MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB
2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

The Samuel J. Friedman Theatre
The Height of the Storm
By Florian Zeller
Translated by Christopher Hampton
Directed by Jonathan Kent
September 10–November 24, 2019
My Name is Lucy Barton
Based on the novel by Elizabeth Strout
Adapted by Rona Munro
Directed by Richard Eyre
January 6–February 29, 2020
The Perplexed
By Richard Greenberg
Directed by Lynne Meadow
February 11–March 12, 2020

New York City Center Stage I
Bella Bella
Written and Performed by Harvey Fierstein
From the words and works of Bella Abzug
Directed by Kimberly Senior
October 1–December 1, 2019

The Studio at Stage II – Harold and Mimi Steinberg New Play Series
The New Englanders
By Jeff Augustin
Directed by Saheem Ali
September 17–October 20, 2019

Awards

MTC's productions received a total of 21 award nominations and honors in spring 2020:

My Name is Lucy Barton (1 Win, 2 Nominations and Honors)
- Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play: Nominee*, Laura Linney
- Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Solo Performance: WINNER, Laura Linney
- Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Solo Performance: Honoree, Laura Linney

The Height of the Storm (6 Nominations and Honors)
- Drama League Distinguished Performance Award: Nominee, Jonathan Pryce
- Outer Critics Circle Award for Best New Play: Honoree, The Height of the Storm
- Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Actor in a Play: Honoree, Jonathan Pryce
- Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Actress in a Play: Honoree, Eileen Atkins
- Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Scenic Design: Honoree, Anthony Ward
- Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Lighting Design: Honoree, Hugh Vanstone

Bella Bella (3 Nominations and Honors)
- Drama League Distinguished Performance Citation: Harvey Fierstein
- Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show: Nominee, Harvey Fierstein
- Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Solo Performance: Nominee, Harvey Fierstein

The New Englanders (3 Wins, 5 Nominations)
- Audelco Award for Lighting Design: WINNER, Alan C. Edwards
- Audelco Award for Sound Design: Nominee, Palmer Heffran
- Audelco Award for Director of a Play: Nominee, Saheem Ali
- Audelco Award for Playwright: Nominee, Jeff Augustin
- Audelco Award for Lead Actor in a Play: WINNER, Teagle F. Bougere

The Best We Could (a family tragedy)
- Audelco Award for Lead Actress in a Play: Nominee, Kara Young
- Audelco Award for Lead Actress in a Play: Nominee, The New Englanders
- Audelco Award for Special Achievement: WINNER, Kara Young

Continuity (1 Nomination)
- Audelco Award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play: Nominee, Garcia

Support for The Height of the Storm was provided by the Laura Pels international Foundation for Theater. Support for My Name is Lucy Barton was provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust. Lead support for The Perplexed was provided by MTC's Producing Fund Partner, Ned J. Lustbader. Additional support for The Perplexed was provided by The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, and an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. The Perplexed was commissioned by MTC through the Bank of America New Play Program. Support for Poor Yella Rednecks was provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Emily Feldman was MTC’s 2019-2020 Tow Playwright-in-Residence. Additional support for The Best We Could (a family tragedy) was provided by an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. MTC thanks author, producer, and activist Jan Warner, who supported the Beyond the Stage talkback series in memory of Arthur Warner.

*Tony Awards have not yet taken place at the time this report was printed.
MTC Digital

While our stages were dark in spring 2020 – and will continue to be throughout 2020-21 – MTC Digital is connecting audiences with artists remotely, including:

- An at-home cooking show with actors Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker.
- A playwriting workshop with playwright David Auburn (Proof, The Columnist, Lost Lake).
- A conversation on the art of collaboration between director Saheem Ali and composer Michael Thurber.
- A conversation with Ruben Santiago-Hudson, who helmed MTC's Tony Award-winning production of Jitney in 2017, on his process as a theatre director.

Artistic Development

An essential part of our mission, MTC’s 2019-20 Artistic Development Program provided critical support to our thriving network of playwrights through new play commissions, developmental readings and workshops for works-in-progress, ongoing dramaturgical feedback, and other professional resources.

**New Commissions Awarded in 2019-20**

Will Arbery, Kate Attwell, Eboni Booth, Mia Chung, Noah Diaz, Ricardo Pérez González, Dave Harris, Julia Izumi, Anchuli Felicia King, Ife Olujobi, Stacey Rose, Alexis Scheer, Charly Evon Simpson, and Anna Ziegler

**2020 Ted Snowdon Reading Series**

Two free, public readings of plays in development:

**Good Time Charlie**
By Ryan J. Haddad
Directed by Danny Sharron

**The Collapse**
By Selina Fillinger
Directed by Margot Bordelon

*Commissioned by MTC through the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation*

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the remaining two readings in the series due to the COVID-19 pandemic: Alexis Scheer’s Laughs in Spanish, which would have been directed by David Mendizábal, and Julia Izumi’s (An Audio Guide For) Unsung Snails and Heroes, which would have been directed by Jenny Koons. Both are being rescheduled.

MTC Education

In 2019-20, MTC Education directly served 2,888 people and worked with 42 high schools, alternative schools, and youth services agencies from around New York City, the U.S., and the world. When the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to suspend our in-person programming in spring 2020, we quickly adapted some of our existing initiatives to virtual platforms and created new remote learning programs – like our Student Monologue Challenge and Family Drama Playwriting Workshop Series – to keep young people and families engaged with theatre.

**Population Served**

1,989 People Nationwide through New Remote Learning Programs
94 Students Attending Alternative Education Programs
42 Young People Involved with the Justice System
400 Students Attending Traditional High Schools
51 Adults
40 Interns
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on MTC financially, shrinking our budget from about $27 million pre-COVID to under $10 million while theatres are dark in 2020-21. While ticket sales in MTC’s 2019-20 season got off to a slow start, our winter and spring productions were selling very well, and we entered March 2020 cautiously optimistic that we would be able to end our 2019-20 fiscal year with a small operating surplus, before depreciation. Then we lost ticket revenue for three cancelled productions and our annual spring Gala due to COVID-19. As a result, we closed 2019-20 with a shortfall of $1.33 million. Unfortunately, with theatre closures continuing throughout 2020-21, we are anticipating steep declines in individual giving through our Patron program. In addition, ticket sales are likely to rebound slowly once we are able to reopen. Thus, it will likely take several years to fully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A copy of MTC’s annual financial report may be obtained, upon request, from MTC or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, at 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. It is also available on our website.
About Manhattan Theatre Club

For five decades, Manhattan Theatre Club has been a preeminent, not-for-profit producer of the highest quality, award-winning theatrical productions. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Lynne Meadow and Executive Producer Barry Grove, MTC has made enormous contributions to the American theatre, and this dynamic team has led the company from its origins as a small, vibrant off-off-Broadway theatre to its status as a distinguished and vital New York institution.

The mission of MTC, since 1972, has been to produce innovative theatre of the highest quality by American and international playwrights, with a focus on presenting New York, American and world premieres. We encourage excellence by identifying and working with the most talented professionals in every aspect of production.

Each season, we present a repertoire of entertaining and thought-provoking plays and musicals in our three theatres. Our emphasis on excellence extends to every aspect of the company: from the gifted permanent staff; to a supportive and committed Board of Directors; to a vibrant Education program, which connects with students, igniting young imaginations by providing personalized theatrical experiences; to a first-rate internship program, which prepares the next generation of theatre professionals for jobs at MTC and beyond; to an inspired behind-the-scenes developmental program for new plays and musicals.

Our Commitment to Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

While our theatres are dark, we are taking the time to reflect on how our role as an arts organization can create the change needed to address the racism, bias, and prejudice that pervades our industry and our culture. And as we move forward, we reaffirm our total commitment to support the Black community and to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion both on and off our stages. Black Lives Matter.

Contact

Manhattan Theatre Club
311 West 43rd Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10036
(212) 399-3000 • www.manhattantheatreclub.com