

Desert TheatreWorks 2025 Audience Awards

For excellence during the 2024–25 season

(Selected by a panel of DTW Season Subscribers. Only DTW company members in good standing are eligible.)

1. Favorite Show of the Year

Honoring the full cast and crew that delivered an unforgettable season highlight.

Nominees:

- *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- *Jersey Boys*
- *Legally Blonde the Musical*
- *The Odd Couple – Female Version*
- *The Wild Women of Winedale*

(Alphabetized by title — “The” ignored for sorting order.)

2. Outstanding Leading Actress in a Musical

Celebrating the performer who brought unmatched power, depth, and charisma to a leading role in a DTW musical.

Nominees:

- Sharon Bouchier – *Nuncrackers*
 - Emma Grandas – *Tootsie the Musical*
 - Cydney Krone – *Legally Blonde the Musical*
 - Collette “Coco Maria” Owens – *Nuncrackers*
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3. Outstanding Leading Actor in a Musical

Recognizing the actor whose leading role performance in a DTW musical displayed exceptional talent, stage presence, and heart.

Nominees:

- L.T. Cousineau – *Nuncrackers*
- Griffen Giboney – *Legally Blonde the Musical*

- Steve Giboney – *Jersey Boys*
 - Joseph Portolés – *Jersey Boys*
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4. Outstanding Leading Actor in a Play

Honoring a commanding and compelling lead performance in a DTW play.

Nominees:

- James Flaherty – *Dial M for Murder*
 - Jim Rogers – *The Diary of Anne Frank*
 - Shel Safir – *The Diary of Anne Frank*
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5. Outstanding Leading Actress in a Play

Recognizing a leading actress who delivered a captivating, emotionally rich performance in a DTW play.

Nominees:

- Melanie Blue – *The Odd Couple – Female Version*
 - Phylcia Mason – *Dial M for Murder*
 - Tess Phillips – *The Diary of Anne Frank*
 - Daniela Ryan – *The Odd Couple – Female Version*
 - Alexana Thomas – *The Wild Women of Winedale*
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6. Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical

Celebrating the performer whose supporting role brought humor, energy, and heart to a DTW musical production.

Nominees:

- Willie Eide – *Tootsie the Musical*
 - Isaac Gaeta-Tollette – *Jersey Boys*
 - Julian Perez – *Legally Blonde the Musical*
 - Ben Schwimmer – *Tootsie the Musical*
 - Herb Schultz – *Tootsie the Musical*
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7. Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical

Honoring a supporting actress whose performance elevated her musical through presence, timing, and unforgettable character work.

Nominees:

- Jana Baumann – *Nuncrackers*
 - Taylor Burns – *Tootsie the Musical*
 - Violet Feath – *Jersey Boys*
 - Jana Giboney – *Legally Blonde the Musical*
 - Nicole Kennedy – *Legally Blonde the Musical*
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8. Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play

Recognizing a performer whose supporting role in a DTW play made a lasting impact through nuance and depth.

Nominees:

- Kevin Hayles – *The Odd Couple – Female Version*
 - Jim Rogers – *Dial M for Murder*
 - Shel Safir – *Dial M for Murder*
 - Ben Schwimmer – *The Diary of Anne Frank*
 - Eddie Stephens – *The Odd Couple – Female Version*
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9. Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play

Celebrating a performer whose supporting role enriched her play with depth, warmth, and authenticity.

Nominees:

- Adah Burgen – *The Diary of Anne Frank*
 - Christine Gold – *The Diary of Anne Frank*
 - Angela Landis – *Dial M for Murder*
 - Valerie McClure – *The Odd Couple – Female Version*
 - Collette “Coco Maria” Owens – *The Wild Women of Winedale*
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10. Breakthrough Performance Award

For a DTW artist who made a major leap forward this season, showing exceptional growth and artistry.

Nominees:

- Renée Bourgeau – *The Odd Couple – Female Version*
- Jeremiah Garcia – *Legally Blonde the Musical*

- Bonny Link – *Tootsie the Musical*
 - Julian Perez – *Jersey Boys*
 - Jessica Schuler – *Legally Blonde the Musical*
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11. Fan Favorite Performer of the Year

Chosen for their unforgettable performances, audience connection, and enthusiasm on and off the stage.

Nominees:

- Bonny Link
 - Joseph Portolés
 - Tess Phillips
 - Daniela Ryan
 - Shel Safir
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12. Outstanding Technical or Creative Achievement

Celebrating outstanding contributions in direction, choreography, or design that defined the artistry of DTW's 2024–25 season.

Nominees:

- J. Daniel Herring – *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Director)
 - Georgina “Geo” Medina – *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Director)
 - Anthony Nannini – *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Choreographer)
 - Raul Valenzuela – *Tootsie the Musical* (Choreographer)
 - Daniela Ryan – *Jersey Boys* (Director)
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DTW Special Program Honors

(Honorees elected by DTW Staff and selected audience members.)

Outstanding ArtWorks Performance

Honoring a standout performance (actor or director) in the ArtWorks Play Reading Series.

Honorees:

- June August – *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*

- Stephen Blackwell – *Straight White Men*
 - Violet Feath – *Six Years Old*
 - Shirley LeMaster – *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*
 - Jason Mannino – *Straight White Men*
 - Hal O’Connell – *Gladys in Wonderland*
 - Collette “Coco Maria” Owens – *Six Years Old*
 - Eddie Stephens – *American Moor*
 - Alden West – *Gladys in Wonderland*
 - Yo Younger – *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*
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Outstanding KidsWorks Participants (Grades 2–4)

Recognizing excellence, growth, and spirit in DTW’s youth theatre program for younger students.

Honorees:

- Samuel Contreras
 - Lazaro Flores
 - Amelie Gonzalez
 - Victoria (Vicky) Guerrero
 - Niabelle James
 - Marion Jackson
 - Cooper Mattson
 - Anaiyah Montemayor
 - Madisyn Strange
 - Amaris Wiley
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Outstanding KidsWorks Participants (Grades 5–8)

Recognizing excellence, leadership, and artistry among DTW’s middle school performers.

Honorees:

- Calisi Avalos
- Emily Corson
- Amelie Fajardo
- Gemma Eppey
- Charles Humphrey
- Cesar Laporte-Aguilar
- Kailey Lopez
- Ryleigh Hicks
- Emma Solis Holguin
- Symphony Solomon

Special Company Awards

(Selected by DTW Leadership and Staff)

DTW Spirit Award

For positivity, teamwork, and community spirit.

Winner: Joanne Anderson

Volunteer of the Year

Honoring exceptional front-of-house or backstage dedication.

Winner: Brad Albion

DTW Champion Award

For a devoted supporter whose enthusiasm, advocacy, and generosity help our theatre thrive both onstage and off.

Winner: Herb Schultz

Behind-the-Scenes Hero

Recognizing technical or production excellence.

Winners: Raul Valenzuela and Georgina “Geo” Medina

DTW Legacy Award

Celebrating long-term dedication and artistry at Desert TheatreWorks.

Winner: Hal O’Connell