

JOE A. CALLAWAY AWARD COMMITTEE CHARGE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Joe A. Callaway Awards recognize excellence in the arts of stage direction and choreography in a given New York City Off-Broadway season.

The Awards selection committee, composed of directors and choreographers, seeks exceptional work, which, in its sensitivity, imagination, and clarity of vision, exemplifies mastery of the craft of theatrical storytelling. The Callaway Awards brings the work of its recipients to the attention of other theatre-makers and the public in order to heighten awareness of the essential contribution directors and choreographers make to the advancement of the art form.

CONSIDERATIONS

The committee aims to recognize work that exhibits both inspired artistry and meticulous craft with the following considerations:

For Directing

- Overall artistic vision
- Textual interpretation
- Cohesive design values
- Skill with actors/orchestration of performances
- Pace, flow, movement, clarity of storytelling

For Choreography:

- Vocabulary - steps, content, the actual moves that the actors are doing
- Choreographic design - composition and broader shapes that these steps add up to
- Integration of the choreography into the whole
- Clarity of storytelling

AWARD ELIGIBILITY

Eligible directors and choreographers are SDC Members in good standing working under Off-Broadway and ANTC contracts, or on LORT productions in NYC that are not eligible for the Tony Award. Theatres who are contracting directors or choreographers on IPAs which reference Off-Broadway, ANTC, or LORT CBAs or IPAs at theatres in NYC within the seating capacity of 499 or less. Eligible productions must run for 4 weeks or longer.

COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

To serve on the Joe A. Callaway Awards Committee, members must have current or prior professional experience working in the directing and/or choreographing field.

This committee should possess a range of expertise, with the goal of obtaining a broad diversity of viewpoints and experience in any given year.

Members can sit on the committee for a three-year term with a minimum of one year between terms. This clause may be amended by the SDCF Foundation Director or Committee Chair for strategic reasons. All committee members will be checked in with yearly, to confirm they want to continue their tenure.

If, for any reason, a member can no longer serve, that member shall make all best efforts to alert SDCF and committee leadership in a timely manner.

There shall be no fewer than seven and no more than 12 on the committee in any given season. Committee members may not be eligible for the award while serving on the committee.

Committee Eligibility:

- Be an SDC Member in good standing for a minimum period of two (2) years. This does not include Associate Members but does include Emeritus Members.
- Possess knowledge of the work of the artists and companies of the New York City theatrical community.
- Make every effort to remain impartial and unbiased when viewing, evaluating, and participating in the selection of finalists and winner(s).
- Promise confidentiality in all meetings, discussions, and scoring.
- Attend at least 50% of shows deemed eligible in the theatrical season. There are typically around 70 shows to see in a season. Exceptions may be made in instances of illness or professional endeavors. (Note: some shows will offer 2 tickets, and some will offer 1 ticket.)
- Attend all meetings on the schedule outlined in advance, either in person or electronically.
- Understand this is a volunteer committee and that members are responsible for travel to and from the theatre; transportation will not be reimbursed.

Meetings: Shall take place either in the SDC office or virtually four times each season, and once to determine the winners and honorees.

Additionally:

- Any committee member who does not see 50% of eligible productions will have their committee term brought to review by SDCF.
- A member cannot vote on any production they have not seen.
- Please note that the 2026-2027 season for the Callaway committee starts Sept 1, 2026

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

1. SDCF will make every best effort to recruit and ensure a diverse and inclusive committee.
2. Leadership positions are appointed by the SDCF Board with recommendations from SDCF staff and are for three (3) year terms.
3. Committee Leadership is: Chair
4. The roles of the leadership positions are defined as such:
 - Chair: Moderates committee discussions; liaises with SDCF staff on behalf of committee