

2014 Jeff Awards Set for Tonight in Chicago; Goodman & Drury Lane Lead Nominations

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Desk

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The 46th Annual Jeff Awards ceremony honoring excellence in professional theatre produced within the immediate Chicago area is tonight, October 13 at Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace.

Four world premiere plays and two new adaptations seen first by Chicago audiences were among those receiving Jeff nominations by the Jeff Awards Committee. There are 179 nominations in 35 categories for Chicago Equity theatrical productions that opened between August 1, 2013 and July 31, 2014.



In the Large Theatre category, [Goodman Theatre's](#) "Brigadoon" and Drury Lane Production's "LES MISERABLES" each garnered nine nominations. Goodman's "Brigadoon" was nominated for Production Musical-Large, Director and Choreographer [Rachel Rockwell](#) as well as acting and design awards. "LES MISERABLES" from Drury Lane Productions also received nine nominations, including Production Musical-Large and Director [Rachel Rockwell](#).

In the coveted Ensemble category, the Jeff Awards Committee nominated six productions: [Porchlight Music Theatre's](#) "Ain't Misbehavin' ", a musical revue celebrating the music of Fats Waller and other greats of the Harlem Renaissance; Mercury Theatre Chicago's "Avenue Q" , a musical with puppets about 20-somethings in NY seeking the purpose of life; Writers Theatre's "The Old Man and the Old Moon" with guest artists Pigpen Theatre Co., a fable of an old man who must abandon his job of filling up the moon each month; Remy Bumpo Theatre Company's "Our Class", a powerful story of a Jewish massacre in Poland during WWII; Seanachai Theatre Company's "The Seafarer", Irish playwright [Conor McPherson's](#) boozy mystical yarn of confrontations on a dark Christmas Eve; and Court Theatre's "Seven Guitars", [August Wilson's](#) 1940's tale of fate, justice, and the death of a blues guitarist. Actors' Equity Association supports the Equity Jeff Awards by sponsoring the Ensemble Award.

New Work and New Adaptation nominations recognized plays that have their world premieres in Chicago. Nominations went to [Rebecca Gilman](#) for "Luna Gale", a social worker's exploration of parenthood and foster care presented by [Goodman Theatre](#); Sara Gmitter for "In the Garden: A Darwinian Love Story", an exploration of the philosophical issue of evolution seen through the relationship of Charles Darwin and his devoutly Christian wife staged by [Lookingglass Theatre Company](#); Joel Drake Johnson for "Rasheeda Speaking", a play about race and perception in the workplace performed by Rivendell Theatre Ensemble; and Christian O'Reilly for "Chapatti" the story of two lonely animal lovers in Dublin, produced by [Northlight Theatre](#) and Galway Arts Festival.

New Adaptation nominations went to [Rick Cummins](#) and [John Scoullar's](#) "The Little Prince" at [Lookingglass Theatre Company](#) in association with The Actors Gymnasium, a visual adaptation of the 1943 novella of a stranded aviator whose repressed creativity is unleashed by the prince, and [John Mossman's](#) adaptation of [Paddy Chayefsky's](#) "The Goddess" at The Artistic Home, the telling of a small town girl's evolution to world famous screen siren.

During the 2013-14 season, Jeff Awards judges attended opening nights of 134 Equity productions offered by 49 producing organizations, and from these openings, 94 productions were "Jeff Recommended" and eligible for award nominations.

Performances featuring cast members from nominated musicals and revues and video segments from nominated plays highlight the October 13 ceremony. Pre-show appetizers and cash bar will be offered from 6 to 7:30 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony, directed by [Michael Weber](#), with a buffet reception immediately thereafter.

Advance purchase tickets, which include the ceremony and pre- and post-show parties, are \$75 (\$55 for members of Actors' Equity Association, United Scenic Artists, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Stage Managers' Association, The [Dramatists Guild](#) of America, and American Federation of Musicians). The evening is black tie optional and the public is invited to attend. To purchase tickets, visit the Jeff Awards website at www.jeffawards.org or for more information, contact Jeff Equity Chair Merril Prager at equitywing@jeffawards.org.

The Jeff Awards has been honoring outstanding theatre artists annually since it was established in 1968. With up to 55 members representing a wide variety of backgrounds in theatre, the Jeff Awards Committee is committed to celebrating the vitality of Chicago area theatre by recognizing excellence through its recommendations, awards, and honors. The Jeff Awards fosters the artistic growth of area theatres and theatre artists and promotes educational opportunities, audience appreciation, and civic pride in the achievements of the theatre community. Each year The Jeff Awards evaluates over 250 theatrical productions and holds two awards ceremonies annually. Originally chartered to recognize only Equity productions, the Jeff Awards established the Non-Equity Wing in 1973 to celebrate outstanding achievement in non-union theatre. The next Non-Equity awards ceremony will be held on June 8, 2015, at Park West.

2014 EQUITY JEFF AWARD NOMINEES:

PRODUCTION - PLAY - LARGE

"The Dance of Death" - Writers Theatre
"Hedda Gabler" - Writers Theatre
"Lost in Yonkers" - [Northlight Theatre](#)
"Luna Gale" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
"Seven Guitars" - Court Theatre

PRODUCTION - PLAY - MIDSIZE

"King Hedley II" - Congo Square Theatre Company
"The Normal Heart" - TimeLine Theatre Company
"Our Class" - Remy Bumpo Theatre Company
"A Raisin in the Sun" - TimeLine Theatre Company
"The Seafarer" - Seanacháí Theatre Company

PRODUCTION - MUSICAL - LARGE

"Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
"Gypsy" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
"LES MISERABLES" - Drury Lane Productions
"Next to Normal" - Drury Lane Productions
"Young Frankenstein" - Drury Lane Productions

PRODUCTION - MUSICAL - MIDSIZE

"Avenue Q" - Mercury Theater Chicago
"The Color Purple - The Musical about Love" - Mercury Theater Chicago
"[Hank Williams: Lost Highway](#)" - American Blues Theater
"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)

PRODUCTION - REVUE

"Ain't Misbehavin' " - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
"Depraved New World" - The Second City

"Old Jews Telling Jokes" - [Daniel Okrent](#) & [Peter Gethers](#), [Richard Frankel](#), [Tom Viertel](#), [Steven Baruch](#), and [Marc Routh](#)

DIRECTOR - PLAY

Nick Bowling - "The Normal Heart" - TimeLine Theatre Company
[Robert Falls](#) - "Luna Gale" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
[Matt Miller](#) - "The Seafarer" - Seanachai Theatre Company
[Ron OJ Parson](#) - "A Raisin in the Sun" - TimeLine Theatre Company
[Ron OJ Parson](#) - "Seven Guitars" - Court Theatre
[Nick Sandys](#) - "Our Class" - Remy Bumpo Theatre Company
[Henry Wishcamper](#) - "The Dance of Death" - Writers Theatre

DIRECTOR - MUSICAL

[Gary Griffin](#) - "Road Show" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
Damon Kiely - "[Hank Williams](#): Lost Highway" - American Blues Theater
[William Osetek](#) - "Young Frankenstein" - Drury Lane Productions
[William Osetek](#) - "Next to Normal" - Drury Lane Productions
[Rachel Rockwell](#) - "Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
[Rachel Rockwell](#) - "LES MISERABLES" - Drury Lane Productions

DIRECTOR - REVUE

[Marc Bruni](#) - "Old Jews Telling Jokes" - [Daniel Okrent](#) & [Peter Gethers](#), [Richard Frankel](#), [Tom Viertel](#), [Steven Baruch](#), and [Marc Routh](#)
[Brenda Didier](#) - "Ain't Misbehavin' " - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
Mick Napier - "Depraved New World" - The Second City

ENSEMBLE

"Ain't Misbehavin' " - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
"Avenue Q" - Mercury Theater Chicago
"The Old Man and the Old Moon" - Writers Theatre
"Our Class" - Remy Bumpo Theatre Company
"The Seafarer" - Seanachai Theatre Company
"Seven Guitars" - Court Theatre

ACTOR IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE - PLAY

[David Alan Anderson](#) (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) - "The Mountaintop" - Court Theatre
[Brad Armacost](#) (Richard) - "The Seafarer" - Seanachai Theatre Company
[Larry Grimm](#) (Trevor) - "Trevor" - A Red Orchid Theatre
[Harry Groener](#) (Cyrano de Bergerac) - "Cyrano de Bergerac" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
[Larry Marshall](#) (Monroe Sykes) - "Pullman Porter Blues" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
[Larry Neumann, Jr.](#) (Mitch) - "In God's Hat" - Profiles Theatre
[Larry Yando](#) (Edgar) - "The Dance of Death" - Writers Theatre

ACTOR IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE - MUSICAL

[Larry Adams](#) (Ebenezer Scrooge) - "A Christmas Carol The Musical" - Theatre at the Center
[Matthew Brumlow](#) ([Hank Williams](#)) - "[Hank Williams](#): Lost Highway" - American Blues Theater
[Quentin Earl Darrington](#) (Javert) - "LES MISERABLES" - Drury Lane Productions
[Michael Aaron Lindner](#) ([Addison Mizner](#)) - "Road Show" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
[Andrew Rothenberg](#) ([Wilson Mizner](#)) - "Road Show" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)

ACTRESS IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE - PLAY

[Shannon Cochran](#) (Alice) - "The Dance of Death" - Writers Theatre

Mary Beth Fisher (Caroline) - "Luna Gale" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
Kirsten Fitzgerald (Toni) - "Appropriate" - [Victory Gardens Theater](#)
Kate Fry (Hedda Gabler) - "Hedda Gabler" - Writers Theatre
Linsey Page Morton (Bella) - "Lost in Yonkers" - [Northlight Theatre](#)
Greta Oglesby (Lena Younger) - "A Raisin in the Sun" - TimeLine Theatre Company
Penny Slusher (Betty) - "Chapatti" - [Northlight Theatre](#) and Galway Arts Festival

ACTRESS IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE - MUSICAL

Trisha Jeffrey (Celie) - "The Color Purple - The Musical about Love" - Mercury Theater Chicago
Susie McMonagle (Diana) - "Next to Normal" - Drury Lane Productions
Leah Morrow ([Kate Monster](#)) - "Avenue Q" - Mercury Theater Chicago
Louise Pitre (Rose) - "Gypsy" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
Summer Naomi Smart (Mary Poppins) - "Mary Poppins" - [Marriott Theatre](#)
Jennie Sophia (Fiona MacLaren) - "Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)

ACTOR IN A REVUE

John Hartman (Ensemble) - "Depraved New World" - The Second City
Donterrio Johnson (Ensemble) - "Ain't Misbehavin' " - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
Lorenzo Rush, Jr. (Ensemble) - "Ain't Misbehavin' " - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)

ACTRESS IN A REVUE

Sharriese Hamilton (Ensemble) - "Ain't Misbehavin' " - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
Renee Matthews (Bunny) - "Old Jews Telling Jokes" - [Daniel Okrent & Peter Gethers](#),
Richard Frankel, [Tom Viertel](#), [Steven Baruch](#), and [Marc Routh](#)
Tawny Newsome (Ensemble) - "Depraved New World" - The Second City

SOLO PERFORMANCE

Juan Francisco Villa (Actor) - "The Gun Show" - 16th Street Theater
Gwendolyn Whiteside (The Pilot) - "Grounded" - American Blues Theater

ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE - PLAY

Ira Amyx (Ivan) - "The Seafarer" - Seanachai Theatre Company
Patrick Andrews (Felix Turner) - "The Normal Heart" - TimeLine Theatre Company
Julian Hester (Taxi Driver) - "The Late Henry Moss" - The Artistic Home
Anthony Irons (Stool Pigeon) - "King Hedley II" - Congo Square Theatre Company
Mike Nussbaum (Colonel/Johnny) - "Smokefall" - [Goodman Theatre](#) and [South Coast Repertory](#)
Alex Weisman (Jim Curry) - "The Rainmaker" - First Folio Theatre

ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE - MUSICAL

Jordan Brown (Charlie Dalrymple) - "Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
Joe Dempsey (Douglas Panch) - "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" -
Drury Lane Productions
Jeff Dumas (Igor) - "Young Frankenstein" - Drury Lane Productions
Mark David Kaplan (Théardier) - "LES MISERABLES" - Drury Lane Productions
John Keating (Bud Frump) - "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" -
[Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
Travis Taylor (Enjolras) - "LES MISERABLES" - Drury Lane Productions
Josh Tolle (Gabe) - "Next to Normal" - Drury Lane Productions

ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE - PLAY

E. Faye Butler (Sister Juba) - "Pullman Porter Blues" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
Reyna de Courcy (Karlle) - "Luna Gale" - [Goodman Theatre](#)

[Mary Beth Fisher](#) (Dr. Emma Brookner) - "The Normal Heart" - TimeLine Theatre Company
[Sandra Marquez](#) (Beatrice) - "A View From the Bridge" - Teatro Vista
[Ann Whitney](#) (Grandma) - "Lost in Yonkers" - [Northlight Theatre](#)
Cecelia Wingate (LaNora) - "Cicada" - Route 66 Theatre Company and Hear/Tell Productions

ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE - MUSICAL

[Annabel Armour](#) (Fraulein Schneider) - "Cabaret" - [Marriott Theatre](#)
Jasondra Johnson (Sofia) - "The Color Purple - The Musical about Love" -
Mercury Theater Chicago
[Maggie Portman](#) (Meg Brockie) - "Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
[Jessica Rush](#) (Louise) - "Gypsy" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
[Sharon Sachs](#) (Madame Thénardier) - "LES MISERABLES" - Drury Lane Productions
[Paula Scrofano](#) (Frau Blücher) - "Young Frankenstein" - Drury Lane Productions
[Adrienne Walker](#) (Shug Avery) - "The Color Purple - The Musical about Love" -
Mercury Theater Chicago

NEW WORK

[Rebecca Gilman](#) - "Luna Gale" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
Sara Gmitter - "In the Garden: A Darwinian Love Story" - [Lookingglass Theatre Company](#)
Joel Drake Johnson - "Rasheeda Speaking" - Rivendell Theatre Ensemble
Christian O'Reilly - "Chapatti" - [Northlight Theatre](#) and Galway Arts Festival

NEW ADAPTATION

[Rick Cummins](#) and [John Scoullar](#) - "The Little Prince" - [Lookingglass Theatre Company](#)
in association with The Actors Gymnasium
[John Mossman](#) - "The Goddess" - The Artistic Home

CHOREOGRAPHY

[Brenda Didier](#) - "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
[Tammy Mader](#) - "Young Frankenstein" - Drury Lane Productions
[Marc Robin](#) - "Cats" - [Marriott Theatre](#)
[Rachel Rockwell](#) - "Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
[Rachel Rockwell](#) - "Hello, Dolly!" - Drury Lane Productions

ORIGINAL MUSIC IN A PLAY

Jeffrey Levin - "In God's Hat" - Profiles Theatre
Kevin O'Donnell - "The Crownless King" - The House Theatre of Chicago
Pippen Theatre Co. - "The Old Man and the Old Moon" - Writers Theatre
[Andre Pluess](#) - "The White Snake" - [Goodman Theatre](#)

MUSIC DIRECTION

[Roberta Duchak](#) - "Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
[Roberta Duchak](#) - "LES MISERABLES" - Drury Lane Productions
[Rick Fox](#) - "Gypsy" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
[Michael Mahler](#) - "Road Show" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
Robert Reddrick - "Chicago's Golden Soul" - Black Ensemble Theater
[Malcolm Ruhl](#) - "[Hank Williams](#): Lost Highway" - American Blues Theater

SCENIC DESIGN - MIDSIZE

[Brian Sidney Bembridge](#) - "A Raisin in the Sun" - TimeLine Theatre Company
Stephen H. Carmody - "Broadsword" - The Gift Theatre
Angela Weber Miller - "Rough Crossing" - First Folio Theatre

Angela Weber Miller - "Salvage" - First Folio Theatre
Andrei Onegin - "King Hedley II" - Congo Square Theatre Company
Katie-Bell Springmann - "Cock" - Profiles Theatre

SCENIC DESIGN - LARGE

[Kevin Depinet](#) - "The Dance of Death" - Writers Theatre
Regina Garcia - "Seven Guitars" - Court Theatre
[Riccardo Hernandez](#) - "Pullman Porter Blues" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
[Collette Pollard](#) - "In the Garden: A Darwinian Love Story" - [Lookingglass Theatre Company](#)
[Todd Rosenthal](#) - "Luna Gale" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
Yu Shibigaki - "Appropriate" - [Victory Gardens Theater](#)

LIGHTING DESIGN - MIDSIZE

Rebecca A. Barrett and [Lee Keenan](#) - "Dorian" - The House Theatre of Chicago
[Brian Sidney Bembridge](#) - "A Raisin in the Sun" - TimeLine Theatre Company
Charlie Cooper - "Mill Fire" - Shattered Globe Theatre
[Mike Durst](#) - "Our Class" - Remy Bumpo Theatre Company
[Lee Keenan](#) - "The Crownless King" - The House Theatre of Chicago

LIGHTING DESIGN - LARGE

T. J. Gerckens - "The White Snake" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
Greg Hofmann - "LES MISERABLES" - Drury Lane Productions
[William Kirkham](#) - "The Little Prince" - [Lookingglass Theatre Company](#) in association with
The Actors Gymnasium
[Jesse Klug](#) - "Cats" - [Marriott Theatre](#)
[Keith Parham](#) - "M. Butterfly" - Court Theatre

COSTUME DESIGN - MIDSIZE

[Rachel Lambert](#) - "Northanger Abbey" - Remy Bumpo Theatre Company
Frances Maggio - "The Color Purple - The Musical about Love" - Mercury Theater Chicago
[Bill Morey](#) - "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
Alexia Rutherford - "Double Trouble" - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)
Lynn Sandberg - "The Goddess" - The Artistic Home

COSTUME DESIGN - LARGE

[Mara Blumenfeld](#) - "Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
[Mara Blumenfeld](#) - "The White Snake" - [Goodman Theatre](#)
Theresa Ham - "Hello, Dolly!" - Drury Lane Productions
Rachel Anne Healy and [Carolyn Cristofani](#) - "Tom Jones" - [Northlight Theatre](#)
Susan E. Mickey - "Cyrano de Bergerac" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
Susan E. Mickey - "The Merry Wives of Windsor" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)
Mariann S. Verheyen - "Henry V" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)

SOUND DESIGN - MIDSIZE

Joshua Horvath - "The Crownless King" - The House Theatre of Chicago
[Lindsay Jones](#) - "Grounded" - American Blues Theater
[Christopher Kriz](#) - "Cicada" - Route 66 Theatre Company and Hear/Tell Productions
[Christopher Kriz](#) - "Mill Fire" - Shattered Globe Theatre
Kevin O'Donnell - "Dorian" - The House Theatre of Chicago

SOUND DESIGN - LARGE

Mikhail Fiksel - "The Old Man and the Old Moon" - Writers Theatre

[Lindsay Jones](#) - "Henry V" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)

Kevin O'Donnell - "The Wheel" - [Steppenwolf Theatre Company](#)

[Josh Schmidt](#) - "The Dance of Death" - [Writers Theatre](#)

Rick Sims - "The Little Prince" - [Lookingglass Theatre Company](#) in association with
The Actors Gymnasium

PROJECTIONS / VIDEO DESIGN

[John Boesche](#) - "Our Class" - [Remy Bumppo Theatre Company](#)

[Sage Marie Carter](#) - "LES MISERABLES" - [Drury Lane Productions](#)

[Shawn Sagady](#) - "Brigadoon" - [Goodman Theatre](#)

[Shawn Sagady](#) - "The White Snake" - [Goodman Theatre](#)

Michael Stanfill - "The Normal Heart" - [TimeLine Theatre Company](#)

[Mike Tutaj](#) - "Grounded" - [American Blues Theater](#)

ARTISTIC SPECIALIZATION

[Austin Cook](#) - Piano/Conductor - "Ain't Misbehavin' " - [Porchlight Music Theatre](#)

[Matt Hawkins](#) - Fight Choreography - "Henry V" - [Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#)

Jeff Klapperich - Portrait Artist - "Dorian" - [The House Theatre of Chicago](#)

Cassy Schillo - Properties Design - "Salvage" - [First Folio Theatre](#)

Russ Walko - Puppet Design - "Avenue Q" - [Mercury Theater Chicago](#)