

PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY

at the

*Suzanne Roberts Theatre*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT:

**En Route Marketing**

Wendi Sheridan

[wendi@enroutemarketing.com](mailto:wendi@enroutemarketing.com)

(215) 630-5287

**PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY AND THE TERENCE McNALLY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE  
APPLICATIONS FOR 2026 TERENCE McNALLY AWARD FOR PLAYWRIGHTS**

*The \$10,000 award supports an early-career Philadelphia playwright*

PHOTO: [CLICK HERE](#)

**PHILADELPHIA, PA – March 10, 2026** – [Philadelphia Theatre Company \(PTC\)](#), in partnership with [The Terrence McNally Foundation](#), announces that applications for the 2026 **Terrence McNally Award** will open on April 7. Presented biennially, the award identifies and supports one of Philadelphia’s most promising playwrights, championing the city’s artistic talent while honoring the legacy of the late Tony Award-winning writer Terrence McNally.

Under the leadership of PTC Co-Artistic Directors **Taibi Magar** and **Tyler Dobrowsky**, in close collaboration with The Terrence McNally Foundation, the award functions as a two-year developmental program. The selected playwright will receive a \$10,000 cash award, dramaturgical support, access to PTC’s artistic network, and career development opportunities, culminating in a public reading of their play with professional actors and a director during the award cycle (exact timing to be determined in consultation with the playwright).

“The Terrence McNally Award is one of the ways we invest directly in Philadelphia writers,” said Dobrowsky. “Terrence believed deeply in bold voices and new ideas, and this program allows us to support artists at a pivotal moment in their careers.”

Applications will be accepted until **June 2, 2026**, and reviewed by a pool of industry professionals. Finalists are selected through a multi-round process and will be announced in late August. Finalists will then be interviewed by a selection panel comprising representatives from Philadelphia Theatre Company and The Terrence McNally Foundation. The winner of the 2026 Terrence McNally Award will be selected by a panel of esteemed theater leaders, whose names will be announced at a later date, and revealed on **September 9, 2026**.

In addition to the biennial award for early-career playwrights, Philadelphia Theatre Company is proud to foster the next generation of writers through the new Carol Saline High School Playwriting Award funded by **Paul Rathblott** in memory of Carol Saline, a longtime PTC board member, award-winning journalist, and beloved community advocate. Open to Philadelphia-area high school sophomores and juniors, the competition invites students to submit an original 10-minute play, with the winning playwright receiving a **\$1,000 scholarship**. Submissions open April 7 and close June 2, with finalists announced in late August and the winner revealed on **September 9, 2026** — reinforcing PTC’s

commitment to supporting Philadelphia storytellers at every stage of their artistic journey. To learn more about please visit the website: [www.philadelphiaatrecompany.org/carolsaline-competition/](http://www.philadelphiaatrecompany.org/carolsaline-competition/)

The 2024 award-winning playwright was **MK Tuomanen** for their play *Night Science*. Previous McNally Award winners include Pulitzer Prize winner **James Ijames, Bill Cain, A. Zell Williams, Martín Zimmerman, and Donja R. Love.**

Terrence McNally was an American playwright, librettist, and LGBTQ+ trailblazer described by *The New York Times* as “the bard of the American theater.” Over six decades, he redefined American playwriting, earning five Tony Awards (two for his plays *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class*, two for the books to his musicals *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Ragtime*, and the 2019 Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement), an Emmy Award (*Andre’s Mother*), the Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award, and numerous other honors. His legacy continues through his plays, operas, and musicals performed worldwide, as well as through the work of the Terrence McNally Foundation, which supports emerging voices in American theater.

Philadelphia Theatre Company has a longstanding artistic relationship with McNally, mounting the world premieres of *Master Class, Golden Age, Some Men, and Unusual Acts of Devotion*, along with Philadelphia regional premieres of *Love! Valour! Compassion!, Lips Together, Teeth Apart, Mothers and Sons, and Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. Through the Terrence McNally Award, PTC continues its commitment to nurturing the next generation of transformative playwrights.

Applicants can find more information about the award at <https://philatreco.org/terrence-mcnally-award>. To learn more about Philadelphia Theatre Company and its productions, rentals, partnerships, sponsorship opportunities, and community programming, visit [www.philatreco.org](http://www.philatreco.org).

#### **ABOUT THE TERRENCE McNALLY FOUNDATION**

The Terrence McNally Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to supporting bold new voices in the American theatre by providing financial and institutional support to early-career playwrights. Created by Terrence and supported through the royalties of his work, the Foundation is also committed to supporting LGBTQ+ causes, as McNally did throughout his life.

#### **ABOUT PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY**

Founded in 1974, Philadelphia Theatre Company (PTC) is a vital civic institution creating extraordinary theatrical experiences that reflect the essential issues and ideas of our time. Led by Co-Artistic Directors Taibi Magar and Tyler Dobrowsky and Managing Director Margo Moskowitz, PTC performs at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre on the Avenue of the Arts and has premiered more than 100 new works, while championing countless others through initiatives like the biennial Terrence McNally Award for early-career Philadelphia playwrights. These efforts have helped cement Philadelphia’s reputation as a national hub for new play development. Beyond the stage, PTC engages the community through dynamic education programs and civic partnerships. PTC is a proud member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the national association of the country’s leading professional theatres. Learn more at [www.philatreco.org](http://www.philatreco.org).

###