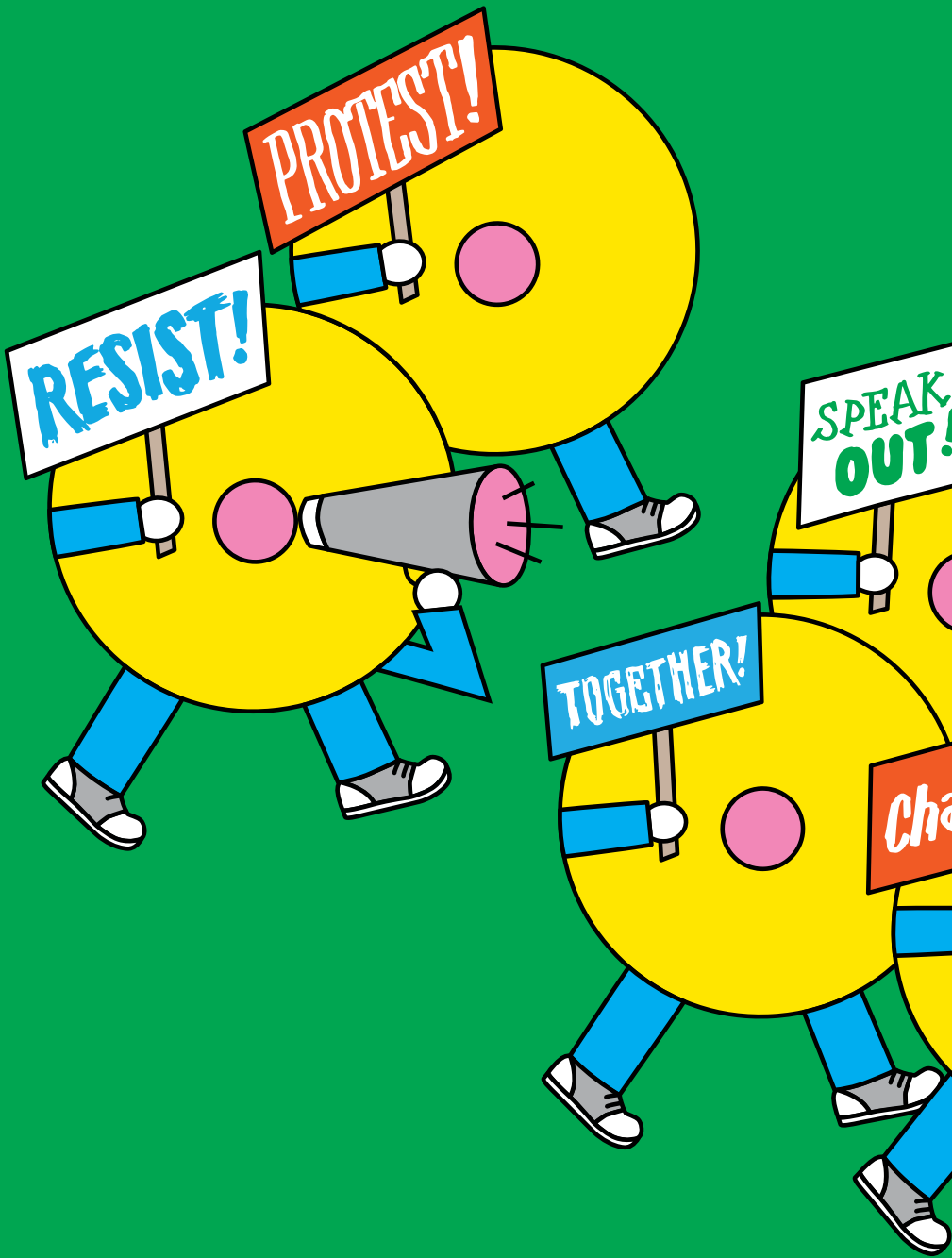
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