

# 12TH ANNUAL WILMINGTON THEATER AWARDS

2025  
Sponsorship  
Opportunities

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The Arts Council  
of Wilmington & NHC



## 12th Wilmington Theater Awards

The Arts Council of Wilmington, in association with the Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated 2025 Wilmington Theater Awards, set to take center stage on **March 26, 2025**. This dazzling celebration of Wilmington's thriving performing arts scene will be hosted by the dynamic duo Terri and Chad Hsu, both of whom bring a wealth of experience and passion to this year's event.

The Wilmington Theater Awards honor the outstanding contributions of the local theater community, celebrating the actors, directors, designers, and technicians who bring stories to life on Wilmington stages. This year's ceremony promises to be especially memorable, as Steve Vernon, artistic director of Big Dawg Productions, will be presented with the prestigious Lela Thompson Award for Enduring Contribution to Wilmington Theater.

Nominations in 20 categories, including performers from 60 eligible stage productions, will be announced on January 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagle's Dare, 420 N. 3rd St. Winners will be selected by a combination of votes from the theater companies, the nomination panel and the public.

### WTA History

The origins of the Wilmington Theater Awards date to 2011, when the late, Tony-winning actress Linda Lavin, who was living in Wilmington at that time, suggested to StarNews arts writer John Staton that the paper should turn its annual story looking back at the best plays, musicals, performances and technical achievements of the past year into a proper awards show.

Along with former StarNews features editor Jeff Hidek, Staton joined forces with three others who had expressed interest in starting a community-wide event - Wilmington actor/director/producer Justin Smith (the show's first host), musician Chiaki Ito (the show's first music director) and late Wilmington thespian Donn Ansell - to present the first awards show in 2012 at Thalian Hall.

The show has always included award presentations in performance and technical categories, as well as performances from nominated plays and musicals staged by local companies. The StarNews produced and organized the Wilmington Theater Awards from 2012 to 2020 in association with Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

After the awards were not held for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2023 the StarNews handed off the awards to the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County, whose executive director, Rhonda Bellamy, has produced it ever since. Staton and Hidek continue to serve as producers. One constant throughout the history of the awards has been the support of Thalian Hall, first under late director Tony Rivenbark, and now under director Shane Fernando.

### About the Arts Council

Celebrating our 13th year as the nucleus of Wilmington's bustling arts scene, the Arts Council of Wilmington advocates, plans, and develops the county's creative economy through grant making, market research, economic development partnerships with public and private institutions, and information and referral services to residents, visitors, and businesses.

# 12th Wilmington Theater Awards

## SPONSORSHIP EXPOSURE

Your organization will gain exposure, at minimum, in the following ways:

- **PARTICIPANTS:** 60 eligible plays and musicals, including performers and technicians
- **AUDIENCE:** Live audience of 650+ at Nominations Party & Awards Show
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:** 19,600+ Thalian Hall & Arts Council Facebook followers, 5,700+ Thalian Hall & Arts Council Instagram followers, 3,960+ Thalian Hall & Arts Council X followers
- **MARKETING:** Advertising and promotion leading up to the Awards Show (5,000+ Arts Council Newsletter)

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

<p>PRESENTING SPONSOR \$5000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Top</b> billing on Award Show promotions including step and repeat</li> <li>• <b>Top</b> logo placement with hyperlink on Arts Council website and social media</li> <li>• Opportunity to present award</li> <li>• On-stage acknowledgements during the Nominations Party and Awards Program</li> <li>• 8 show tickets with priority reserved seating</li> <li>• Back page of Awards program</li> </ul>
<p>STAGE SPONSOR \$2500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prominent logo placement on Awards Show promotions including step and repeat</li> <li>• Prominent logo placement with hyperlink on Arts Council website and social media</li> <li>• On-stage acknowledgement during the Nominations Party and Awards Program</li> <li>• 4 show tickets with reserved priority seating</li> <li>• Interior page of printed Awards program</li> </ul>
<p>ORCHESTRA SPONSOR \$1000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logo placement on Award show promotions</li> <li>• Hyperlink on Arts Council website and social media</li> <li>• 4 show tickets with reserved seating</li> <li>• Recognition from podium</li> <li>• 1/2 page in Awards program</li> </ul>
<p>BALCONY SPONSOR \$500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logo placement on Award Show promotions</li> <li>• Hyperlink on Arts Council website and social media</li> <li>• 2 show tickets with reserved seating</li> <li>• 1/4 page in Awards program</li> </ul>

# YES, I SUPPORT THE WILMINGTON THEATER AWARDS!

Thank you for sponsoring the 12th Annual Wilmington Theater Awards on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025** at the historic Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts!

## CONTACT:

Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Exactly as you would like it to appear)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Sign me up to receive important email updates

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## Select a level:

Presenting  
\$5000

Stage  
\$2500

Orchestra  
\$1000

Balcony  
\$500

## WAYS TO GIVE:

- I've enclosed a check # \_\_\_\_\_
- I donated online at [www.artswilmington.org](http://www.artswilmington.org)
- Provided credit card details

Mail Checks To:  
221 N. Front St.,  
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**SPONSORSHIP AMOUNT: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

## BY CREDIT CARD:

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