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TONY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR

BARTLETT SHER

TO RECEIVE THE 2026 SDC FOUNDATION

“MR. ABBOTT” AWARD

**SHER’S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO BROADWAY
WILL BE CELEBRATED AT THE FOUNDATION’S GALA
ON MARCH 23, 2026,
AT GOTHAM HALL IN NEW YORK**

**IDA COLE
JOSEPH HAJ
LATANYA RICHARDSON JACKSON
SIR HOWARD PANTER
MARC PLATT
AND
JEFFREY RICHARDS
WILL SERVE AS CO-CHAIRS**



*Photo credit: Matthew Murphy
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**New York, NY (October 22, 2025) – Stage Directors and Choreographers
Foundation (SDCF), the not-for-profit foundation of Stage Directors and**

Choreographers Society (SDC), announces that acclaimed director **Bartlett Sher** will be honored with SDCF's "Mr. Abbott" Award, given to a director or choreographer in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Broadway. The award will be presented at the Foundation's Gala on Monday, March 23, 2026, at Gotham Hall in New York City.

Chairing the "Mr. Abbott" Award Committee are Lincoln Center Theater Board Member **Ida Cole**; **Joseph Haj**, Artistic Director of the Guthrie Theater; actor and director **LaTanya Richardson Jackson**; producer **Sir Howard Panter**; producer **Marc Platt**; and producer **Jeffrey Richards**. Proceeds from the Gala will benefit the programs of SDCF.

The New York Times has praised Sher as "one of the most original and exciting directors, not only in the American theater but also in the international world of opera." Nominated for the Tony Award nine times, he took home the prize for his 2008 revival of *South Pacific* for Lincoln Center Theater, where he was recently named Executive Producer. His other Broadway credits, all of which were produced by Lincoln Center Theater, include *The Light in the Piazza*, which premiered at Intiman Theatre in Seattle; revivals of *The King and I* and *My Fair Lady*; the Tony-winning Best Play, *Oslo* by J.T. Rogers; and Aaron Sorkin's adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which became the best-selling American play in Broadway history. In the world of opera, he has directed both classics and new work, most recently the world premiere of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* for the Met in their 2025-2026 season.

Says Tribute Producer Leigh Silverman, a member of the SDC Executive Board, "As an artist, Bart has forged an iconic career, one deserving of our deepest admiration; however, it's his career-spanning dedication to mentorship that fully embodies the mission of SDC Foundation and makes him an ideal recipient for this prestigious honor. His leadership has spanned impressive tenures at Intiman Theatre and Lincoln Center Theater, all while creating work spanning across the country and on Broadway. We look forward to celebrating the magnitude of his impressive achievements and his steady commitment to uplifting the next generation of directors."

Gala Co-Chair Joseph Haj says, "Bart and I met when we were young artists working at the Guthrie. We were both meaningfully influenced by Garland Wright, Robert Woodruff, and others; he as a director, I (in those days) as an actor. Ours is an apprenticeship profession, and Bart has passed on those gifts. He is an artist of great significance who is sufficiently confident in his talent that he willingly shares what he knows with others. It's rare and it's generous and I am among many who are grateful for it. It's a joy now to see him recognized with the "Mr. Abbott" Award in recognition of his accomplishments."

The "Mr. Abbott" Award, presented by SDCF on behalf of directors and choreographers to one of their peers, is named in honor of the late renowned director George Abbott. Past recipients include last year's honoree, Christopher Ashley, and Michael Bennett, Arvin Brown, Vinnette Carroll, Graciela Daniele, Gordon Davidson, Agnes de Mille, Zelda Fichandler, Cy Feuer, Bob Fosse, Peter Gennaro, Garson Kanin, James Lapine, Kenny Leon, Gillian Lynne, Joe Mantello, Kathleen & Rob Marshall, Marshall W. Mason, Lynne Meadow, Jerry Mitchell, Mike Nichols, Trevor Nunn, Jack O'Brien, Harold Prince, Lloyd Richards, Donald Saddler, Gene Saks, Andrei Serban, Susan Stroman, Daniel Sullivan, Julie Taymor, Tommy Tune, George C. Wolfe, Jerry Zaks, as well as Victoria Traube, the first-ever recipient of a Special "Mr. Abbott" Award.

About BARTLETT SHER

Bartlett Sher is a Tony Award winner who has been described by *The New York Times* as one of America's "most original and exciting directors." His work on Broadway and in the West End includes *Pictures from Home*, *My Fair Lady*, the 2017 Tony-winning Best Play *Oslo*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The King and I*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Golden Boy*, *Women on the Verge...*, August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *South Pacific*, *Awake and Sing!*, and *The Light in the Piazza*. He was the Resident Director at Lincoln Center Theater from 2008-2024, where he directed *Lerner & Loewe's Camelot*, *Corruption*, and *McNeal*. Bart has also directed several operas, including *Rigoletto* (Berlin, Metropolitan Opera); *Roméo et Juliette* (Metropolitan Opera, Salzburg, Milan, Chicago); *Faust* (Baden Baden); *Two Boys* (ENO, Metropolitan Opera); *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Baden Baden, Metropolitan Opera); *Otello*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *Le Comte Ory*, *L'Elisir d'Amore* (Metropolitan Opera); and *Mourning Becomes Electra* (Seattle Opera, City Opera). He directed the world premiere of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* for the Met in their 2025-2026 season. His film of *Oslo* (HBO, 2021) was nominated for two Emmy Awards and won a Critics Choice Award. He recently mounted a revival of *Kiss Me, Kate* at London's Barbican Centre, the original musical *Millions*, and this summer, opened the brand-new *Dolly: A True Original Musical* in Nashville. His upcoming work includes a stage adaptation of the movie musical *La La Land*. Bart was recently named the Executive Producer of Lincoln Center Theater.

About Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation

Founded in 1965, **Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF)** celebrates, develops, and supports professional stage directors and choreographers throughout every phase of their careers. SDCF works to build a theatrical community that reflects the cultural, racial, and gender diversity of our nation by creating opportunities for artists of all backgrounds to bring their full, authentic selves to their work as creative leaders in the theatre. SDCF's goals are to provide opportunities to practice the crafts of directing and choreography; to gather and disseminate craft and career information; to promote the profession to emerging talent; to provide opportunities for exchange of knowledge among directors and choreographers; to increase the awareness of the value of directors' and choreographers' work; and to convene around issues affecting theatre artists. sdcfoundation.org

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