



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 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 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.
- To celebrate the contribution of theatre makers in building our theatre industry across all professional platforms during each calendar year.

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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 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, performers, designers, creatives and theatre makers.
- To identify and secure partners for Funding and Sponsorship in order to sustain and grow the Naledi Theatre Awards in all these spheres.
- To recognise the multi-lingual and multi-modal forms of theatre in this country, and as such, to promote productions in all South African languages and celebrate the diversity of South African stories.

COMPOSITION OF THE JUDGING 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, language and level of expertise.

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

- Plays / Solo Performances
- Musical Theatre
- Theatre for Children and Young Audiences (supported by ASSITEJ SA)
- Contemporary Dance- and Physical Theatre
- Independent- / Fringe Theatre
- Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre

The abovementioned panels will be reviewed annually by the Executive, subject to a probation or exploration period of six (6) months in respect of all newly appointed judges and panels. Furthermore, a convenor shall be appointed for each respective panel, in order to attend to minor



administrative and logistical duties, to be the judges' point of call and in order to communicate effectively with the Executive and/or Board of Naledi.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PANEL(S)

All decisions of the panel(s) concerning eligibility for the awards and other matters relating to the administration shall be final, binding and conclusive for all purposes. Such decisions shall be ratified by the Executive of Naledi, if required.

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

Invitations should 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; OR, alternatively, to the dedicated Naledi administrator for distribution to the relevant panel at 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 on an alternate date within the run.

Panel members are permitted to 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 him- or herself of voting for production/s in which they are involved.

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 productions attended (together with sufficient proof of attendance, being a ticket and programme) 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 a 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, live theatrical productions that conforms to the eligibility criteria, as set out in this document.

Criteria for Judging and Eligibility in respect of Primary Categories, being Musical Theatre and Plays:

The production should be staged for the first time during the year under review, meeting the sufficient number of performances (as set out below).

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 debut or 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.



Productions need to be fully professional (ie: producer, director and performers) in order to be considered in the primary awards categories. Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre, Contemporary Dance and Physical Theatre, Theatre for Children and Young Audiences and Independent Theatre / Fringe Theatre, which are considered for their own awards, might also be eligible in the primary awards categories, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.

Productions need to be staged in a recognised “main-stream” theatre / performance venue in Gauteng (Johannesburg- and Pretoria area).

The production needs to have been staged for a minimum of two (2) weeks; or ten (10) performances during the year under review in order to qualify in the primary awards categories (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 ten (10) 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”. This shall be applicable to performers in both the musical theatre- and play genres.



Criteria for Judging and Eligibility in respect of categories of Contemporary Dance and Physical Theatre; Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre; and Independent- / Fringe Theatre:

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

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

The production needs to have been staged for a required minimum number of performances during the year under review in order to qualify in these awards categories, which are as follows:

Contemporary Dance and Physical Theatre – Six (6) performances

Independent- / Fringe Theatre – Four (4) performances

Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre – Six (6) performances

Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre Productions are only eligible under the Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre category, 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 the Theatre for Children and Young Audiences category should specifically target children or young people (aged 0 - 13) / (14 – 17) as audience.

NALEDI THEATRE AWARDS - GENERAL:

Genres Included:

- Drama / Plays / Comedy / Farce (including productions of setworks for schools)
- One-Person / Solo Performance Shows
- Musical Theatre
- Theatre for Children and Young Audiences (0 – 13) / (14 – 17)
- Contemporary Dance and Physical Theatre
- Independent- / Fringe Theatre
- Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre

Genres Excluded:

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

*****Note: A defining factor of eligibility of a production shall be that it shall contain certain production- or theatrical elements, such as theme, concept and narrative. In the premise, as example, stand-up comedy will be excluded, as opposed to the inclusion of a stand-up comedian creating and performing (in) a production, as set out above.***



No award made

The panel may agree to withhold the presentation of an award in any particular category, for whatever 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 or disclose 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 Children and Young Audiences (Male or Female)
- Production for Children and Young Audiences (0 – 13) / (14 – 17)
- Breakthrough Performance: Male/Female
- Performance in a Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre Production: Male or Female
- Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role/Cameo (Play)
- Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role/Cameo (Play)
- Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role/Cameo (Musical)
- Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role/Cameo (Musical)
- Musical Direction
- Musical score/arrangements
- Original Choreography in a Musical/Play
- Ensemble Performance (Musical or Play)
- Performance by a Female Actor in a Lead Role (Play)
- Performance by a Male Actor in a Lead Role (Play)
- Performance in a Solo Production: Male / Female



- Performance by a Female Actor in a Lead Role (Musical)
- Performance by a Male Actor in a Lead Role (Musical)
- Contemporary Dance or Physical Theatre Production
- Tertiary Student- / Incubator Theatre Production
- Independent- / Fringe Theatre Production
- Director: Play
- Director: Musical
- Best New South African Script
- Production of a Play
- 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.

This document was compiled by Lihan Pretorius, Executive Director, recognizing the contribution by the CEO, Chairman of the Judging Panel and various Naledi judges (December 2018).

