



*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*



*The National Society of Arts and Letters  
National Conference and Drama Competition*

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*May 29 through June 2, 2019  
Washington DC*

# Welcome to Washington!



Dear NSAL Delegates, Chapter Presidents, Members, Contestants, Judges and Guests,

Welcome to the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the National Society of Arts and Letters in Washington DC. We are fortunate to be able to celebrate this once in a lifetime occasion in the city where NSAL was first chartered, a city with a wealth of brilliant theatre and exceptional talent. Our contestants are privileged to be able to perform before our esteemed judges, Michael Kahn (Artistic Director of the The Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC), Michael Bofshever (accomplished actor, director, teacher, and author), Geoffrey Soffer (producer, talent manager, and partner at Soffer/Namoff Entertainment), and Molly Smith (Artistic Director of Arena Stage).

We have exciting work to accomplish in our meetings this week and in the months following our Annual Meeting. Change is afoot that will allow us to carry out our mission for another 75 years.

We welcome the young actors who have come from across the country, who will be giving their all on Friday, May 31, for an opportunity to take home one of the top prizes. A career in the arts is exhilarating, but demanding and expensive. It takes grit and determination to stick with it. For every success, there may be many rejections. But for those who continue to keep their eyes on the goal, they must always remember they have considerable responsibility. To quote the late Alan Rickman: "Actors are agents of change. A film, a piece of theatre, a piece of music, or a book can make a difference. . . . Acting touches nerves you have absolutely no control over." We congratulate our contestants and the commitment and sacrifice they are making in order to pursue their dreams.

Many thanks to the National Conference Chair Bea Hessick for her yeoman's efforts juggling the hundreds of details involved in planning this event, and to her Co-Chair Judyth Gilbert and the dedicated team of volunteers committed to making the annual meeting and competition a shining success. Thank you to Washington DC Chapter President Deidre Casey and the DC Chapter for hosting our 75th.

Thank you to all our members who have traveled far to be here. This is certain to be one of the most memorable celebrations in our history. Congratulations to all of you. Here's to our 75 years of discovering exceptional young artists!

National President Margaret Johnson



Welcome to Washington DC and to the 75th Celebration of The National Society of Arts and Letters! This year is a year of many things, but most importantly, it is a year of celebration and inspiration. As we celebrate, we gain inspiration and a renewed call to action motivating us to continue our important work. Let us continue championing young aspiring artists as we seek to navigate our ever-changing world.

Seventy-five years ago two women, sitting on a porch in Chevy Chase, Maryland, made a decision to form an organization to help young artists in the United States. They would be so proud of us! In those 75 years our volunteers, with the support of our judges, friends, family, and donors, have given of their time, talent, and donations. This week they gather to find new ways to build NSAL, to support our national drama competitors, and to enjoy the friendships that we have made across the United States. Happy 75th to each and every one of you!

Washington DC Chapter President Deidre Casey



We are thrilled to have you as our guests here in Washington DC to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding of The National Society of Arts and Letters and the National Drama Competition. We have a week full of activities such as stimulating meetings; luncheons with some of our Classical Voice and Art Winners; receptions in two of the most beautiful establishments in Washington, Hillwood Estate and The National Museum of Women in the Arts; dinners with some fabulously talented former winners of NSAL who have graciously agreed to provide entertainment for you; a banquet dinner at the elegant Cosmos Club; a drama competition with our Chapter Winners from across the United States; and a superbly run Master Class with incredibly talented instructors/directors in the field of Drama.

We look forward to meeting with each of you and know that we are here to help you in any way possible. We hope that you enjoy your stay while in this wonderful city for this milestone celebration!

National Conference Co-Chair Judy Gilbert  
National Conference Chair Bea Hessick

# Schedule of Conference Events

## Tuesday, May 28, 2019

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1:00-3:00	Executive Board Meeting	Thomas Salon
3:00-5:00	Executive Board Meeting	Thomas Salon
5:30-7:00	President's Reception to Honor Board	Georgetown Room (Main Floor)
7:00-9:00	Dinner	Dinner On Your Own

## Wednesday, May 29, 2019

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7:00-9:00	Breakfast	Metropolitan Galleries 4-5
8:00-5:00	Registration/Hospitality	Logan Salon
9:00-11:30	National Board Meeting	Dupont Room 6-7
12:00-1:30	National Board Luncheon	Dupont Room 8
2:00-4:30	National Board Meeting	Dupont Room 6-7
6:00-6:45	President's Reception (Cash Bar)	Metropolitan Galleries Lobby
7:00-9:00	Dinner and Entertainment	Metropolitan Galleries 4-5
	Performing: Flutist Amanda Danes, Pianist Frank Conlon, Musical Theater John Clay III, Actor Ed Gero.	

## Thursday, May 30, 2019

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7:00-9:00	Breakfast	Metropolitan Galleries 4-5
8:00-5:00	Registration/Hospitality	Logan Salon
9:00-11:30	NSAL General Session Meeting	Metropolitan Galleries 1-2
12:00-2:00	Presidents' Luncheon	Metropolitan Galleries 4-5
2:00-4:30	General Session Continues	Metropolitan Galleries 1-2
3:00-4:00	Contestants' Orientation	Dupont Room 6
5:15-5:30	OPTIONAL: Buses depart from Marriott Hotel for Hillwood	Hillwood Estate, Museum and Garden
6:00-9:30	Hillwood Museum Tour and Reception Special Guest Speaker- Actor Thomas Keegan	

## Friday, May 31, 2019

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7:00-9:00	Breakfast	Metropolitan Galleries 4-5
8:00-12:00	Registration/Hospitality	Logan Salon
9:00-11:30	National Drama Competition Holding Room/Green Room for Contestants	Metropolitan Galleries 1-2 Dupont 6 and 8
12:00-1:00	Box Lunch	Metropolitan Galleries 4-5
1:30- 4:00	National Drama Competition Continues	Metropolitan Galleries 1-2
5:30-5:45	OPTIONAL: Buses depart from Marriott Hotel for Museum	NMWA
6:00-9:30	National Museum of Women in the Arts Tour and Reception Tour by Museum Curator Susan Fisher Sterling Special Guest Speaker- Washington Ballet Artistic Director Julie Kent	

## Saturday, June 1, 2019

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7:00-9:00	Breakfast	Metropolitan Galleries 4-5
8:30-10:00	Strategic Planning Meeting	Dupont Room 6
10:00-11:30	Master Class	Metropolitan Galleries 1-2
11:30-12:30	Workshop with Michael Bofshever (For Contestants Only)	Metropolitan Galleries 1-2
2:00-4:00	Chapter Presidents' Meeting	Thomas Salon
5:30-5:45	Buses depart from Marriott Hotel for the Cosmos Club	Cosmos Club
6:00-10:00	National Conference Awards Reception and Dinner	

## Sunday, June 2, 2019

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7:00-9:00	Breakfast	Metropolitan Galleries 4-5
10:00	OPTIONAL: National Museum of African American History and Culture	Tour On Your Own

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# *Annual Meeting - General Session Agenda*

Thursday, May 30, 2019

9:00 am to 11:30 am • Lunch • 2:00 pm- 4:30 pm

Call to Order/Welcome	Margaret Johnson
Opening Ceremonies (Words of Inspiration)	Charles R. Altman
Report of Chaplain	Charles R. Altman
Welcome from Host Chapter President and National Conference Chairs	Deidre Casey Bea Hessick and Judyth Gilbert (Report in member registration packets)
Standing Rules	Frederick Hessick
Report of Session Registrar	
Reports of Elected National Officers	
President	Margaret Johnson
1st Vice President	Doni Lystra
2nd Vice President	Anne White
Treasurer	Judy Park
Reports of Finances and Funds	
Budget for 2019-2020	Judy Park
The 75 Fund	Judy Park
NSAL Papp/Schwab Funds	Judy Park
Financial Report of the Board of Trustees/Winston Funds	Doni Lystra
Report of Bylaw Chair	Mary Ann Osborne
Report of Strategic Planning Chair	Anne White
Election of Nominating Committee	Margaret Johnson
Reports of Archive and Insignia	
Report of Historian	Sarah Moore
Report of Insignia Chair	Judy Park

— Adjournment for Presidents' Luncheon —

National Past Presidents, please line up according to years served at the dining room entrance.  
Chapter Presidents, please line up alphabetically by chapter behind National Past Presidents.

2:00 pm - General Session Resumes

New Business	
Call to 2020 Annual Meeting and Musical Theater Competition	Judy Park
2021 Dance Competition	TBA
Reports of Liaisons for Award Winners	
Liaison for Career Opportunities and Award Winners	Denna Shiben and Doni Lystra
Reports of NSAL Arts Awards and Scholarships	
Reports of Winston Scholarship Competitions	
Classical Voice	Judy Martorelli
Two-Dimensional Art	Norman Brown
The Dorothy Lincoln-Smith Classical Voice Competition	Dorothy Lincoln-Smith
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Doni Lystra
CalArts	
Doni Lystra	
Iowa Young Writers' Studio	Carey Wall

# *Annual Meeting Protocol*

## — Standing Rules —

- (1) All persons must be registered before being admitted to the Annual Meeting.
- (2) Identification badges shall be provided for registration at the NSAL Registration Desk.
- (3) Identification badges shall be evident for admission to all NSAL meetings and functions.
- (4) Only delegates (accredited voting members) may present motions and vote, but any member may speak to a question.
- (5) If a delegate must be absent or is unable to serve, the alternate shall assume the duties of the delegate upon proper certification by the Credentials Chair and shall be considered the delegate throughout the annual Meeting.
- (6) A majority of delegates who have been registered as in attendance shall constitute a quorum.
- (7) Main motions shall be written and handed to the Recording Secretary immediately after being proposed.
- (8) When addressing the chair, a member shall rise and state name and chapter.
- (9) Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes for each speaker and ten (10) minutes each for each question. No member may speak more than twice at the microphone before the preceding speaker has finished.
- (10) The Chair of the Annual Meeting may interrupt proceedings if necessary in the performance of responsibility.

# *National Executive Officers*

2018 - 2020

President – Margaret Johnson  
First Vice President – Doni Lystra  
Second Vice President – Anne White  
Recording Secretary – Joy Thornton-Walter  
Treasurer – Judy Park

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## *Chapter Presidents*

Birmingham  
Bloomington  
Central Illinois  
Clearwater/Tampa Bay  
El Paso  
Florida East Cost  
Greater Arizona  
Greater New York  
Hawaii  
Kentucky  
Little Rock  
Metropolitan Chicago  
New Jersey  
Ohio River Valley  
Pittsburgh  
Saint Louis  
Virginia/North Carolina  
Washington DC

Gail Ledbetter  
Ruth Albright  
Sylvia Arnstein  
Denna Shiben  
Michael Bernstein  
Judi Asselta  
Anne White  
Margaret Johnson  
Carolyn Berry  
Twyla Martin  
Harold Dean  
Judy Park  
Judy Martorelli  
Geoffrey Coward  
Mindy Rossi-Stabler  
Elizabeth Branstetter  
Catriona Tudor Elder  
Deidre Casey

# *Past Presidents*

1944-1946	Mollie Davis Nicholson
1946-1948	Francesca Falk Miller
1948-1950	Ethel Lyddon Kuter
1950-1952	Helen Weinhardt Bush
1952-1954	Lucy Jane Latham
1954-1956	Faith Yingling Knoop
1956-1958	Alta Turk Everett
1958-1960	Mary Turk
1960-1962	Pearl Olive Ponsford
1962-1964	Dorothy Miller Strong
1964-1966	Rebecca L. Tatlock
1966-1968	Elizabeth Wilson
1968-1970	Mildred Minvielle
1970-1972	Patricia Lambert Harris
1972-1974	Alice White Reeves
1974-1976	Laura Evangelen Murphy
1976-1978	Mary Jane Cook
1978-1980	Ruthe Brouk
1980-1982	Ruth Coll Herweck Pacetti
1982-1984	Nancy Anne Strecker
1984-1986	Carey Adams Ellis
1986-1988	Peggy McNamara Brown
1988-1990	Victor J. Niiranen, DDS
1990-1992	Mary Jane Cultra
1992-1994	Audrey King Peery
1994-1996	Minerva Wilson Andrews
1996-1998	O.D. Masters, Jr
1998-2000	Reva P. Shiner
2000-2002	M. Jeanne Tassé, PhD
2002-2004	Nancy E. Brockman
2004-2006	Barbara Branscum
2006-2008	Ruth Albright
2008-2010	Ramsay
2010-2012	Doni Lystra
2012-2014	Catriona Tudor Erler
2014-2016	Dorothy Lincoln-Smith
2016-2018	Judy Park



# *The 75 Fund*

## — To Our Contributors —

Sincere thanks to our members who contributed to The 75 Fund, which enables a promising young writer (sometimes two) to attend the Iowa Young Writer's Studio, the participation of our Winston 2-D Art and Classical Voice scholarship recipients at the Annual Meeting, public relations for NSAL, and general operating expenses.

Reaching our organization's 75<sup>th</sup> celebration with your generosity in support of young artists, you have successfully raised \$36,075.00 over the past five years. This is a substantial fund that will help sustain our progress going forward. THANK YOU!

There are six months remaining before the end of NSAL's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year; still time to send your gift to:  
Judy Park, NSAL Treasurer. 3135 Shagbark Lane, Long Grove, IL 60047.

## *In Memoriam*

### **Birmingham Chapter**

Melva Jones  
Passed away on July 24, 2018

### **Hawaii Chapter**

Neva Rego  
Passed away on February 16, 2018

### **Jacksonville, Florida Chapter**

Omar D. "Jack" Masters, Jr.  
National Past President 1996-1998  
Passed away on December 10, 2018  
Age 97

### **Washington DC Chapter**

Barbara "Bobbie" Godridge  
Washington DC Past President  
1980-1982  
Passed away July 29, 2018

Austin Hay

Passed away on November 5, 2018  
At age 102 – one month short of his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday

Evelyn Varva Moore

Passed away on February 16, 2019

### **Members at Large**

Marilyn Green  
Lived in Fairfield, Iowa  
Passed away on January 19, 2017

Josephine Haywood  
Formerly of Kentucky Chapter  
Passed away on June 30, 2017

Constance Houser  
Formerly of Florida East Coast Chapter  
Passed away on February 1, 2018

Lou Ann Young  
Lived in Chesterfield, Indiana  
Passed away on August 2, 2017



# *Conference Committee*

Conference Chair  
Bea Hessick

Conference Co-Chair  
Judy Gilbert

Registrar and Treasurer  
Fred Hessick

Assistant Registrar  
Cici Hughes

Wednesday Opening Night Dinner  
Nancy Dunton

Presidents' Lunch  
Gwinneth Clarkson

Hillwood Estate Museum Tour and Garden Reception  
Bianca Warner

National Conference Awards Banquet  
Jackie Knepshield

Conference and Banquet Programs Graphic Designer  
Katherine Kyle

Fundraising  
Alicia Klaffky  
Lynn Hessick

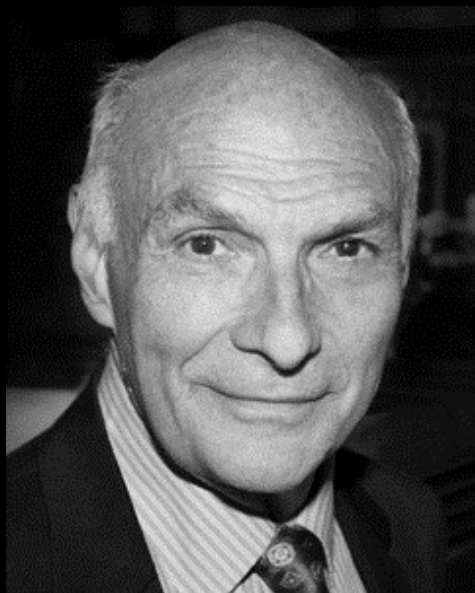
National Museum of Women in the Arts Tour and Reception  
Linda White

## Thank You to All our Volunteers

Cheryl Beversdorf  
Lynn Hessick  
Carla Jones-Batka  
Celia Josephs  
Alicia Klaffky

Kristi Mutchelknaus  
Lt. Col. Edgar F. Russell III (USAF, Ret.)  
Evelyn Sweet  
Sherry Watkins

We would like to express our great appreciation to Alicia Klaffky,  
who was our mentor and guiding light in putting this conference together.



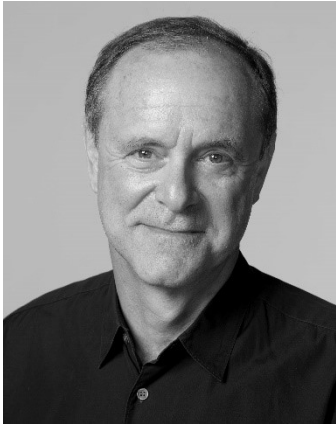
*Michael Kahn*  
*Drama Competition Judge*  
*2019 Recipient of the Gold Medal*

Michael Kahn's work in theatre and opera has been seen on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and in theatres around the United States, in addition to Athens, Cairo, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Adelaide. He has been the Artistic Director of Washington DC's Shakespeare Theatre Company since 1986, where he has directed 64 productions, received 28 awards for his artistry and leadership, and steered the Company to the 2012 Regional Theatre Tony Award. In 1991, he inaugurated the Free For All, which brings an STC production to audiences completely free of charge each year and has reached over 700,000 patrons.

He also created the Academy for Classical Acting, an MFA program in partnership with The George Washington University. Previously Artistic Director of the McCarter Theatre Center, the American Shakespeare Festival, the Acting Company, and Chautauqua Theatre and Conservatory, he was a founding faculty member of the Drama Division of the Juilliard School and served as the Richard Rodgers Director of the Division for 15 years. He has also been on the faculties of New York University and the Circle in the Square Theatre School. Honored by numerous awards, including a Tony Award nomination for *Showboat*, Michael was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame and was recognized as an Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) in 2013.

In addition to serving as one of this year's NSAL Drama Competition Judges, Michael will also critique the contestants during our Master Class. He is a longstanding member of the NSAL Washington DC Chapter Advisory Board. In recognition of his many contributions to the arts, we are proud to name him as this year's NSAL Recipient of the Gold Medal.

# Drama Competition Judges



Michael Bofshever



Molly Smith



Geoffrey Soffer

**Michael Bofshever** has sustained a distinguished acting career for over 40 years. He made his stage debut in Al Pacino's *Richard III* for the Theatre Company of Boston and went on to be a founding member of The Actors Producing Company in New York City. His stage career has included The Actors Studio, Circle Repertory Company, The Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Taper Too Festival, and West Coast Jewish Theater, to name only a few.

Michael has an extensive list of guest starring TV roles, most recently on *How To Get Away With Murder*, *Barry*, *Scandal*, *True Blood*, *The Shield*, *Private Practice*, and dozens more. He is perhaps best known for his recurring role as Mr. Pinkman on *Breaking Bad*, as well as a series regular on the Disney Channel's *The Jersey* in the role of Larry Lighter. His many film credits include Lasse Hallstrom's *A Dog's Purpose*, Paul Greengrass's *United 93*, Mark Rydell's *Crime of the Century*, and R.J. Daniel Hanna's *Miss Virginia*.

Michael made his directorial and co-writing debut with his award winning short film, *Echo Park Blues*. The film was voted best short at The New York Jazz Film Festival, Film Miami Shorts Fest, Culver City Film Festival, St. Lawrence International Film Festival, and the Best Independents International Film Festival, where he was honored with Best Director. He also received Honorable Mention at the Roma Cinema Doc Fest.

Author of *Your Face Looks Familiar...How To Get Ahead as a Working Actor*, Michael has taught acting privately for 20 years at USC School of Cinematic Arts, Chapman University, and UCLA Extension. He has spoken on the topic of how to create and maintain an acting career, *Journey of the Working Actor*, sponsored by the Screen Actors Guild Foundation, at university theater and film programs nationwide. He was profiled in the "Actors Guide to Qualified Acting Coaches-Los Angeles." Michael has moderated discussions for the Screen Actors Guild and major movie studios on the topic of career and craft, with luminary actors, writers and directors in the entertainment field.

**Molly Smith** has served as Artistic Director of Arena Stage since 1998. Her more than 30 directing credits at Arena Stage include *Anything Goes*, *Sovereignty*, *Carousel*, *The Originalist*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Camp David*, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *Oklahoma!*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Great White Hope*, *The Music Man*, *Legacy of Light*, *The Women of Brewster Place*, *Cabaret*, *South Pacific*, *All My Sons*, and *How I Learned to Drive*. Her directorial work has also been seen Off-Broadway at 59E59 in New York, Portland Center Stage, Canada's Shaw Festival, The Court Theatre, The Old Globe, Asolo Repertory, Berkeley Repertory, Trinity Repertory, Toronto's Tarragon Theatre, Montreal's Centaur Theatre, and Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska, which she founded and ran from 1979 to 1998.

Molly has been a leader in new play development for over 40 years. She is a great believer in first, second, and third productions of new work and has championed projects including *How I Learned to Drive*; *Passion Play, a cycle*; *Next to Normal*; and *Dear Evan Hansen*.

She led the re-invention of Arena Stage, focusing on the architecture and creation of the Mead Center for American Theater and positioning Arena Stage as a national center for American artists. During her time with the company, Arena Stage has workshopped more than 100 productions, produced 39 world premieres, staged numerous second and third productions, and been an important part of nurturing nine projects that went on to have a life on Broadway. In 2014, Molly made her Broadway debut directing *The Velocity of Autumn*, following its critically acclaimed run at Arena Stage. She was awarded honorary doctorates from American University and Towson University. In 2018, she was honored as Person of the Year by the National Theatre Conference and inducted into the Washington DC Hall of Fame.

**Geoffrey Soffer** joined Actors Equity at the age of 11 and has been working in the entertainment industry ever since. After studying musical theater at the University of Cincinnati, he was inspired to pursue an internship in casting at Roundabout Theater Company, which led to several years in artistic development and casting of Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional plays and musicals. He then joined Disney-ABC and spent nearly a decade casting primetime television shows, most notably the acclaimed series *Ugly Betty*.

In 2012, Geoffrey launched Soffer/Namoff Entertainment with a mission to develop and nurture the next generation of fearless artists, and to produce adventurous stage and screen productions. Credits include the Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* directed by Bartlett Sher, the film adaptation of Jason Robert Brown's musical *The Last Five Years* directed by Richard LaGravenese, and both the indie comedy *He's Way More Famous Than You* and the digital series *Whats Your Emergency* with collaborators Michael Urie, Halley Feiffer, and Ryan Spahn. Geoffrey was an adjunct professor at Pace University and teaches in actor training programs throughout the country.

## Master Class



**Robert C. Pullen** is the Executive Director of Nouveau Productions, a full-service production and events company specializing in live events. An Emmy™ nominated Producer with more than 24 years of experience, Robert has also been executive producer of Special Events at Lincoln Center since 2016. Career highlights include *President Obama's 2009 Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony* (Aretha Franklin segment) and *9/11: Ten Years Later* (broadcast worldwide on Facebook) with the Hon. Condoleezza Rice, the Hon. Madeleine Albright, and the Hon. Colin Powell.

He was Executive Producer of the *David Rubenstein Series: Profiles in Creativity* for the Kennedy Center and *President Kennedy Remembered: JFK 50th Anniversary* with Yo-Yo Ma, Paul Simon, and Lorne Michaels. Television credits include the *Mark Twain Prize for American Humor* on PBS for 11 years, including Will Ferrell, Tina Fey, Lily Tomlin, Ellen DeGeneres, Steve Martin, Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg, and most recently Carol Burnett.

Robert graduated from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City, studying musical theater performance, and he attended The Juilliard School for voice and piano.

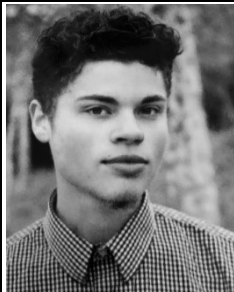
# National Drama Competition Contestants

Co-Chairs  
Judy Park  
Marion Michael



*Giving voice to characters that have no other voice – that's the great worth of what we do.*  
Meryl Streep

## Birmingham Chapter – David Hunter Parker



David Parker is a Junior Pre-Professional Theatre Performance Major at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has aspirations of writing and directing his own LGBT-centric material so that the community is more widely represented in the mainstream media. He has starred as Richard Greatham in *Hay Fever* (UAB Department of Theatre), Prior Walter in *Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches* (UAB Department of Theatre), W.E.B. DuBois in *Washington and DuBois: Two Opinions, One Goal* (Vulcan Park & Museum), and several other productions in Birmingham.

Monologues:

*Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*; Tony Kushner (Priby Walter)  
*Casina*; (Titus Maccius) Plautus (Lysidamus)

## Bloomington Chapter – Kaleigh Bleu Howland



Kaleigh Howland graduated from Indiana University Bloomington with degrees in Theatre and Journalism in May 2019. While at IU, her favorite credits included Susan in *Vinegar Tom*, Liana in *High School Coven*, and Lauren in *Circle Mirror Transformation*. She also had the privilege of directing two new musicals written by her collaborator, Lauren Gaynor, that taught her the value of crafting nuanced stories about girls. In the fall, she is heading to Los Angeles to pursue a career in film. She'd like to thank her parents for always believing in her.

Monologues:

*King John*; William Shakespeare (Constance)  
*Am I Blue*; Elizabeth Henley (Ashbe Williams)

## Central Illinois Chapter – Charence Monique Higgins



Charence Higgins is a Mississippi native who currently resides in Central Illinois. She holds degrees in Psychology and Theatre from Jackson State University and is currently continuing her education at UIUC as a candidate in the MFA Acting program. Past roles include Judy in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, Goneril in *Fools & Madmen*, Sister Thea Bowman in *Thea's Turn*, Sophie in *Ruined*, Miss Evers in *Miss Evers' Boys*, along with several historic roles at the Smithsonian Institute's American History Museum and African American History Museum in Washington DC.

Monologues:

*Fabulation*; Lynn Nottage (Undine)  
*All's Well That Ends Well*; William Shakespeare (Helena)

## Clearwater/Tampa Bay Chapter – Cormac Gerard Bohan



Cormac Bohan holds a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University and recently completed the Tepper Program in NYC. His Syracuse credits include the Bear in *King Stag*, Frank/Mr. T in the Syracuse Stage Children's Tour production of *Metamorphosis*, Cinderella's Father in *Into the Woods*, and Carl in *The Baltimore Waltz*. Cormac also played Montfleury in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Silvius in *As You Like It* as a member of the Saratoga Shakespeare Company for the past three summers. He is honored to represent the Clearwater/Tampa Bay Chapter at the NSAL 75th Anniversary celebration.

Monologues:

*The Baltimore Waltz*; Paula Vogel (Carl)

*Two Gentlemen of Verona*; William Shakespeare (Lauce)

## El Paso Chapter – Rachel Colleen Robins



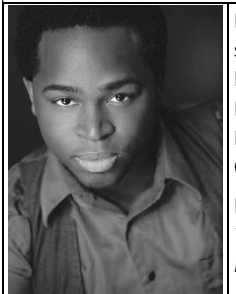
Rachel Robins started acting at the age of 10, and what was intended to be one summer camp turned into a never-ending passion. Since joining theatre, Rachel has performed on every stage in El Paso, TX and earned a BFA in Music Theatre Performance from The University of Texas at El Paso. Her favorite roles include Diana in *Next To Normal*, Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act*, and Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She would like to thank everyone for this opportunity and remind us all to be kind to one another.

Monologues:

*Doubt A Parable*; John Patrick Shanley (Sister James)

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*; William Shakespeare (Helena)

## Florida East Coast Chapter – Darius Jamal Manuel



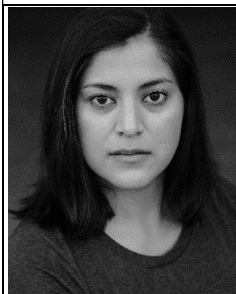
Darius J. Manuel is a 25 year old Theatre Artist residing in Fort Lauderdale, FL and is here by the kindness of strangers and faith from loved ones. He holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia. National Tour: *Elf The Musical*. Regional: Actors' Playhouse, Slow Burn Theatre Company at the Broward Center, Renaissance Theatre Company, Broward Stage Door Theatre, Main Street Musical Festival. Darius is a BroadwayWorld Award Winning Director/Choreographer and a Teaching Artist & Director at the Florida Children's Theatre. He believes we are allowed to be both a masterpiece and work in progress, simultaneously.

Monologues:

*Titus Andronicus*; William Shakespeare (Aaron)

*Fences*; August Wilson (Troy Maxson)

## Greater Arizona Chapter – Bethany Marie Baca



Bethany Baca is 25 years old, from Phoenix, AZ and graduated from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA with a BA in Theater Arts. Some of her credits include: *Tecumseh!* as Wabethe at *Tecumseh!* Outdoor Drama in Chillicothe, OH; *In the Heights* as Carla at Desert Foothills Theater and Southwest Shakespeare Company's productions of *Frankenstein & Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre*. She has received First Place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in the Adult Musical Theater division in 2017 and 2018, as well as First Place in the National Society of Arts and Letters Musical Theater Competition in 2017.

Monologues:

*Saint Joan*; George Bernard Shaw (Joan)

*Two Gentlemen of Verona*; William Shakespeare (Julia)

## Greater New York Chapter – Hayward Lord Leach



Hayward Leach is 27 years old, a third-generation Brooklynite and a lover of storytelling. He is currently a rising fourth year MFA Drama student at The Juilliard School. Last summer, Hayward was part of the Non-Equity Company at the Williamstown Theater Festival. He holds a BA in Comparative Literature from Brown University. Acting credits include Alonso and Stephano in *The Tempest* (Juilliard), Fritz in *A Man's World* (Williamstown), Prince Hal in *Henry IV Part 1* (Juilliard), Youth in *Passing Strange* (Brown), and various roles in *#serials@theflea* (Sarah DeLappe, Will Arbery/The Flea Theater).

Monologues:

*Henry IV, Part 1*; William Shakespeare (Prince Hal)

*Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*; Tony Kushner (Louis)

## Hawaii Chapter- Dylan Chace Lee



Dylan Chace Lee was born and raised on the island of Oahu in the state of Hawaii. He attended the Kamehameha Schools: Kapalama campus (c/o 2015), where his passion for theatre began. After graduating, Dylan went on to the University of Hawaii: Manoa (c/o 2019) to further his education in theatre. At University, Dylan has studied vast amounts of theatre including Western Theatre, Shakespeare, Devised Theatre, Asian Theatre (Chinese, Japanese, South East Asian), Theatre Design, and Improvised Theatre. Dylan also works as the assistant technical director at Manoa Valley Theatre. Dylan is honored to represent Hawaii at the NSAL competition.

Monologues:

*Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*; Bertolt Brecht (The Judge)  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*; William Shakespeare (Puck)

## Kentucky Chapter – Tessa Riley Miller



Tessa Miller is an 18 year old Winchester KY native and a recent graduate from Sayre School. She will be attending Savannah College of Art And Design in the fall. She was a member of the Kentucky Center Governor's School for the Arts for drama in the summer of 2018. Her recent credits include Marge Murray/Amanda Gronich in *The Laramie Project*, Lucy Stone in *The Last Dracula*, Mrs. Corry in *Mary Poppins*, Lucinda in *Into The Woods*, Kitty in *The Lady in Question*, and Gloria in *The Return to The Forbidden Planet*. She would like to thank her amazing family for supporting her and for loving her unconditionally.

Monologues:

*Brighton Beach Memoirs*; Neil Simon (Nora)  
*Two Gentlemen of Verona*; William Shakespeare (Julia)

## Little Rock Chapter – Charl Rose Young



Charl Young is 22, from Cabot, AR. She graduated from the University of Arkansas, Cum Laude with a BA in Music and a minor in theatre. She has performed at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre and the University of Arkansas Theatre. She has worked with many theatre companies including the Walton Arts Center, TheatreSquared, Trike Theatre, and the Arts Center of the Ozarks. She is moving to Dallas to pursue a career in sales. She plans to stay active in the arts either with church choir or with theatre for young artists. She would like to thank her parents and Jane Balgavy for making this opportunity possible.

Monologues:

*Three Tall Women*; Edward Albee ("C")  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*; William Shakespeare (Helena)

## Metropolitan Chicago Chapter – Hannah Mary Simpson



Hannah Mary Simpson is a 25-year-old actor, singer, and improviser who hails from Lincroft, NJ. She holds degrees in Theatre and English Literature from Ohio Wesleyan University. Hannah was the First Place winner of the Ohio River Valley Chapter's 2016 Musical Theater Competition, and some of her favorite Chicago credits include *The Roaring Girl* (The Shakespeare Project of Chicago), *The Bridges of Madison County* (Theo Ubique, six Jeff Award Nominations), and *Moby Dick! The Musical* (The Cuckoo's Theater Project). Hannah is in Level 4 of the Music Program at The Second City, and she studies voice with Matthew Ellenwood.

Monologues:

*Hamlet*; William Shakespeare (Hamlet)  
*Heartbreak House*; George Bernard Shaw (Ariadne Utterword)

## New Jersey Chapter – Matthew Elijah Webb



Matthew Webb is a first year MFA Acting Candidate at the Yale School of Drama. Originally born in Michigan, he participated in regional theatre productions at Theatre Nova in Ann Arbor MI such as *Mr. Joy* by Daniel Beaty and *I and You* by Lauren Gunderson. In college at Eastern Michigan University, his credits include *Dr. Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe, *Christmas Carol'd* by Joseph Zettelmaier, and *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson. He is grateful for his family, his mentors Shavonne T. Coleman, Marilyn McCormick, Dr. Lee Stille, Terry Heck Seibert, and his cat, Eloise. "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." *Juliana of Norwich*.

Monologues:

*Streamers*; David Rabe (Carlyle)  
*As You Like It*; William Shakespeare (Rosalind/Ganymede)

## Ohio River Valley Chapter – Ethan Cole Schaffer



Ethan Schaffer is from Parkersburg, WV. Ethan has been seen playing various roles across Mid-Ohio Valley stages and is a nationally ranked competitor in Speech and Debate. Currently a senior at Parkersburg South High School, he plans to attend Shepherd University for Political Science. He would like to thank his family and friends for all of the unmatched support that they have given him. "I love you all!"

Monologues:

*Hamlet*; William Shakespeare (Hamlet)  
*Rumors*; Neil Simon (Lenny)

## Pittsburgh Chapter – Gena Yvonne Sims



Gena Sims is receiving a BFA in Acting/Music Theatre from Carnegie Mellon University. She is so blessed to be here! Huge thanks to her family, teachers, and the NSAL. Favorite credits include *Cabaret* (Fraulein Schneider), *Detroit '67* (Chelle), *Medea/Shulie* (Medea), and *Marisol (Angel/Woman in Furs)* at CMU, as well as *Violet* (Gospel Soloist) and *Floyd Collins* (Dr. Hazlett) with Front Porch Theatricals. Gena also founded the Autism Theatre Project, a non-profit dedicated to expressing the voice of the autism community. She created and produced the company's first show, *In the Life of a Child*.

Monologues:

*Seven Guitars*; August Wilson (Vera)  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*; William Shakespeare (Helena)

## Saint Louis Chapter – Abraham Thaddeus Shaw



Abraham Shaw is a 25 year old St. Louis native. He attended The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis for Musical Theatre. Some of his most notable roles are Reverend John Hale in *The Crucible*, Curtis Taylor Jr in *Dreamgirls*, and Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. His passion for theatre ignited at McKinley High School, in St. Louis, when he played Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* and Danny Zuko in *Grease*.

Monologues:

*Fences*; August Wilson (Troy Maxson)  
*The Taming of the Shrew*; William Shakespeare (Petruccio)

## Virginia/North Carolina Chapter – Amari Samya Cummings

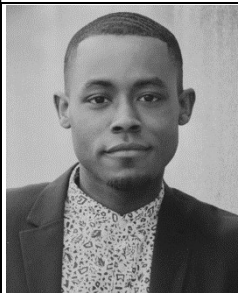


Amari Cummings is a Cincinnati native who began her theatre career at the age of eight. After ten years of performing in film and theatre productions in the Ohio area, Amari continued to further her theatre education at Virginia Commonwealth University pursuing a Bachelors of Fine Arts. Amari has since been involved in Virginia Repertory Theatre's world premier of *River Ditty* as the understudy for the lead role of Sunshine. Some of Amari's credited performances are Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Chick in *Crimes of the Heart*, Lady in Green in *For Colored Girls*, Beneatha in *A Raisin in the Sun*, and many more.

Monologues:

*A Raisin in the Sun*; Lorraine Hansberry (Beneatha Younger)  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*; William Shakespeare (Titania)

## Washington DC Chapter – Vaughn Ryan Midder



Vaughn Ryan Midder, 26, is from Baltimore City and has been acting full-time for the past 4 years. Last month he closed *Native Son* at Mosaic Theater. Other credits include: The Kennedy Center: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*; Everyman Theatre: *Sweat*; New York Musical Festival: *#BlackGirlJoy*; The Second City: *Almost Accurate Guide to America*; Gala Hispanic Theatre: *In the Heights* (Helen Hayes nomination); Woolly Mammoth Theatre: *Black Side of the Moon*; Constellation Theatre Company: *Avenue Q* (Helen Hayes Award- Outstanding Supporting Actor); Studio Theatre: *Choir Boy*. He has a BA in Theatre from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Monologues:

*Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*; Tony Kushner (Belize)  
*Richard II*; William Shakespeare (Henry Bolingbroke)



# Awardee Performances at the Presidents' Luncheon



Julia Gould  
Naomi Rabb Winston  
Art Scholarship



Rebeca Gonzalez-Maldonado  
Shirley Rabb Winston  
Voice Scholarship



Alexandra Razskazoff  
Dorothy Lincoln-Smith  
Classical Voice Competition

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## NAOMI RABB WINSTON ART SCHOLARSHIP

### Julia Gould, 1st Place National Award (Washington DC Chapter)

Julia is a rising junior who won a full scholarship at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting, with a literature minor and a concentration in printmaking. She recently won a Silver Award in Visual Art in the National YoungArts Foundation competition and many other awards. Her work is largely focused on personal narrative and portraiture. Julia continues the traditions of portraiture by painting what she thinks is important and memorable. Through personal narrative, she “explores her experiences and uses allegory to share her values.” Julia was born in Baltimore and attended George Washington Carver Center for Art and Technology for high school.

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## SHIRLEY RABB WINSTON VOICE SCHOLARSHIP

### Rebeca Gonzalez-Maldonado, 1st Place National Award (El Paso Chapter)

Rebeca is currently a sophomore voice major with a concentration in education at The University of Texas at El Paso. A member of UTEP’s top choirs, she will travel with the Chamber Singers next fall to Leeds, England, where the UTEP Chamber Singers will be the cathedral’s choir-in-residence.

Rebeca won first place in several classical singing competitions, including the 2017 Hugh Cardon Spanish Song Competition and the Rio Grande Chapter of National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions in 2018 and 2019. She was additionally named “Most Promising Singer” at the Rio Grande Chapter NATS competition in 2019. This January, Rebeca made her professional opera debut as Second Spirit in El Paso Opera’s production of *The Magic Flute*. This semester, she performed the role of Musetta in Opera UTEP’s presentation of Act 2 of *La bohème*. She aspires to attain a master’s degree in voice performance and is considering a doctorate in vocal pedagogy. In the not too distant future, she plans to audition for Young Artist programs at opera companies around the United States. Rebeca has decided to use her NSAL Winston scholarship to audition for summer training programs, including the Bay View Music Festival in Petoskey, MI; Greve Opera Academy & Music Festival in Chianti, Italy; and the OperaWorks or SongFest in Los Angeles. Rebeca was born in Liberal, Kansas in 1999 and raised in Chihuahua, Mexico until she moved to El Paso, Texas at age 15.

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## DOROTHY LINCOLN-SMITH CLASSICAL VOICE COMPETITION WINNER

### Alexandra Razskazoff, Tied for 2nd Place National Award (Washington DC Chapter)

Alexandra was a Resident Artist at The Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia during the 2017-2018 season, where she reprised the role of Wellgunde (*Das Rheingold*), and portrayed Echo (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) and Violetta (*La Traviata*). In 2016-2017, Alexandra was a Resident Artist with the Minnesota Opera and sang Wellgunde (*Das Rheingold*), Britomarte (*Martín y Soler: L'Arbore di Diana*), Miss Alden in William Bolcom and Mark Campbell’s world premiere of *Dinner at Eight*, and Musetta (*La bohème*), while covering Juliette (*Roméo et Juliette*). *The New York Times* acclaimed Alexandra as a “richly faceted, slinky soprano,” while *Opera News* described her voice as “...ample in size with an intriguing instrumental color.” Born in New Brighton, Minnesota, Alexandra was honored to receive the Marc von May Voice Scholarship at Peabody Conservatory and the Toulmin Foundation Scholarship and the Novick Career Advancement Grant while at Juilliard.

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The Central Illinois Chapter  
Congratulates our star,  
CHARENCE MONIQUE HIGGINS!

And thanks,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE



*The National Society of Arts and Letters*

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*Washington DC Chapter*

You are Invited to Join Us for Our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual

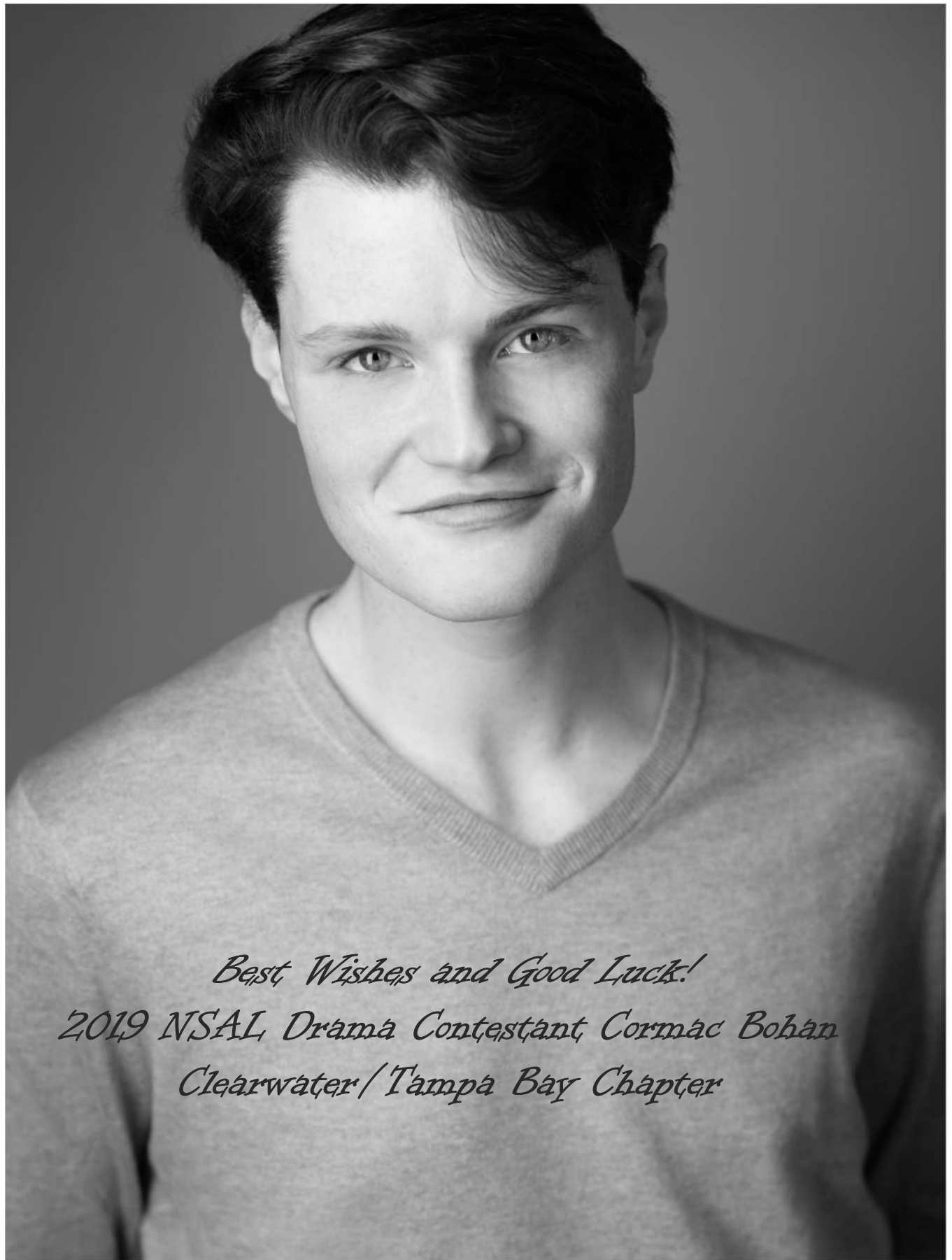


*Viennese Ball*

Saturday, November 9, 2019 at The Cosmos Club in Washington DC

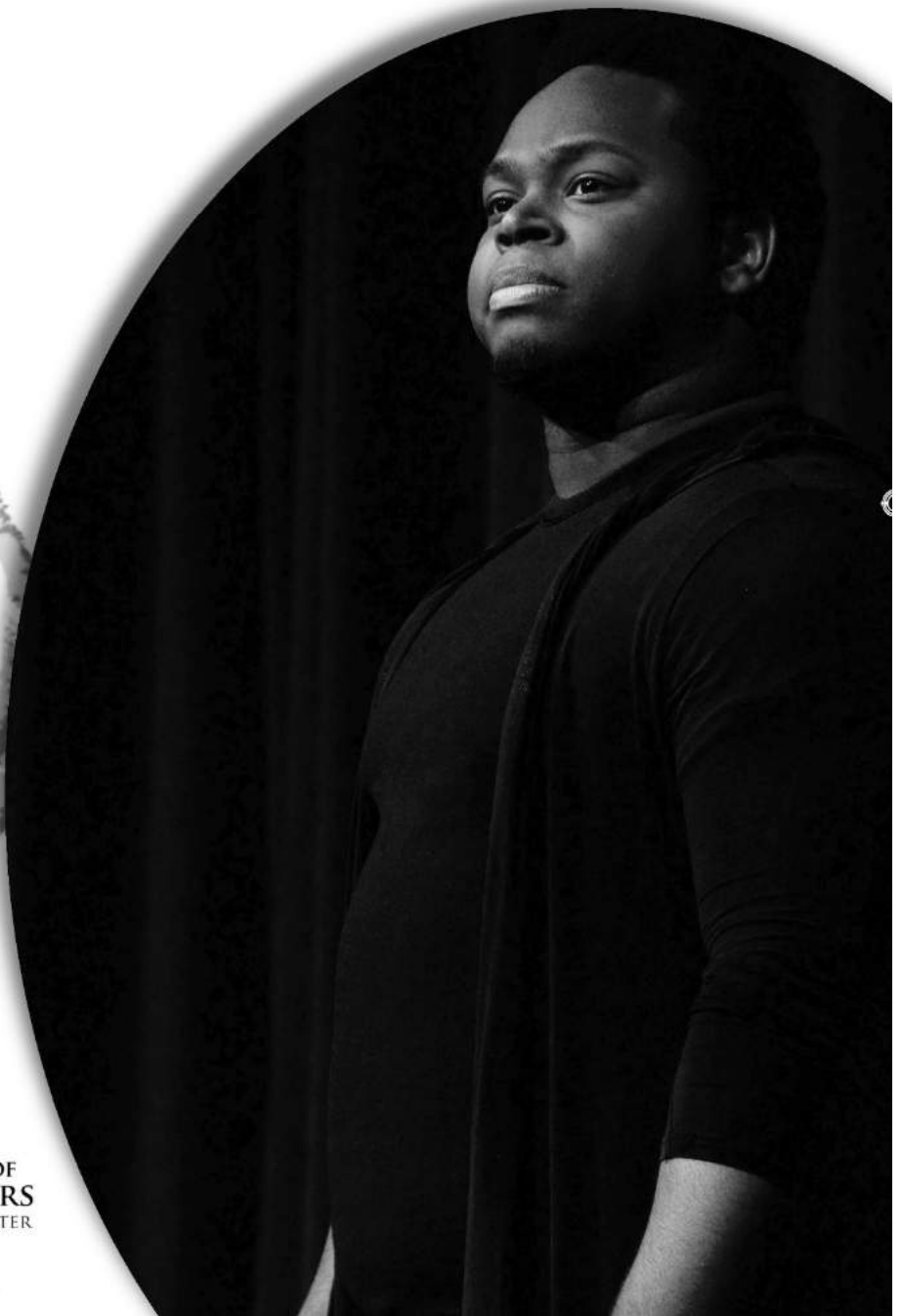
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This Premiere Viennese Waltz Ball of the Washington Ball Season Features  
Champagne Reception • Seated Dinner • Grande Marche • Viennese Dessert Buffet Fledermaus Quadrille  
Dancing to the Music of *con brio!* Salon Orchestra  
For more information please contact Laura Ivey at [lively18750@aol.com](mailto:lively18750@aol.com)



*Best Wishes and Good Luck!*  
*2019 NSAL Drama Contestant, Cormac Bohan*  
*Clearwater/Tampa Bay Chapter*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FLORIDA EAST COAST  
*FIRST PLACE DRAMA WINNER*  
**DARIUS J. MANUEL**



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
ARTS AND LETTERS  
FLORIDA EAST COAST CHAPTER

[WWW.NSALFLORIDAEAST.ORG](http://WWW.NSALFLORIDAEAST.ORG)

*Tessa Riley Miller*  
*Kentucky Chapter*

BEST WISHES  
TO  
NSAL DRAMA COMPETITION FINALISTS



*Metropolitan Chicago Chapter*  
*wishes the best of luck to*  
***Hannah Mary Simpson***  
*in the*  
***2019 NSAL Drama Competition!***

*Best wishes as well to the other seventeen young actors who are with us.*

*And to all the members of*  
*The National Society of Arts and Letters*  
***Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!***

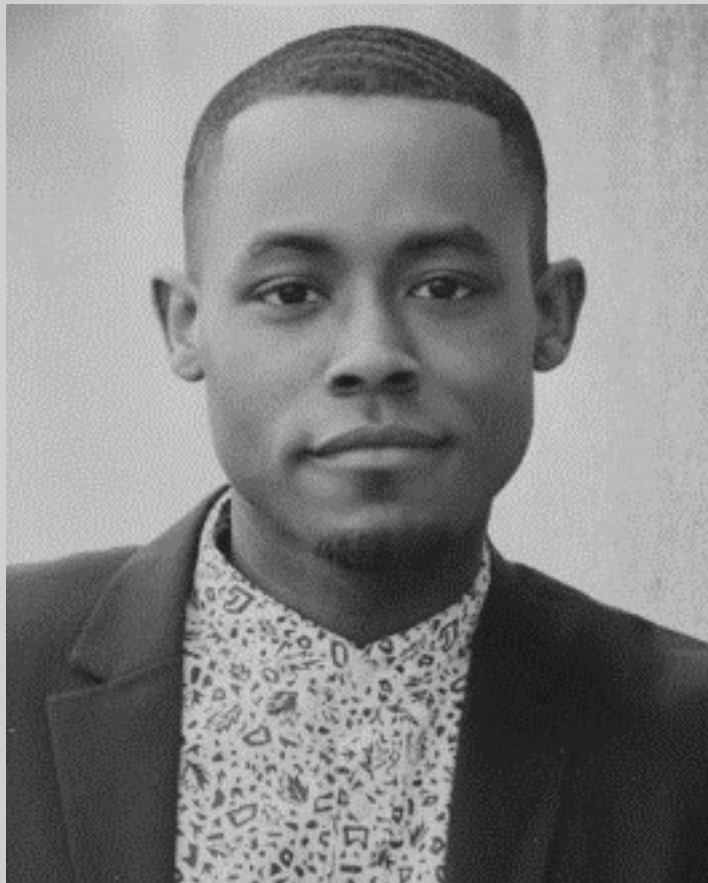


*The National Society of Arts and Letters*

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*Washington DC Chapter*

Congratulations to All NSAL Drama Contestants



**VAUGHN MIDDER**

**Winner of the Washington DC Chapter Drama Competition**

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# *It All Began on Newlands Street!*

On a warm summer day in 1944, Mollie Davis Nicholson and Francesca Falk Miller Nielsen sat in rocking chairs on Mollie's front porch in Chevy Chase, north of Washington DC, and talked about the state of the arts. They discussed the fact that the arts received very little support in this country, in contrast to the government subsidies given to artists in European countries. They decided to do something about it, and that afternoon the National Society of Arts and Letters was conceived. It was to be a non-partisan, non-political, and non-profit organization. Their plan was to provide financial assistance to promising young artists through scholarships in the artistic disciplines of art, music, and literature.



Mollie Nicholson with children Jessie Frank, David Brown, and Dorothy (Nicholson Stabell)

And so on September 2, 1944, at 103 Newlands Street, Chevy Chase, Mollie Davis Nicholson and her daughter, Dorothy Nicholson Bates (later Dorothy Nicholson Stabell), Francesca Nielsen, and a few other women, founded the National Society of Arts and Letters. Mollie agreed to grow the first chapter, to be called the Chevy Chase Chapter. In March 1945, it changed its name to the Washington Chapter when one of the founding members, Eleanor Searle Whitney, moved to Georgetown, a Washington neighborhood. Francesca started the Chicago Chapter in October 1944.

After starting the Chicago Chapter, Francesca took NSAL national, traveling the country opening chapters in other cities. In addition to her NSAL efforts, Francesca was also a singer, author, and a poet, as well as President of the Friends of the Chicago Library.



Francesca Nielsen

By June 30, 1945, the first NSAL national conference was held in Chicago. There were already eight chapters formed:

Washington DC, Chicago, Florida, Colorado, North Dakota, California, Texas, and Kentucky. The conference concerned itself with rewriting the bylaws, establishing uniform guidelines for scholarships, and defining the purpose of NSAL. Young artists were to be encouraged by donor gifts, chapter prizes, scholarships, and exhibitions of their work. The bylaws provided membership to women qualified in the arts who were U.S. citizens. Artist member Emma W. Slack designed the logo.



*First Convention N.S.A.L. April 1946, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.*

The first National Convention was held at the Mayflower Hotel in from April 15-16, 1946 in Washington DC. Dorothy Nicholson Bates Stabell, second from left, is the founder of the Washington DC Chapter. Her mother, Mollie Davis Nicholson, NSAL co-founder, is second from the right.

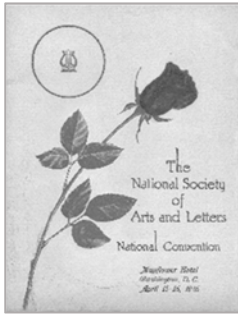
In 1945, under the leadership of Mollie and Francesca, the Washington and Chicago Chapters awarded their first scholarships. Both chapters awarded a scholarship in piano, the Washington Chapter awarded three in voice, and the Chicago Chapter awarded one in pipe organ.

By 1946, there were four more chapters: Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, and New Jersey. A convention was held in Washington DC from April 15-16 at the Mayflower Hotel. The convention theme was "Talent is Essential for Peace." The program stated: "It has been said that a nation is as great as its cultural standards. The National Society of Arts and Letters is an organization whose broader purpose is to promote lasting world peace by lifting standards of every nation through mutual appreciation and endeavor in intellectual and cultural fields. Our immediate purpose is to aid young talent to receive recognition in the fields of art, music and literature."

It was a wonderful convention. First Lady Bess Truman initiated the festivities with a reception at the White

House. On April 16, 1946, the *Washington Post* covered the event, stating: "The Nation's Capital has long been accustomed to brilliant and talented women, but even Washingtonians must perk up with interest at the varied accomplishments of the women composing a new organization — The National Society of Arts and Letters."

At this 1946 convention, a group of distinguished persons in the arts was named to an NSAL Advisory Council. Practical matters were also addressed. It was decided to have a national initiation fee and national dues. There were even hopes of building a national clubhouse. Chapters were encouraged to hold annual benefits and gather scholarship funds.



1946 National Convention Cover  
Dorothy Nicholson Stabell at 16

As growth continued, Francesca, the second National President, introduced and edited the newsletter with a plan to issue it three times a year. A Certificate of Incorporation was issued July 29, 1949, and tax-exempt status was recorded November 7, 1949. That year the dance and drama categories were added to the list of artistic disciplines. By 1951, NSAL had 25 chapters.

Mollie was an inspirational, natural leader who was also deeply involved in politics. She was the first Democratic

National Committeewoman from Maryland to attend the 1924 National Democratic Convention in New York City and was considered as a possible Vice Presidential candidate. In 1941, she ran as a candidate for Congress. She was President of the Chevy Chase Branch of the Montgomery County Chapter of the American Red Cross, raising more money during World War I than any other branch in Maryland. Mollie was presented with a service medal by the American Red Cross and continued her work through World War II.

Mollie was also Regent of Chevy Chase of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. She used her skills to organize four thrift shops in the area that raised funds to feed milk and lunch to county school children.



First Lady Nancy Reagan shakes the hand of Washington DC Chapter President Dorothy Stabell at The Phillips Collection as Bobbie Godridge looks on. The day was March 30, 1981. Moments after this photo was taken, Mrs. Reagan would learn that her husband has just been shot.





# *Congratulations*

## *National Society of Arts and Letters 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

May 29, 2019

**WHEREAS**, today, the National Society of Arts and Letters is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary along with its National Conference and Drama Competition; and

**WHEREAS**, National Society of Arts and Letters was founded in 1944 and has 18 chapters with more than 1,450 members throughout the United States; and

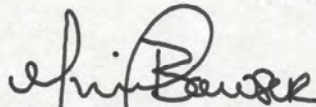
**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the National Society of Arts and Letters is to encourage and provide financial assistance to talented young artists through annual competitions in the categories of music, musical theatre, literature, drama, dance and visual arts; and

**WHEREAS**, for 75 years, the Washington, DC Chapter of National Society of Arts and Letters has helped and continues to motivate and inspire youth to pursue their dreams and goals; and

**WHEREAS**, as the National Society of Arts and Letters celebrates a significant milestone, and Washington, DC applauds you for 75 years of service:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC,** do hereby wish the National Society of Arts and Letters a very

*Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

  
Muriel Bowser  
Mayor, Washington, DC



The National Society of Arts and Letters  
Supporting young talent in the performing, literary, and visual arts since 1944.