

Tuesday, Apr 24, 2018

Music, Theatre and Dance students, alumni honored at 19th annual MaTiDa Awards

The Oakland University School of Music, Theatre and Dance recently honored some of its top student performers and distinguished alumni during the **19th annual MaTiDa Awards**, which took place on Monday, April 16 in the Oakland Center Banquet Room. The “red-carpet” event included dinner and music, theatre and dance performances, as well as award presentations recognizing exceptional service and performance by Music, Theatre and Dance students.

2018 MaTiDa Award honorees

Alumni and Community Members:

Distinguished Community Service Award

Adeline G. Hirschfeld-Medalia

Professor Emerita Adeline G. Hirschfeld-Medalia founded the Communication and Theatre program at OU in 1972. She worked there from 1966 until her retirement in 1986. In 1972, she became the first female chair of a department (the Department of Speech Communication) at OU and had an enormously influential role in the development of the university's theatre program, a discipline which faced considerable resistance when she first came to OU in 1966 and was told to "keep a low profile." In addition, she established the Ruth and Alex Gittlen Endowment, which was created specifically to support theatre in an academic setting, in honor of her late parents. The endowment has provided OU students with scholarships for the last three decades. Adeline wrote about her years at OU and the development of the theatre program in a 2004 article in the Oakland Journal, noting that “when I look over Oakland University's current catalog, I am stunned to see how the kernel planted back in 1966 has mushroomed, with all elements of my discipline represented — communication, theatre, journalism, and even some mass communication.”

Alumni Achievement in Theatre

Travis Walter



Travis Walter

Travis is an alumnus of Oakland University and has been an employee at Meadow Brook Theatre since graduating in 2002. In 2010, Travis was named artistic director of Meadow Brook Theatre. He previously held the position of interim artistic director of the theatre during the 2009-2010 Season. He continues to enthrall audiences by bringing Michigan, North American and world premieres to life on Meadow Brook Theatre's stage. In 2013, he was named one of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's *Elite 40 Under 40*, professionals from various business, government and non-profit sectors charged with giving recommendations to improve quality of life in Oakland County. Travis has won numerous awards for his directing at MBT and this season will mark the milestone of having directed 50 productions at the theatre. Travis was the youngest person to be appointed as artistic director of MBT and has currently held the position the second longest.

Alumni Achievement in Dance

Matt Wagner

Matt received his B.F.A in Dance from Oakland University. His movement background is in gymnastics, baseball, martial arts, modern dance, and ballet. Matt has participated in international competitive trampolining and tumbling and artistic gymnastics. In dance, he has



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Matt Wagner

Heim. He has also had the privilege of studying dance in Berlin at the Tanzfabrik and the Freie Universität. Matt performed one year with the DIAVOLO Institute and just finished his second season with the DIAVOLO touring company. Some of his other interests include musicals, choreography, stage combat, costume construction, and costume design.

Student Honorees:

Distinguished Musicianship Award

Garrett Klaus, Ian Lester

Outstanding



Theatre students at the MaTiDa Awards

Student in Voice Performance (undergraduate)

Robert Skylis

Outstanding Student in Voice Performance (graduate)

Jamie Blair

Outstanding Student in Piano Performance

Paige Broadworth

Joyce Adelson Piano Ensemble Award

Paige Broadworth, Harrison Lavins

Outstanding Students in Music Education

Caitlyn Bramble, Noah Cherry

Outstanding Student in Jazz

Lawrence Trice



Outstanding Students in Chamber Music

VASH Saxophone Quartet

Brant Ford, John Hallman, Andrew Hemphill, Garrett Klaus

Gittlen Theatre Award

Jordan Taylor

Gittlen Achievement Award in Acting

Lucy Price

Gittlen Achievement Award in Theatre Design and Technology

Emily Christenson

Gittlen Achievement Award in Musical Theatre

Andrew Mueller

Pat and Mercedes Nicosia Meadow Brook Estate Award

Lily Talevski

Distinguished Dance Students

Abbey Smith, Alyx Winship

Maggie Allesee Choreography Award

Jasmine Brewington

Outstanding Dance Performance

Lillie Hamilton

Outstanding Student Service Award – Music

Brandon Thibault

Outstanding Student Service Award – Theatre

Kristin Rebera

Outstanding Student Service Award – Dance

Samantha Lamer, Shaela Owens

The MaTiIDas are named to honor Matilda Dodge Wilson who donated the land on which Oakland University is built.



Dance students with Professor Jonui