



PLAYBILL



The Semina DeLaurentis

HALO AWARDS

2026 Awards
Friday, May 29



Youth Summer Theatre Program



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Kimberly Carew

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John-Michael Whitney

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HOST & PRESENTERS

Halo Awards Host

Marissa Follo Perry
Broadway Actress

Halo Awards Presenters

Maria Baratta, *Professional Actress*

Matthew Brough, *Professional Actor, Dance Molinari Representative*

Bob Burns, *Executive Director Mattatuck Museum*

Shelby Davis, *Executive Director/Founder, City Stage Company*

Raphael Feliciano-Roman, *Alderman, City of Waterbury, Executive Director, Pa'Lante Theatre Company*

Rick Fountain, *Professional Actor*

Elizabeth Fox, *Professional Actress*

Keisha T. Fraser, *Professional Actress*

Kenneth Galm, *Professional Actor*

Guy Gaudiosi, *Professional Actor*

Bobby Henry, *Professional Actor*

Lori Holm, *Executive Director, The Arts at Angeloria's*

Nancy Sasso Janis, *Theater Critic, Connecticut Critics Circle*

John Rush, *Professional Actor*

Joyce Follo Jeffrey, *Professional Actress*

Julia Kiley, *Professional Actress and Director*

Teagan LaShay, *Professional Actress*

Terry Macary, *Tourism Director, Waterbury Regional Chamber, Western CT Tourism District*

Constantine Pappas, *Broadway Actor, Producing Artistic Director, Seven Angels Theatre*

The Honorable Paul K. Pernerewski Jr., *Mayor of City of Waterbury*

Geraldo Reyes Jr., *Connecticut State Representative*

Charles Romano, *Professional Actor*

Donovan Shaw, *Professional Actor, VP of City Stage Company*

Tom Simonetti, *Artistic Director, Valley Shakespeare Festival*

Frank Tavera, *CEO, Palace Theater*

Robert J. Williams, *Professional Actor*

Kelly Zimmerman, *Alderman, City of Waterbury*

A LETTER FROM SEMINA DE LAURENTIS

Over the past 23 years, the HALOS has become a high school experience that is cherished and remembered by thousands of students.

The HALOS were created because I wanted a program that supported and acknowledged the true purpose and significance of high school theatre; an event that made it possible for students to come together, to perform for each other and to celebrate the thrill of their High School productions; a program accessible to all schools.

Gifts of talent and creativity are not defined by what school, what town, what theatre budget a school may have. I envisioned an event that took monetary obligations out of the equation to participate, embracing and recognizing all schools, all students, and all aspects of a theatre program, onstage and backstage.

I envisioned a program that was 100% about the students, recognizing the value of their work. Though adults are recognized and acknowledged for their dedication and commitment, only students are nominated and awarded.

At the HALOS, we recognize that there are no small parts, no small responsibilities. No matter what career is pursued, what is learned and discovered in a HS Theatre program is invaluable. That is what the HALOS are about.

Twenty-three years ago I was told a program with such an inclusive and comprehensive mission and philosophy would statistically and monetarily be impossible, yet, against all odds, and with the help of so many dedicated people, we have made it a reality. I am thrilled to hear the worthiness of the HALOS recognized and praised by students, educators and business leaders.

The program has now reached well over 100,000 students.

In all my past 35 years as Artistic Director of Seven Angels Theatre, there was no program, no production, no project that thrilled me and brought me as much joy as the HALOS. Seeing the difference it has made has been a gift. Though retired as Seven Angels AD, I am thrilled to be continuing with the HALOS assuring its future, its mission and its philosophy.

Gratefully,

Semina De Laurentis



PRESENTS

The title 'ALL SHOOK UP' is rendered in large, colorful, block letters. 'ALL' is red, 'SHOOK' is blue, and 'UP' is green. The letters have a distressed, hand-painted appearance. Silhouettes of a man dancing and a woman sitting on a large vinyl record are integrated into the design. Two actual vinyl records are placed over the 'OO' in 'SHOOK'. White starburst graphics are scattered around the text.

A new musical comedy by
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FEATURED SCHOOLS

Friday, May 29

ACES Chase Academy

Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) Performing Arts Magnet
High School

Crosby High School

East Catholic High School

Holy Cross High School

Housatonic Valley Regional High School

Joseph A. Foran High School

Kennedy High School

Kingswood Oxford

Kinsella Magnet School

Lauralton Hall

Lyman Hall High School

Mark T. Sheehan High School

New Haven Academy

*North Branford High School

North Haven High School

Norwalk High School

Notre Dame High School WH

Sacred Heart Academy

Thomaston High School

Tolland High School

West Haven High School

Wilbur Cross High School

Wilby High School

The Williams School

Wolcott High School

Woodland Regional High School

ORDER OF PERFORMANCES & AWARDS

Friday, May 29

ACT I

THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mashup from Chicago and Beetlejuice

Opening Remarks

ACES CHASE ACADEMY

"She's In Love" from Disney's The Little Mermaid

Best Performance in a Featured Male Role in a Play

Best Performance in a Featured Female Role in a Play

Best Performance in a Featured Male Role in a Musical

Best Performance in a Featured Female Role in a Musical

EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

"Five Forever" from Little Women

Best Performance in a Comic Male Role in a Play

Best Performance in a Comic Female Role in a Play

WILBY HIGH SCHOOL

"It's All Greek to Me" from Greece is the Word: A Zeusical

Best Performance in a Comic Male Role in a Musical

Best Performance in a Comic Female Role in a Musical

HOUSATONIC REGIONAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

"If I Were a Bell" from Guys and Dolls

Specialty Awards

JOSEPH A FORAN HIGH SCHOOL

"Jitterbug" from The Wizard of Oz

Best Costume Design and/or Execution

Best Hair and/or Makeup Design and/or Execution

NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL

"All I Care About is Love" from Chicago

Best Lighting Design and/or Execution

Best Sound Design and/or Execution

ORDER OF PERFORMANCES & AWARDS

Friday, May 29

KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

“Nonsense Medley” from Dare to Dream

Best Scenic Design and/or Execution

Best Props Design

SACRED HEART ACADEMY

“Once Upon A One More Time” from Once Upon A One More Time

Best Special Effects

Best Running Crew

NORTH BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL

“Don’t Feed the Plants” from Little Shop of Horrors

Best Stage Management

Best Original Program Cover Design or Artwork

MARK T SHEEHAN HIGH SCHOOL

Medley from Anastasia

Best Dancing

Best Featured Dancer(s)

Best Choreographer

Best Specialty Ensemble

WOODLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

“Toledo Surprise” from The Drowsy Chaperone

INTERMISSION (15 minutes)

ACT II

KINGSWOOD OXFORD

“New York, New York” from On The Town

Halos Robe Parade

Best Chorus

NORTH HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

“Under The Sea” from Disney’s The Little Mermaid

ORDER OF PERFORMANCES & AWARDS

Friday, May 29

Best Performance in a Supporting Male Role in a Play
Best Performance in a Supporting Female Role in a Play

WOLCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

"Ya Never Know" from Little Shop of Horrors

Best Performance in a Supporting Male Role in a Musical
Best Performance in a Supporting Female Role in a Musical

LAURALTON HALL

"Magic" from Xanadu

Best Performance by a Couple or Dynamic Duo in a Musical
Best Performance by a Cast in an Ensemble Production

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

"Somewhere That's Green" from Little Shop of Horrors

Best Standout Performance in a Male Role in an Ensemble Production
Best Standout Performance in a Female Role in an Ensemble Production

ARTS AT THE CAPITOL THEATER

"Not About Me" from The Prom

Teacher Recognition

THE WILLIAMS SCHOOL

"Our Finest Dreams" from Little Women

Best Performance in a Leading Male Role in a Play
Best Performance in a Leading Female Role in a Play

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

"Show People" from Curtains

Best Performance in a Leading Male Role in a Classical Musical
Best Performance in a Leading Female Role in a Classical Musical

NEW HAVEN ACADEMY

"Big Fun" from Heathers

Best Performance in a Leading Male Role in a Contemporary Musical
Best Performance in a Leading Female Role in a Contemporary Musical

ORDER OF PERFORMANCES & AWARDS

Friday, May 29

TOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Medley from The Phantom of the Opera

Best Classical Play

Best Contemporary Play

WILBUR CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Medley from The Prom

Dance Molinari Scholarship

Artistic Director Award

WEST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

"Finale" from Footloose

Best Classical Musical

Best Contemporary Musical

***THANK YOU &
CONGRATULATIONS!***

PRESENTER BIOS

SAMANTHA RAE BASS is a native of Cookeville, TN. Her past works include, “SideShow, In Concert”, “The Bodyguard”, “Leader Of The Pack”, “Rock and Roll Redemption”, and roles such as Tina Turner/Aretha Franklin in “Beehive, The 60’s Musical”, Marie/ Fairygodmother in “Cinderella”, Shug Avery in “The Color Purple”, Effie White and Lorrell Robinson in “Dream Girls” as well as Felicia in “Memphis, The Musical.” Samantha is the creative director/owner at Move In Motivation. Samantha also writes her own audio stories and has also done some commercial/film projects.

MARIA BARATTA is thrilled to be part of this year’s Halo Awards! She is proud member of AEA, and the NYC/CT theater community. Some of her performing credits include Off-Broadway: “Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding” (NYC, Boston, Japan), “Birdy’s Bachelorette Party”, “Irena’s Vow” (original workshop). Regionally: The Seven Angels Theatre – “I Loved I Lost I Made Spaghetti”, Love & Spumoni (premiere), and Secondo. Maria was recently part of the staged reading/development of “Circus Fire” at TheaterWorks Hartford, and has written two solo shows, the award winning “Vignettes of an Italian American Girl”, and “In Search of Maria Teresa”. She wishes each and everyone good luck tonight!

MATT BROUGH is a company member at Dance Molinari in NYC. On the Connecticut stage, Matt has played roles such as Hugo Peabody in Bye Bye Birdie at Seven Angels Theater directed by Jimmy Donohue and understudied Link Larkin in Hairspray at New Paradigm Theater. Recent NYC credits include Breaking Broadway Borders Cabaret at Off-Broadway’s Triad Theater, and performing with Tony Award Winner Laura Benanti at 54 Below. Matt is proudly represented by TK Management.

BOB BURNS is a Mattatuck Museum visionary who ignites passion for art & history with infectious enthusiasm. Actor turned museum director, Bob leverages his expertise to champion Waterbury’s cultural scene and foster collaboration within our community.

SHELBY DAVIS is the Founder and Executive Director of City Youth Theater/City Stage Company in Waterbury, Connecticut. He is a passionate arts educator and producer dedicated to creating accessible, high-quality theater experiences for performers. Under his leadership, CYT has grown into a thriving community arts organization offering performances, training programs, and outreach events that celebrate creativity, confidence, and collaboration. Shelby is committed to using theater as a tool for empowerment and community engagement.

PRESENTER BIOS

SEMINA DE LAURENTIS originated the role of Sr. Amnesia in the Broadway production of Nunsense receiving a NY Outer Critics Award. Filmed Nunsense I, II and Nuncrackers with Rue McClanahan. Founding Artistic Director Seven Angels Theatre (7A) in Waterbury, retiring in 2025 after 35 years. Recognized with numerous CT Critics Circle nominations and awards.

ELIZABETH FOX is a born and raised Connecticut actress, who is local to the CT and New York City area. She has been performing in the New York City cabaret scene, where she just won the BroadwayWorld Award for best ensemble soloist of 2025 for her performance in *54 Sings Ancient Greece* at 54 Below. She'd like to thank her family and loved ones for supporting her all these years, and Seven Angels Theatre for this opportunity. If you'd like to see more of her, you can check out her website at elizabethfoxtheater.com or follow her @elizabethfoxtheater on any platform!

KEISHA T. FRASER was most recently seen as Sister Mary Hubert alongside the legend Semina De Laurentis in Nunsense (Legacy Theatre). She made her Summer Theatre Of New Canaan debut last summer as Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*, and returns to STONC this summer to reprise the role of Mrs. Phelps in *Matilda*, a role she also played on the U.S. 1st National Broadway Tour. Selected credits include: Daniel in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Valley Shakespeare Festival), *The Washing Machine* in *Caroline, or Change*, Mrs. Brown in *The Book of Mormon* (West End), Lisa in *Mamma Mia* (Broadway), *The Color Purple* (London, UK), *Law & Order*, *Blue Bloods*, *Coroner*, *Kim's Convenience*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *Shazam!* MFA, Royal Scottish Academy. @keisha.t

KENNETH GALM is thrilled to be a part of this year's Halo Awards! Regional: Seven Angels Theatre: *A Grand Night for Singing*, CRT: *Sweeney Todd* (Tobias) *CT Critics Circle Award, Playhouse On Park: *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*, *The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful (and her dog!)*, *A Charles Dickens Christmas*. @kennethgalm

GUY C. GAUDIOSI is a Health IT Applications Manager at Leidos, Inc. and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP®) through the Project Management Institute. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Post University in Waterbury, CT, in 2019 and a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, in 2008. A proud alumnus of Holy Cross High School '03 in Waterbury, CT, Guy discovered his love for the performing and visual arts early on. He's graced the stage at Seven Angels Theatre in roles like Mr. Johnson and Quartet in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Oliver Hix in *The Music Man*, and Sebastian in *Cinderella*. Guy is thrilled to return as a presenter at the Halo Awards. Congratulations to all of the 2026 Halo Award nominees and recipients!

PRESENTER BIOS

TEAGAN LA'SHAY is a professional actress and proud member of Actors Equity who is based in NYC. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre from Western Connecticut State University. Her previous works include Deloris Van Cartier in Sister Act at Seven Angels Theatre, Jo in The Legend of Georgia McBride at Music Theatre of Connecticut, and a Player/US Leading Player in Pippin at Playhouse on Park. She's so excited to witness a new generation of artists in their element making art. Congratulations to all the participants!

NANCY SASSO JANIS is a retired first grade teacher who has been writing about and reviewing all levels of theater for the last fifteen years. She is the membership chair of the Connecticut Critics Circle. As an actor, Nancy has performed with St. Luke's Passion Play, Seven Angels Children's Theatre, Golden Years Theatre Company, Arts at Angeloria's, Spotlight Stage Company, Phoenix Stage, Newbury Musical Theatre, The Haunted Trolley and Lake Compounce.

JOYCE JEFFREY is a professional actress who has performed across Connecticut and New York for the last 60 years! Joyce has portrayed so many iconic roles such as Mama Rose in Gypsy, Dolly Levi in Hello Dolly, The Witch in Into The Woods, Maria in The Sound of Music, Aldonza in Man of La Mancha, Princess Puffer in the Mystery of Edwin Drood. If you've been to Seven Angels, you've seen her in equity and non equity productions like Aches and Pains, The Last Goodbye, Sister Act and her acclaimed portrayal of Reverend Mother in Nunsense. She has been a Halo judge for the last 20 years and is a proud mother and a blessed Nonna to 3 beautiful kids!

JULIA KILEY has called Seven Angels "home" for many years, directing all three of their George and Gracie productions as well as Souvenir, It Had To Be You and Laughter on the 23 rd Floor. Onstage she was seen in The Irish and How They Got That Way, Dancing at Lughnasa, Matchmaker, as Reno Sweeney in Anything Goes, and in the one-woman show, Shirley Valentine. She's also worked with the Ivoryton Playhouse and was awarded a CT Critics Circle Award for Sally in Follies. Kudos to all the young theater artists being celebrated here tonight – keep breaking legs!

PRESENTER BIOS

CONSTANTINE PAPPAS is a seasoned performer, having entertained all over North America and throughout the world. He was featured in over 600 performances of the North American tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*, performing 41 performances as Raoul, and appeared on Broadway in *Harmony: A New Musical*, directed by Tony Award winner Warren Carlyle, with music and lyrics by Barry Manilow and Bruce Sussman. He recently made his Carnegie hall debut alongside Aaron Tveit, featuring brand new music from Broadway conductor and musician Bryan Perri. A versatile artist crossing over from baritone to tenor and from opera to musical theater, he has performed in many productions, including: *The Secret Garden*, *Master Class* (Connecticut Critics Circle Nominee), *Les Miserables*, *Into the Woods*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Carmen*, *A Comedy of Tenors*, *Pagliacci*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *Titanic*. He is represented by Avalon Artists Group. FB, IG - @constandpappas www.constandpappas.com

THE HONORABLE PAUL J. PERNEREWski JR. Born and raised in Waterbury, Paul knew at an early age how important it was to have a strong and inclusive community. Growing up as the oldest of five children in Town Plot, he learned from his parents the value of hard work, honesty, and commitment to one's values. Paul and his wife Kim decided to raise their three sons here and continue to call Waterbury home. After graduating from Holy Cross High School, Paul furthered his education at the University of Connecticut and Georgetown University Law Center. Post-graduation from Georgetown, Paul worked as an attorney for thirty-seven years, beginning his career in law as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut and then General Counsel for the Connecticut Airport Authority. While serving in these positions, Paul also taught Business Law for ten years at Naugatuck Valley Community College. When a vacancy occurred on the Board of Aldermen, he was appointed by then Mayor Michael Jarjura. In subsequent elections the residents continued to elect Paul and in 2009 Paul took on the role of President of the Board until his election to Mayor in 2023.

GERALDO REYES JR. represents the 75th Assembly District of Waterbury (CT) in the House of Representatives, currently serving as Deputy Speaker and Co-Chair for the Waterbury Rail Line Caucus. Rep. Reyes has dedicated his career to the prosperity of the Waterbury Community. He works towards Environmental Justice and blight enhancements in our city. Reyes has participated in several grassroots projects including developing and planning "The Gathering" – the largest multicultural festival in New England. He is currently a board member of The God Provides Ministries, RIBA Aspira Inc., VP of SALSA League Inc., Roberto Clemente Youth League and SENA Organization.

PRESENTER BIOS

ALDERMAN RAFAEL FELICIANO ROMAN is an Alderman for the 5th District in Waterbury. A Queer Afro-Taíno artist, activist, and founder of the Waterbury Dems a progressive Democrat PAC. Rafael is an Afro-Boricua Taíno Resurgence leader, community activist, and cultural visionary. He founded the Afro-Caribbean Cultural Center in Waterbury, CT, and launched initiatives like Waterbury LGBTQIA+ PRIDE, the Puerto Rican Day Parade, and Pa'lante Theater Company. His impact has earned honors including the CT Arts Hero Award and El Mundo Boston's 30 Under 30. He remains dedicated to amplifying marginalized voices and building spaces of ancestral power, belonging, and cultural resistance.

CHARLES ROMANO is very excited to be presenting at this year's Halo Awards. He has performed with several CT-based theatre organizations; some favorite past credits include Agatha Trunchbull in *Matilda*, Anthony Hope in *Sweeney Todd*, Prince Topher in *Cinderella*, and Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*. He is also a recording artist, releasing music under the stage name "Chorlsy." He would like to thank his friends and family for their never-ending love and support.

DONOVAN SHAW is a Connecticut-based performer and creative artist. K-8 Drama Teacher at Kinsella Performing Arts Magnet School, Interim Vice President of City Stage Company, and Guest Artist for Hartford Stage Company. Upcoming: Writer of Objective a New Play opening at the 2026 New York Theatre Festival's Teatro LATEA, and director of Whitney Houston's The Bodyguard Musical. Recent performance credits include Angels in America (Belize), Legally Blonde (Emmett) and How To Succeed in Business(Jenkins). 2020 Connecticut Halo Award winner for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical for Caldwell B. Cladwell in Urinetown. WCSU BFA Musical Theatre '25.

TOM SIMONETTI is the Founder, Executive Director, and Producer of Valley Shakespeare Festival, a professional company renowned for both its mobile tours and free Shakespeare in the Park productions. A proud collaborator with Seven Angels Theatre, Tom has directed countless school productions across Connecticut, dedicating much of his career to youth arts education. He also shares his expertise as a theatre professor at Central Connecticut State University. Tom is thrilled to return to Seven Angels to celebrate these incredible high school artists. Deepest congratulations to all of tonight's phenomenal Halo Award nominees!

PRESENTER BIOS

FRANK TAVERA is the Chief Executive Officer of the Palace Theater, since May 2002, Tavera has been actively engaged in the Greater Waterbury community, and was integral to the creation of the Arts and Culture Collaborative Greater Waterbury, where he served as Chairman. Additionally, Frank served on the Leadership Council of the Greater Waterbury United Way, the Board of the Waterbury Development Corporation and was the President of Main Street Waterbury initiative. Currently Frank is the Treasurer of the Connecticut Arts Advocacy Network and the Secretary of the UConn Club Board and a member of Naugatuck Valley Community Advisory Council.

KELLY ZIMMERMANN is a passionate community advocate, arts supporter, and local leader. As an Alderwoman for the City of Waterbury and owner of Incite Marketing Group, Kelly has worked closely with musicians, artists, theaters, nonprofits, and small businesses to help amplify local voices and create meaningful community connections. Kelly has played the saxophone and oboe for more than 35 years and is passionate about teaching youth the language of music. She is a veteran of the 102nd Army National Guard Band and continues to enjoy performing with local community music groups. As a proud supporter of the arts, Kelly believes music and culture play a vital role in bringing people together, revitalizing communities, and inspiring future generations. She is honored to celebrate and support the talented individuals and organizations who help the arts thrive in our community and is proud to be part of this evening recognizing the incredible impact of local performing arts.

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The Halo Robe

The Broadway Tradition

This year marks the 76th Anniversary of the Legacy Robe. It truly is Broadway's greatest backstage tradition!

The Legacy Robe tradition began in 1950 when Bill Bradley, a chorus dancer in GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDS, asked Florence Baum, a chorus girl, for her dressing gown. Bill then sent it over to Arthur Partington, a chorus dancer at the Imperial Theatre where CALL ME MADAM was opening that night with a note proclaiming:

**THE ROBE HAD BEEN WORN BY ALL THE ZIEGFELD BEAUTIES AND
WOULD BLESS THEIR SHOW.**

A rose from one of Ethel Merman's costumes was attached to the Robe by Arthur, and it was sent on to the opening of the next chorus musical, GUYS AND DOLLS.

The Legacy Robe is awarded to a member of the chorus who has the most Broadway musical chorus credits. The honored Chorus Member puts on the Robe, circles the stage three times counter-clockwise and everyone touches the Robe. The Chorus Member, still wearing the Robe, then visits all the dressing rooms and:

THE SHOW IS BLESSED!

The Seven Angels Theatre Tradition

We wished to create a tradition that was reflective of the Halo Awards; thus, the Halo Robe was born! Tonight, we honor the ensemble members: those who seamlessly support their fellow actors and breathe life into the depth and fullness of art.

Each school has created a patch for the Halo Robe and has nominated a member of the chorus for Honoree of the Year. From all the production choruses, eight choruses are then nominated as Best Ensemble Chorus.

The honoree from the school that is awarded Best Chorus Ensemble is then presented to wear the Halo Robe.

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