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**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS FOUNDATION (SDCF)
ANNOUNCES SUNNIE ERASO AND ROMAN SANCHEZ AS
2026 ABE BURROWS AWARD FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTORS AWARDEES**

DIEGO ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ AND RACHEL DICKSON SELECTED AS FINALISTS

(May 1, 2026 – New York, NY) Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF), the not-for-profit foundation of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), today announced the recipients of this year's Abe Burrows Award for Assistant Directors. Established by the James and Deborah Burrows Foundation and supported by a generous matching contribution from Thomas Kail, the award will be given to two early-career directors, Sunnie Eraso and Roman Sanchez, each of whom will receive an unrestricted \$10,000 award. The committee also selected Diego Alejandro Gonzales and Rachel Dickson as this year's finalist. The Abe Burrows Award is given annually to a director or director/choreographer who is working as an assistant director. The award will allow both recipients to fully focus on their work as an assistant director to an SDC Member between August 2026 and December 2027.

The award honors Abe Burrows, a Tony Award-winning director who cared deeply about fostering and supporting the next generation of directors. As a director and writer, Burrows is known for his work on *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, for which he won Tony Awards for Best Director, Best Book, and Best Musical, as well as the Pulitzer Prize with his collaborator Frank Loesser. His additional Broadway credits include *Guys and Dolls* and *Can-Can*.

The Abe Burrows Award for Assistant Directors Selection Committee was comprised of director and choreographer peers including Sammi Cannold, Nelson T. Eusebio III, Victor Malana Maog, Hannah Ryan, and Hannah Wolf.

You can read more about the awardee and finalists here:

About the awardees:

SUNNIE ERASO is a Colombian/Chinese/American director and performer based in Chicago who spends her days caring a *lot* about new work development and puppets. Directing credits include *GLORY* (Foaming @ the Mouth), *Flatland* (Improv Playhouse), *Spring Awakening* (Northwestern), and assisting at Lookingglass Theatre Company, Drury Lane, and Marriott Theatre. Original projects include *Voyager*, an interactive toy theatre piece crafted within a cardboard spaceship, and *STAR*, a puppet performance piece about Gwen Stefani and Asian

femininity, co-created with Kristen Waagner. Elsewhere, she has supported new musical development at Northwestern's American Music Theatre Project and the O'Neill; developed new plays with Goodman New Stages, Lookingglass, and Jackalope as a performer; and regularly delights in making creatures and things out of cardboard in her living room. sunnieeraso.com.

Roman Sanchez is a theatre director whose work includes *The Grown-Ups* (Sunstone Theatre), *Dance Nation* and *Hot & Cold Showers: An Evening of Grand Guignol* (Yale Cabaret), *Yet Another Non-Profit Christmas Carol* (Longshadr Productions), *Transitions* (Linfield University) *Doubt* (Lime Arts Productions), and *Radioman* (Dell'Arte International), among others. He is a recipient of the Princess Grace Honoraria, Yale's Dexter Wood Luke Prize, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Arts Impact Award, and the Herb Alpert Emerging Young Artist Award. MFA David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. SDC Associate Member. romansanchez001.com

About Abe Burrows

Born December 18, 1910 in New York City, Abe Burrows graduated from New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn and later attended both City College and New York University. His career in radio and television writing began with *This Is New York* (1938), followed by the *Rudy Vallee Program* (1940), *Duffy's Tavern* (1940-1945), and the *Abe Burrows' Show* (1946-1947). Burrows then turned to writing for the stage. Burrows wrote, doctored, or directed such shows as *Guys and Dolls* (1950); *Make a Wish* (1951); *Two on the Aisle* (1951); *Three Wishes for Jamie* (1952); *Can-Can* (1953); *Silk Stockings* (1955); *Say, Darling* (1958); *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (1961); *Cactus Flower* (1965); *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1966); *Forty Carats* (1970); *Good News* (1974 Revival); *Four on a Garden* (1971); and many others. With his collaborator Frank Loesser, Burrows won a Pulitzer Prize for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, he won four Tony Awards. Burrows died on May 17, 1985.

About SDCF

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. www.sdcfoundation.org.

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