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TONY AWARD WINNERS

**DANNY BURSTEIN
AND
RUTHIE ANN MILES
TO CO-HOST THE
2026 SDC FOUNDATION “MR. ABBOTT” AWARD
TRIBUTE TO DIRECTOR
BARTLETT SHER**

**TRIBUTE SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS
WILL INCLUDE
ADAM GUETTEL
CELIA KEENAN-BOLGER
AND
STEVEN PASQUALE**

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



*Photo credit: Matthew Murphy
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New York, NY (January 29, 2026) – Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF), the not-for-profit foundation of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), announces that Tony Award-winners **Danny Burstein** (*Marjorie Prime, Gypsy, Moulin Rouge!*) and **Ruthie Ann Miles** (*Sweeney Todd, The King and I, "The Americans"*) will co-host SDCF's "Mr. Abbott" Award Gala celebrating **Bartlett Sher** on Monday, March 23, 2026, at Gotham Hall in New York City.

The event will also include remarks from Tony Award winners **Adam Guettel** (*The Light in the Piazza, Floyd Collins*) and **Celia Keenan-Bolger** (*To Kill a Mockingbird, The Gilded Age*). **Steven Pasquale** (*Here We Are, "Rescue Me"*) will perform from *The Bridges of Madison County*, for which he was nominated for the Tony Award. Additional performers and speakers will be announced at a later date.

The writer for the event is Tony winner **J.T. Rogers**. Roundabout Theatre Resident Director **Miranda Haymon** will direct. The producer is two-time Tony nominee and SDCF President **Leigh Silverman**.

The evening's festivities will include dinner and open bar along with the tribute performance. For more information on the evening, please visit sdcfoundation.org or call 646.524.2226.

Single tickets are available now at [2026 "Mr. Abbott" Award - Gala Ticket](#). Table package options are available at [2026 "Mr. Abbott" Award - Table Packages](#).

Platinum sponsors for the 2026 "Mr. Abbott" Award are Seattle Friends and Trafalgar Entertainment. Gold sponsors are Ida Cole; Kewsong Lee, Lincoln Center Theater Board Chairman; and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. Host Committee sponsors are ATG Entertainment, LaTanya Richardson Jackson & Samuel L. Jackson, Jerry Mitchell, Marc Platt Productions, Susan Stroman, Victoria Traube, Temple University, and Barbara Whitman Productions.

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. Proceeds from the Gala will benefit the programs of SDCF.

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**.

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 in New York and the West End includes *McNeal, Corruption, Lerner & Lowe's Camelot, Pictures from Home, To Kill a Mockingbird, My Fair Lady*, the 2017 Tony-winning Best Play *Oslo, Fiddler on the Roof, The King & I, The Bridges of Madison County, Golden Boy, Women on the Verge..., Joe Turner's Come and Gone, South Pacific, Awake and Sing!*, and *The Light in the Piazza*. He was recently named the Executive Producer of Lincoln Center Theater, where he previously served as resident director from 2008-2024. Bart has also directed several operas, including *Intimate Apparel* (Lincoln Center Theater); *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 *Oslo* (HBO, 2021) was nominated for two Emmy Awards and won a Critics Choice Award. Recent projects include a revival of *Kiss Me, Kate* at London's Barbican Centre, the original musical *Millions*, and the brand-new *Dolly: A True Original Musical* in Nashville. His upcoming work includes a stage adaptation of the movie-musical *La La Land*.

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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