



# PLAYBILL



The Semina DeLaurentis

## HALO AWARDS

# 2026 Awards

# Tuesday, May 26



# Youth Summer Theatre Program



**REGISTRATION  
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# HALO AWARDS STAFF

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## **Seven Angels Halo Awards Team**

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Lisa Leonard

Vickie Stemmer

Lyn Licese

Tara Vance

Phil Licese

Daniella Varrone

# OUR HALOS JUDGES

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Kimberly Carew

Joanne Chenkus

Noel Chicoine-Normand

Jack Ferreira

Tom Gordon

Patti Guarantano

Bobby Henry

Joyce Jeffrey

Jillian Kellogg

Jennifer LaFreniere

Meg Luddy

Mary McVerry

Mary Miko

Kevin Pelkey

Mary Pelkey

Sandy Spinello

Katie Vandrilla

John-Michael Whitney

Laura Zimmermann

# HOST & PRESENTERS

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## 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*

Diane Ploch, *Administrator for Arts & Culture Collaborative*

Geraldo Reyes Jr., *Connecticut State Representative*

Charles Romano, *Professional Actor*

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

Frank Tavera, *CEO, Palace Theater*

Robert J. Williams, *Professional Actor*

Alfred Vagnini, *CEO, Powerstation Events, Board President, Seven Angels Theatre*

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 overlaid on the text. Two actual vinyl records are placed over the 'OO' in 'SHOOK'. White starburst graphics are scattered around the letters.

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*Inspired by and featuring the hit songs of*  
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# FEATURED SCHOOLS

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*Tuesday, May 26*

Bethel High School  
Brien McMahon High School  
Bristol Eastern High School  
Bunnell High School  
Darien High School  
Fairfield Ludlowe High School  
Fairfield Warde High School  
Greens Farms Academy  
Greenwich Country Day School  
The Hotchkiss School  
Immaculate High School  
Joel Barlow High School  
Masuk High School  
Mercy High School  
Middletown High School  
New Fairfield High School  
New Canaan High School  
Newtown High School  
St. Luke's School  
Stamford High School  
Stratford High School  
Trumbull High School  
Westhill High School  
Weston High School  
Westover School  
Wilton High School  
Wooster School  
Xavier High School

# ORDER OF PERFORMANCES & AWARDS

Tuesday, May 26

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## ACT I

### TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL

*"A Musical" from Something Rotten!*

Opening Remarks

### GREENS FARMS ACADEMY

*"Me and My Baby" from Chicago*

Best Performance by a Featured Male Role in a Play

Best Performance by a Featured Female Role in a Play

Best Performance by a Featured Male Role in a Musical

Best Performance by a Featured Female Role in a Musical

### ST LUKE'S SCHOOL

*"Matchmaker" from Fiddler on the Roof*

Best Comic Male Role in a Play

Best Comic Female Role in a Play

Best Comic Male Role in a Musical

Best Comic Female Role in a Musical

### BUNNELL HIGH SCHOOL

*"Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from The Wizard of Oz*

Specialty Awards

### FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL

*"Mamma Mia" from Mamma Mia*

Best Costume Design and/or Execution

Best Hair and/or Makeup Design and/or Execution

### JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL

*"Right Track" from Pippin*

Best Lighting Design and/or Execution

Best Sound Design and/or Execution

### BRISTOL EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL

*"Finale" from Legally Blonde*

# ORDER OF PERFORMANCES & AWARDS

Tuesday, May 26

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Best Scenic Design and/or Execution

Best Props Design

## MASUK HIGH SCHOOL

*“Voulez Vous” from Mamma Mia*

Best Special Effects

Best Running Crew

Best Stage Management

## MERCY & XAVIER HIGH SCHOOLS

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

Best Incidental or Original Music in a Play

Best Original Program Cover Design or Artwork

Best Orchestra

## WESTON HIGH SCHOOL

*“Mushnik & Son” from Little Shop of Horrors*

Best Dancing

Best Featured Dancer(s)

Best Choreographer

Best Specialty Ensemble

## FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HIGH SCHOOL

*“In” from Carrie: The Musical*

## INTERMISSION (15 MINUTES)

## ACT II

## DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL

*“Put You In Your Place” from The Lightning Thief: A Percy Jackson Musical*

Halos Robe Parade

Best Chorus

## MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL

*“Allie McAndrews” from Between the Lines*

# ORDER OF PERFORMANCES & AWARDS

Tuesday, May 26

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

## **NEW FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

***"When You're an Addams" from The Addams Family***

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

## **IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL**

***Medley from Legally Blonde***

Best Performance by a Couple or Dynamic Duo in a Play  
Best Performance by a Couple or Dynamic Duo in a Musical

## **WILTON HIGH SCHOOL**

***"Part of Your World/Under the Sea" from Disney's The Little Mermaid***

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

## **BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL**

***"All That Jazz" from Chicago***

TEACHER RECOGNITION

## **GREENWICH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**

***"Neva Flows" from Anastasia***

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

## **BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL**

***"Screech" from Come From Away***

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

## **NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL**

***Medley from Mamma Mia***

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

# ORDER OF PERFORMANCES & AWARDS

Tuesday, May 26

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## WESTOVER SCHOOL

*"I See Stars" from Mean Girls*

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

## STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL

*Medley from Grease*

Best Classical Play  
Best Contemporary Play

## WOOSTER SCHOOL

*"Finale" from Into The Woods*

Dance Molinari Scholarship  
Artistic Director Award

## NEW CANAAN HIGH SCHOOL

*"So Much Better" from Legally Blonde*

Best Classical Musical  
Best Contemporary Musical

***THANK YOU &  
CONGRATULATIONS!***

# PRESENTER BIOS

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**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.

**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](http://elizabethfoxtheater.com) or follow her @elizabethfoxtheater on any platform!

# PRESENTER BIOS

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**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!

**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!

**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!

# PRESENTER BIOS

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**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](http://www.constandpappas.com)

**MARISSA FOLLO PERRY** is a professional actress whose Broadway credits include the original Broadway cast of *Sister Act*. She is best known for her portrayal of Tracy Turnblad, Broadway's favorite, fearless, dancing machine in *Hairspray* on Broadway. Marissa is a Waterbury girl who directs, choreographs and teaches in Connecticut. She is passionate in her pursuit of loudly and proudly loving each and every "theater kid". Marissa has booked a brand new role as "Mommy" to her stunning, sassy, sparkly daughter, Michelina.

**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.

**JOHN RUSH** is a recent graduate of Waterbury Arts Magnet School, and has quickly become a rising force in the theater community. He currently serves as Production Manager at Seven Angels Theatre, where he continues to expand his work in production and live entertainment. A two-time HALO Awards winner and a nominee for the prestigious Stephen Sondheim Awards, John has built an impressive résumé both onstage and behind the scenes. His theatrical credits include productions of *A Bronx Tale: The Musical* and *Sister Act* alongside Equity performers, as well as standout performances in *Parade*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *All Shook Up* at Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Known for his passion, leadership, and dedication to the performing arts, John continues to make his mark both backstage and under the spotlight, bringing professionalism, creativity, and energy to every production he is part of.

# PRESENTER BIOS

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**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.

**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.

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The advertisement features a purple background with circular logos for 'VMS MARKETING & TRANSLATION' in the corners. On the left, a smartphone displays an Instagram profile with a '+' icon, the name 'Instagram', a heart icon, and three profile picture icons. In the center, the company name 'VMS Marketing & Translation' is prominently displayed in a large, bold, black font. Below the name, the tagline 'Creative Social Media Management for Growing Businesses' and the services 'Social Media • Marketing • Branding' are listed. To the right, there is a 'Follow' button with a cursor icon, and four rounded rectangular buttons for 'Social Media', 'Website', 'Email Marketing', and 'Blogs'. At the bottom, the company's email address 'vmsmarketingllc@gmail.com' is repeated three times, accompanied by a QR code and a small arrow icon.

# The Halo Robe

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## *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!**

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## *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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Photo: Pegg Sains



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