



DAILY ARTS

The Critics Table's Grand Tales The winners of the 2018-19 Austin Critics Table Awards

BY ROBERT FAIRES, 12:40PM, TUE. JUN. 4, 2019

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Anyone who has attended previous awards ceremonies hosted by the **Austin Critics Table** – most often, lengthy affairs that make marathons seem brief by comparison – might be shocked to learn that the Cap City Comedy Club showroom was cleared out by 9:30pm on Monday night. But it's true that the 27th presentation of awards came in in record time.



Rommel Sulit of Street Corner Arts accepting the award for Theatre Production with cast members of We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, from the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915 (Photo by Robert Faires)

Credit goes to the *Austin American-Statesman's* **Michael Barnes**, an original member of the Table who made his return to the ceremony after several years on leave. He was determined to cut the running time enough that attendees would be willing to stay through the entire event, and as emcee, he succeeded. Though the crowd was smaller than usual, the tables remained full until the last of the 49 certificates were handed out.

Of the three dozen category awards and special citations issued to creatives in the fields of theatre, dance, design, classical music, visual art, and improv this year, the runaway winner was **Ballet Austin's** world premiere production of *Grimm Tales*. The contemporary ballet, drawn from artist **Natalie Frank's** distinctive visual interpretation of Brothers Grimm fairy tales, went home with seven of the nine awards it was nominated for, among them Outstanding Dance Concert, Choreographer for BA Artistic Director **Stephen Mills**, Original Composition/Score for **Graham Reynolds**, and the performances of **Aara Krumpe** and **Oliver Greene-Cramer**.

Taking three honors each were a pair of **Zach Theatre** productions, the Sondheim musical *Sunday in the Park With George* and the Anna Deavere Smith investigation of the school-to-prison pipeline, *Notes From the Field*, which shared the award for Outstanding Theatre Production with the drama *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, from the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915*. That **Street Corner Arts** production won all three of the awards for which it was nominated, including an award for the direction by **Liz Fisher** and the ensemble work by the six-actor cast.

As always, part of the ceremony was devoted to the induction of new members into the **Austin Arts Hall of Fame**. This year's inductees were: **Toni Bravo** (dance), the late **Billy Harden** (theatre), **Girard Kinney** (architecture), and **Margo Sawyer** (visual art).

Taking part in the Critics Table award process this year were the *Austin American-Statesman's* Michael Barnes (arts) and Andrew J. Friedenthal (theatre); the *Chronicle's* Elizabeth Cobbe (theatre) and Robert Faires (arts); Central Texas Live Theatre's Michael Meigs (theatre), Dr. David Glen Robinson (theatre, dance), and Brian Paul Scipione (theatre); Arts & Culture Texas' Claire Christine Spera (dance); Broadway World Austin's Lynn Beaver (theatre), Frank Bengé (theatre), Joni Lorraine (theatre), Lacey Cannon

ARTS EVENTS

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Gonzales (theatre), and Amy Tarver (theatre); and Austin Arts Watch's Ryan E. Johnson (performing arts).

Note: Members of the Table refrained from voting on any project in which they or an immediate family member took part.

The 2018-19 Austin Critics Table Award Winners

THEATRE

Production

Notes From the Field, Zach Theatre

We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, from the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915, Street Corner Arts

Direction

Liz Fisher, *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, from the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915*

Rudy Ramirez, *(Un)Documents/Heartland/Last: An Extinction Comedy*

David Mark Cohen New Play Award

Heartland, Gabriel Jason Dean

Performance by an Individual

Jill Blackwood, *Sunday in the Park With George/Indian Ink*

Lee Eddy, *Cry It Out*

Judd Farris, *Booth's Richard III/Your Mother's Copy of the Kama Sutra*

Carla Nickerson, *Monroe/Notes From the Field*

Performance by an Ensemble

We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, from the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915, Street Corner Arts

Improvised Production

Latinauts, Prima Doñas, Futurx

Musical Direction

Allen Robertson, *Sunday in the Park with George/Rob1n/Once/Tortoise and Hare*

Movement

The Back Pack, *The Back Pack Presents: Wear and Tear*

DESIGN

Set

Stephanie Busing, *Notes From the Field*

Costume

Aaron Flynn, *The Rover*

Constance Hoffman, *Grimm Tales*

Lighting

Sarah EC Maines, *Sunday in the Park with George*

Sound

Sam Lipman, *Matawan*

Digital

Howard Werner, *Grimm Tales*

DANCE

Concert

Grimm Tales, Ballet Austin

Short Work

"Idobálè," *Fortitude*

Choreographer

Stephen Mills, *Grimm Tales*

Dancer

Oliver Greene-Cramer, "The Beast"/"The Frog King"

Aara Krumpke, *The Firebird*/"Snow White"

Ensemble

Be Still, My Heart, Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Concert/Opera

Leonard Bernstein's Mass, Merick Strategies

Silent Night, Austin Opera



Jill Blackwood accepting her Individual Performance award for her work in Zach Theatre's production of *Sunday in the Park With George and Austin Shakespeare's production of Indian Ink* (Photo by Robert Faires)

Chamber Performance

Smetana: *Piano Trio in G Minor*, Schumann Chamber Players

Original Composition/Score

Grimm Tales, Graham Reynolds

Singer

Jubilant Sykes, *Leonard Bernstein's Mass*

Ensemble

line upon line percussion

Instrumentalist

Stephen Redfield, *A World Tour of Baroque Orchestral Masterworks/Hope of Loving*

VISUAL ART

Solo Gallery Exhibition

"Alejandra Almuelle: Journey," 1300 E. Fifth (East Austin Studio Tour)

Group Gallery Exhibition

"Femme Abstract," 1300 E. Fifth (East Austin Studio Tour)

Museum Exhibition

Abraham Cruzvillegas: "Hi, How Are You, Gonzo?," The Contemporary Austin

Gallery, Body of Work

Stephen L. Clark Gallery

Artist

Virginia Fleck

SPECIAL RECOGNITION HONORS

Conspirare's *Considering Matthew Shepard* live-stream from the National Cathedral

Leonard Bernstein's MASS, Merick Strategies

Vincent Valdez's "The City," Blanton Museum of Art

"Vaudeville!", Harry Ransom Center

Palace Theater in Georgetown

John Bustin Award for Conspicuous Versatility

Delanté G. Keys

Deacon Crain Award for Outstanding Student Work

Mariela Denson and Matthew Kennedy

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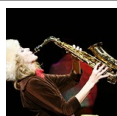
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Actor/director Norman Blumensaadt, dance artists Kathy Dunn Hamrick and Anuradha Naimpally, and

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