



## NALEDI THEATRE AWARDS

### ABOUT

The Naledi Theatre Awards have been in existence for 14 years and are recognised as the Premier Awards event on the Gauteng Theatre Calendar. Its mission is to recognize and reward excellence in the Performing Arts, to raise the profile of Live Theatre and to create awareness of the abundant talent alive and well on our SA stages. The Naledi Theatre Awards has honoured 65 Lifetime Achievers: veteran artistes, technicians, and administrators who have dedicated their lives to SA Theatre, and also pays tribute to people in the Arts who have taken their final bows during the year under review. The Naledi Theatre Awards covers all mainstream professional productions from the period 1 January to 31 December of the previous year and the Naledi Judges typically evaluate over 100 productions in approximately 35 categories.

### PURPOSE

To recognise and reward excellence in South African professional Live Theatre and the Performing Arts, specifically in the greater Johannesburg-area, as well as Pretoria.

### AIMS

- To raise the profile of South African Theatre.
- To stage a World class Ceremony annually including entertainment from productions staged during the year under review.
- To become branded as the most respected award system for Live Theatre in South Africa.

T 010 900 4581 • M 082 900 7527 • 3, 8th Avenue, Parktown North, 2193 • Box 1828, Saxonwold, 2132 • E [info@naleditheatreawards.org.za](mailto:info@naleditheatreawards.org.za)  
Section 18(A) NPO • Reg No. 2005 04345608

[www.naleditheatreawards.com](http://www.naleditheatreawards.com)

Patron Dr John Kani • CEO Dawn Lindberg • Executive Director Lihan Pretorius • Board of Directors Kgomotso Christopher (Chair),  
Maishe Maponya (Deputy Chair), Sello Maake Ka Ncube (Deputy Chair), Renos Spanoudes, Thuli Sithole, Hemant Vanmali, Des Lindberg (Technical), Anthony Chait (Consultant)

- To hold a mirror to live theatre in SA and reflect what is staged on our Professional stages during each calendar year.
- To sustain a national television media partner and thereby further popularize the Performing Arts Industry to a wider cross section of the population.
- To build new audiences of the future who will become regular theatre-goers.
- To recognize and reward young emerging producers and performers.
- To identify and secure partners for Funding and Sponsorship in order to sustain and grow the Naledi Theatre Awards in all these spheres

### **COMPOSITION OF THE JUDGING PANELS (THE PANELS)**

The Naledi Panels of Judges consist of informed and regular theatre goers, academics, theatre practitioners and members of the media covering the arts in the greater Johannesburg-area, as well as Pretoria.

Panel members are appointed by and serve at the discretion of the Naledi Executive, though it may elect to consult existing panel- or board members on the appointment of new panel members. The appointment of panel members is done with due regard to the requirement for expertise coupled with diversity in respect of race, gender and language.

In order to recognise the diverse and growing nature of theatre in SA, Naledi will from 2019 consist of the following judging panels:

- Main, incl. Musicals and Plays
- Musical Theatre - Specialised
- Plays - Specialised
- Theatre for Young Audiences (in association with Assitej SA)
- Contemporary Dance- and Physical Theatre
- Independent Theatre and Theatre in an African Language
- Student Theatre

The abovementioned panels will be reviewed annually by the Executive, subject to a probation period of six (6) months in respect of all newly appointed judges. It is a requirement that a judge needs to have served on any additional or specialised panel for at least a year before he/she can be considered to be appointed to the Main Panel of Judges.



## **POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PANEL**

All decisions of the panel concerning eligibility for the awards and other matters relating to the administration shall be final, binding and conclusive for all purposes.

All votes of the panel shall be taken by secret ballot, with only those members of the panel present at the nominations- and voting meetings entitled to vote.

### **Panel members' attendance of eligible productions**

The producer and/or theatre must invite, in a timely manner (no later than 2 weeks in advance) and free of charge, each panel member to attend a performance of an eligible production. Apart from meeting the eligibility criteria, set out below, only shows where the panel have been invited to explicitly shall be eligible.

Invitations must be extended by way of e-mail, in accordance with the regularly updated address lists provided to the respective theatres and producers by Naledi's dedicated administrator, alternatively to the dedicated Naledi administrator for distribution to the relevant panel at [info@naleditheatreawards.org.za](mailto:info@naleditheatreawards.org.za).

Panel members who cannot attend the opening or media night of a particular production, upon invitation, are expected to make alternative arrangements with the producer/theatre/publicist concerned to view the production.

Panel members may be affiliated to or have a direct interest in any of the eligible productions, including participation in performances, either in a technical or performance-related capacity. Panel members may also be involved in any public relations, marketing, management, administrative or technical positions where judging takes place. Such an occurrence, as stated above, will not disqualify a panel member or production, but will necessarily lead to the panel member recusing himself or herself of voting in such respective categories in which the production/s in question are eligible.



Panel members are required to see at least 80% of all eligible productions in a judging cycle and to verify such attendance by way of statement of performance before proceeding to vote and/or take part in the nomination process, such statement being subject to verification by Naledi's appointed auditors.

Panel members may not receive any financial benefits or gifts for their attendance other than one pair of complimentary tickets, a programme and refreshments as part of the standard opening night hospitality or otherwise.

## **ELIGIBILITY OF PRODUCTIONS**

### **Judging cycle or term**

Between 1 January and 31 December of any given year, the Naledi Theatre Awards Panel considers all productions that are, in the judgment of the panel, professional live theatrical productions that officially open in an agreed, eligible theatre venue in and around Johannesburg and Pretoria.

### **Criteria for Judging and Eligibility in respect of Main Categories (Musicals and Plays):**

The production should be staged during the year under review, meeting the sufficient number of performances; or after a break of a minimum period of 5 years.

A period of at least five (5) years must elapse for a re-staging of a particular production to be considered. The writers, directors, cast, technical team or any other person involved in the re-staging of a production will not be eligible for consideration if they had been Naledi Theatre Award winners in the previous run.

Re-staging of a particular production may be considered earlier than five years if there has been a significant change in (a) language, or (b) staging of a new production.



The Production needs to be fully professional (ie: producer, director and performers). Student productions, Dance and Physical Theatre, Theatre for Young Audiences and Independent Theatre and Theatre in an Indigenous African Language, which are provided for separately, might also be eligible in the main awards categories, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.

The production needs to be staged in a recognised main-stream theatre in Gauteng (Johannesburg- and Pretoria area).

The production needs to have been staged for a minimum of two (2) weeks; or eight (8) performances during the year under review in order to qualify in the main awards categories in the musical theatre- and play genres.

Professional theatre productions staged as part of local arts festivals, etc. are only eligible if they meet all other criteria, including the requirement for at least eight (8) performances in the year under review, with a minimum of four (4) performances in Gauteng.

The Producers and cast need to be South African. In the case of foreign creatives and/or cast, the relevant creative/performer/artist must be brought to SA especially for the role being played; such production being rehearsed and staged in SA.

In order to be eligible, a performer must perform the role on the production's opening night. If one or more other actors or actresses have equal billing with an actor or actress who performed on the opening night, additional tickets should be made available to members of the panel for the purpose of judging the performance of each of these performers.

A performer who is nominated in the category "Best Performance in a Solo Production: Male / Female" will not be eligible for consideration in the categories of "Best Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role" or "Best Performance by an Actress in a Lead Role", supporting roles included. This shall be applicable to performers in both the musical theatre- and play genres.



**Criteria for Judging and Eligibility in respect of additional Categories (Contemporary Dance and Physical Theatre; Student Theatre; and Independent Theatre and Theatre in an African Language):**

In addition to and varied from the above, the following amended criteria shall apply:

The production needs to be staged in an easily accessible theatre or performance venue in Gauteng (Johannesburg- and Pretoria area).

The production needs to have been staged for a minimum of eight (8) performances during the year under review in order to qualify in the additional awards categories.

Student Productions (referring only to productions by tertiary institutions) are only eligible under the Student Theatre categories, whether they utilize certain professionals or not.

**Criteria for Judging and Eligibility in respect of Theatre for Young Audiences (supported by ASSITEJ SA):**

Such production should be a Professional production, which include a professional creative team and a significant proportion of professional performers.

These productions must have been performed at least eight (8) times in the year under review in festivals, theatres, theatres or non-theatre spaces.

Productions of this nature which were formerly not eligible for an award, since they were touring productions or being showcased at festivals, rather than in theatre spaces, are now given additional formal showcases where they can be judged by the Naledi and ASSITEJ judges over a concentrated period of time. These productions need not have performed eight (8) times prior to the showcase, but must perform eight (8) times in the year under review within the geographical region of the Naledi Theatre Awards.

Only productions made especially for a South African audience are considered, and must include significant South African involvement. Kindly note, however, that the content need not be South African. This criterion is to distinguish work made by South Africans from the work that tours South



Africa by international companies, often under an ASSITEJ banner. Co-productions between South African artists and international artists would be considered.

Productions in this category should specifically target children or young people (aged 0 -13) as audience and should be theatre productions of the highest artistic quality.

### **NALEDI THEATRE AWARDS GENERAL:**

#### **Genres Included:**

- Drama (including productions of setworks for schools)
- Comedy / Farce
- One-Person / Solo Performance Show
- Musical Theatre
- Theatre for Children and Young Audiences (in association with ASSITEJ SA)
- Contemporary Dance and Physical Theatre
- Independent Theatre and Theatre in an African Language
- Student Theatre

#### **Genres Excluded:**

- Stand-up Comedy / Improvisation
- Opera
- Ballet
- Tribute Shows
- Music concerts, whether classical or secular

#### **No award made**

The panel may agree to withhold the presentation of an award in any particular category, for whichever reason. Substantiation for its decision will be formally recorded in the minutes of the nomination meeting and may be included in the briefing to the media on the list of nominees.

#### **Conflict of interest**

If any panel member is related to or has a relationship (friendship and/or business excluded) with any of the nominees, they are required to declare such interest. Such a panel member will be recused and not participate in any discussion on or vote for that particular artist or production, failing which such artist or production will automatically be disqualified.



## AWARD CATEGORIES

Naledi Theatre Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Theatre Sound Design
- Theatre Lighting (LX) design
- Theatre Set design
- Theatre Costume Design
- Animation / AV design
- Performance in Production for Young Audiences (Male or Female)
- Production for Children and Young Audiences
- Breakthrough Performance: Male/Female
- Performance in a Student Theatre Production: Male or Female
- Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role/Cameo (Play)
- Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role/Cameo (Play)
- Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role/Cameo (Musical)
- Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role/Cameo (Musical)
- Musical Direction
- Musical score/arrangements
- Original Choreography in a Musical/Play
- Cutting Edge Production
- Ensemble Performance (Musical or Play)
- Performance by an Actress in a Lead Role (Play)
- Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role (Play)
- Performance in a Solo Production: Male / Female
- Performance by an Actress in a Lead Role (Musical)
- Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role (Musical)
- Contemporary Dance or Physical Theatre Production
- Student Theatre Production
- Production in Independent Theatre and Theatre in an African Language
- Director: Play
- Director: Musical
- Production of a Play
- Best New South African Script
- Production of a Musical



The following awards will be regarded as special awards, decided on and approved by the Executive and Board of the Naledi Theatre Awards:

- World Impact Award
- Life Time Achievement Awards
- Innovation in Theatre Award (for outstanding contribution to South African Theatre)
- Lesedi Spirit of Courage Award

Due to the ever-evolving nature of the SA theatre industry, this document will be reviewed on an annual basis and is subject to change. The most recent version will appear on the Naledi Theatre Awards website, being [www.naleditheatreawards.com](http://www.naleditheatreawards.com).

*This document was drafted by Lihan Pretorius, Executive Director (October/November 2018).*

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