

THE NAACP THEATRE AWARDS ARE PRESENTED BY
THE BEVERLY HILLS/HOLLYWOOD NAACP BRANCH

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**30th NAACP THEATRE AWARDS ANNOUNCES NOMINEES, PARTNERSHIP 10TH
DISTRICT COUNCILWOMAN HEATHER HUTT**

Tony, EMMY Award, Pulitzer Prize winners amongst top nominees

Beverly Hills, California (April 15, 2024) – The NAACP Beverly Hills/Hollywood Branch’s Theatre Viewing Committee has spoken, and the nominations are in for the **30th Annual NAACP Theatre Awards**. The nominees encompass several classics and new favorites which truly represents a legacy of talent with a cross-section of elite screen and stage actors. They will be honored for their thespian excellence during our annual awards dinner show, slated to be held on **Monday, June 3, 2024, 6:00 p.m.** at the glamorous **Taglyan Complex** in Los Angeles, California.

This year, we proudly partner with the 10th District of Los Angeles Councilwoman Heather Hutt to heighten the awareness of Black Theatre here in the Los Angeles area. Hutt stands at the cutting edge and is a forefront leader in the local arts community, working to ensure that Los Angeles’ art scene reflects the rich diversity of its communities.

"Black artists have been pivotal to the evolution of the arts since the very beginning, and for over three decades, the NAACP Theatre Awards has been a testament to this rich and vibrant legacy of talent. I am honored to partner with the NAACP Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch for this year’s awards ceremony, which I’m confident will be a celebration of the enduring power and contributions of Black people, not just in our communities, but throughout history.", says Councilwoman Hutt.

A musical production depicting the rise and pitfalls of a legendary Motown group “Ain’t to Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations,” includes Tony award winners Sergio Trujillo for Best Choreographer and Paul Tazewell for Best Costumes, ties with a thought-provoking adaptation of the beloved opera, CARMEN, by Georges Bizet with new lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, titled “CARMEN JONES”. The classic story of the bewitching Carmen is reset in a parachute factory during 1940’s World War II and ties with ten nominations.

August Wilsons’ play, "Radio Golf" which focuses on three real estate entrepreneurs bringing new economic developments to a small town, brings in nine nominations this season while “INVINCIBLE” features the music of Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo and reimagines the timeless story of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* for the 21st century through an intricate weaving of the four-time GRAMMY® Award-winners and 2022 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees’ legendary catalog and inspired new songs. With eight nods, this wildly inventive new musical explores how love and equality battle for survival in times of great transformation.

Previous winner for set designer, Rachel Myers and Grey’s Anatomy Brandon Scott, help to bring in seven nominations with “Power of Sail.” The musical features a distinguished Harvard professor who finds himself in hot water after inviting an incendiary white nationalist to speak at his annual symposium. Now the ladies clearly own, “Nina Simone: Four Women” as they are nominated for Best Lead Female and Supporting Actress plus three more nods in various categories including Best Producer & Best Musical Director. This deeply personal play with music imagines how the iconic chanteuse forged her true calling—and gave voice to countless other Black women fighting to overcome stereotypes and racism.

“Blues for an Alabama Sky”, set in Harlem 1930 where the blues are getting bluer, and the gin is running dry. A free-spirited Cotton Club singer has just been fired with nowhere left to go but down brings in four nominations with EMMY & Tony Award winner, legendary actress/director Phylicia Rashad for Best Director and political activist Pearl Cleage for Best Playwright. Seasoned actor, EMMY & Audie award winner and known thespian Joe Morton, delivers in *“King Lear”* which lands him a salute as Best Male lead plus Brie Eley for Best Lead Female. *“King Lear”* is a radical reinvention of Shakespeare's greatest play that explores questions of truth, love and power, and offers a glimpse of redemption. Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage grabs two nods for *“Clyde’s,”* which centers around formerly incarcerated staff of Clyde’s truck stop diner who looks to start their lives over in the kitchen under the pressure of the fiery rule of their owner.

Dramas like *“Man’s Favor Devil’s Plan”* leads the 99-seat group with an enormous 14 nominations which is a mark in almost all awards categories. Based in Los Angeles, California, 1938, Mr. Avery’s Hotel, a microcosm of a nation that has been steep in a vicious hypocritical quagmire so pervasive that it’s become a reflection of the consciousness of a country.

The coming-of-age production *“How We Got On”* ties with *“Rapunzel Alone”* for nine nominations. Both productions highlight the various struggles and challenges of being young and dreaming of a bright future. Written by award-winning playwright Lorraine Hansberry, *“Detained”* earns seven nods for their compilation of true stories that explores the rippling impact of mass deportations on families.

A timeless classic, *“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner”* explores the racial sensibilities of a progressive white couple who are put to the test when their daughter brings her black fiancé home to meet them in this fresh and relevant stage adaptation of the iconic film draws in seven nominations this season.

“Hooded, or Being Black For Dummies” is an irreverent, darkly funny coming-of-age story that explores racial identity, privilege and pop culture with insight, passion and biting humor lands four nominations including Best Lead Male.

Executive/Creative Producer of the NAACP Theatre Awards Show **Tia Boyd** states, *“The black audience is a growing theatre market that must not be ignored. The NAACP Salute to Black Theatre awards and highlights plays that bring a new energy to the art.”*

Tickets can be purchased via Brown Paper Tickets: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6291915>

For more information and sponsorship opportunities for the 30th NAACP Theatre Awards, please visit www.naacptheatreawards.com. Media inquiries can be directed to Lisa Humphrey – Premier Concepts via email: media@premierconceptspr.com or [click here for credential form](#).

About the NAACP Theatre Awards

The NAACP Theatre Awards is presented by the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP Branch in partnership with the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Heather Hutt/District 10. The event is co-chaired by Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP Branch President Ron Hasson, and the Executive Producer, Tia Boyd. The mission of the Theatre Awards is to entertain, educate, inspire the community and create diversity in the arts and entertainment industry. The prestigious star-studded gala aims to honor the highest achieving persons in the field of dramatic arts. Click here to join our mailing list: <https://tinyurl.com/BHHNAACP>

About the NAACP Theatre Viewing Committee

The NAACP Theatre Viewing Committee considers all candidates who submit their productions from January through December 2022, for possible nomination. All productions must run for at least six (6) full performances in Southern California (San Diego to Bakersfield included). Previews, invited dress rehearsals, and other similar showings do not count towards eligibility. Eligibility for this year’s edition was limited to theatre productions opening in January 2022 through December 2022. Productions who meet all eligibility requirements before the deadline are considered eligible for a NAACP

Theatre Award. Nominees will be notified by the NAACP Theatre Viewing Committee Chairpersons Martha Pruden-Hamiter and Lynn Patterson.

[See full nomination list below]

**30th Annual NAACP Theatre Awards Nominations
2024**

Best Choreography – Larger Theatre

Ain't Too Proud The Life and Times of The Temptations – Sergio Trujillo
Carmen Jones – Lisa Ruffin
Invincible - The Musical– Steve Rankin/Galen Hooks

Best Choreography – 99 Seat Theatre

Detained – Annie Yee
How We Got On – Lynn Adrianna Freedman
Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Jan Bouldin Blunt

Best Costumes – Larger Theatre

Ain't Too Proud The Life and Times of The Temptations – Paul Tazewell
Blues For An Alabama Sky – Wendell C. Carmichael
Carmen Jones – Alex Jaeger
Invincible-The Musical - Lena Sands

Best Costumes – 99 Seat Theatre

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner – Michael Mullen
How We Got On – Mylette Nora
Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Naila Aladdin Sanders

Best Director – Larger Theatre

Radio Golf – Gregg T. Daniel
Power of Sail – Weyni Mengesha
Invincible-The Musical – Tiffany Nichole Greene
Carmen Jones - Jonathan Fox
Blues For An Alabama Sky - Phylcia Rashad
Ain't Too Proud The Life and Times of The Temptations - Des McAnuff

Best Director – 99 Seat Theatre

Mommie & Clyde – Byron Nora
Man's Favor Devil's Plan – C. Julian White
Detained – Mark Valdez
Rapunzel Alone - Debbie Devine, Jesus Castanos-Chima

Best Ensemble Cast – Larger Theatre

Ain't Too Proud The Life and Times of The Temptations
Blues For An Alabama Sky
Carmen Jones
Invincible-The Musical

Best Ensemble Cast – 99 Seat Theatre

Detained
Guess Who's Coming To Dinner
Mommie & Clyde

Best Lead Female - Larger Theatre

King Lear– Brie Eley
Nina Simone: Four Woman – Chibuba Osuala
Radio Golf - Sydney A.Mason

Best Lead Female – 99 Seat Theatre

Rapunzel Alone– Jacquelin Lorraine Schofield
Man's Favor Devil's Plan– Ashlee Olivia Jones
How We Got On– Jacquelin Lorraine Schofield
Rapunzel Alone – Tara Alise Cox

Best Lead Male – Larger Theatre

King Lear– Joe Morton
Radio Golf – Christian Telesmar

Best Lead Male – 99 Seat Theatre

How We Got On – Isaac Cruz
Man's Favor Devil's Plan– Matt Jennings
Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies – Brent Grimes
Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies – Jalen K. Stewart

Best Lighting – Larger Theatre

Ain't Too Proud The Life and Times of The Temptations – Howell Binkley
Carmen Jones – Francois-Pierre Couture
Invincible-The Musical – Elizabeth Harper
Power of Sail - Lap Chi Chu
Radio Golf - Brandon Baruch

Best Lighting - 99 Seat Theatre

Rapunzel Alone – Dan Weingarten
Detained – Christian V. Mejia
Guess Who's Coming To Dinner – Derrick McDaniel
How We Got On - Derrick McDaniel
Man's Favor Devil's Plan - Benedict Conran

Best Music Director – Larger Theatre

Ain't Too Proud The Life and Times of The Temptations – Kenny Seymour
Carmen Jones – William Foster McDaniel
Nina Simone: Four Woman – Richard Baskin Jr.

Best Music Director – 99 Seat Theatre

Rapunzel Alone – Bradley Brough
How We Got On – Sean Kantrowitz
Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Cydney Wayne Davis

Best Playwright – Larger Theatre

Power of Sail – Paul Grellong
Ain't Too Proud The Life and Times of The Temptations – Dominique Morissea
Blues For An Alabama Sky – Pearl Cleage
Carmen Jones - Oscar Hammerstein II
Clyde's - Lynn Nottage
Invincible-The Musical - Bradley Bredeweg

Best Playwright – 99 Seat Theatre

Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Kwik Jones
Detained – France-Luce Benson
Rapunzel Alone – Mike Kenny

**30th Annual NAACP Theatre Awards Nominations
2024**

Best Producer – Larger Theatre

Carmen Jones – Ensemble Theatre
Company Santa Barbara

**Ain't Too Proud The Life and
Times of The Temptations** – Ira
Pittelman & Tom Hulce

Nina Simone: Four Woman – Kim
Martin-Cotton

Power of Sail - Geffen Playhouse &
Darryl Roth

Radio Golf - Geoff Elliott & Julia
Rodriguez-Elliott

Invincible - The Musical– Wallis
Annenberg Center for the Performing
Arts and Presented by Special
Arrangement with Jamie Cesa, Cody
Lassen and Bel Chiasso Entertainment

Best Producer – 99 Seat Theatre

Rapunzel Alone – Jay McAdams &
Jennie McInnes

Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Ben
Guillory and Robey Theatre
Company

Detained – The Fountain Theatre

Best-Set Design – Larger Theatre

**Ain't Too Proud The Life and
Times of The Temptations** – Robert
Brill

Carmen Jones – Francois-Pierre
Couture

Clyde's – Takeshi Kata

Power of Sail - Rachel Myers

Radio Golf - Sibyl Wickersheimer

Best-Set Design - 99 Seat Theatre

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner –
Jeff G. Rack

How We Got On – Michael Ricks

Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Nathan
Gary Stuffel

Best Sound – Larger Theatre

**Ain't Too Proud The Life and
Times of The Temptations** – Steve
Canyon Kennedy

Carmen Jones – Randall Robert Tico

Invincible -The Musical– Cricket
Myers

Best Sound – 99 Seat Theatre

Detained – Marc Antonio
Pritchett

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner –
Nick Foran

Man's Favor Devil's Plan – C. Julian
White

Best Supporting Female – Larger Theatre

Power of Sail – Donna Simone
Johnson

Nina Simone: Four Woman – Arie
Bianca Thompson

Nina Simone: Four Woman –
Jennifer Leigh Warren

Nina Simone: Four Woman -
Meredith Noel

Best Supporting Female – 99 Seat Theatre

Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Christina
Childress

Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Crystal
Nix

How We Got On – Angela Oliver

Best Supporting Male – Larger Theatre

Power of Sail – Brandon Scott

Radio Golf - Alex Morris

Radio Golf – DeJuan Christopher

Radio Golf - Matt Orduna

Best Supporting Male – 99 Seat Theatre

Man's Favor Devil's Plan – Nic Few

Rapunzel Alone – Matt Curtin

Hooded, or Being Black for

Dummies - Ezekiel Goodman

Hooded, or Being Black for

Dummies - Vincent Doud