urbanStages
38th Annual Benefit Celebrates
ACTORS & LIVE THEATER

Luminary Award
REED BIRNEY

Mid-Career Awards
TERENCE ARCHIE, NIKKI M. JAMES, A.J. SHIVELY

MAY 23, 2022. 6:30PM
THE CENTRAL PARK BOATHOUSE
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Mr. Stanley Zareff
LUMINARY AWARD

REED BIRNEY moved to New York in 1974 and within three years, he took his first bow on Broadway in Albert Innaurato’s *Gemini*. Birney has established himself as a ubiquitous actor, performing in more than 30 off-Broadway and original productions. He starred in Urban Stages’ commercial move of *Minor Demons* by Bruce Graham. He received the 2006 Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Performance, and in 2011, the Drama Desk Career Award honored his career. In 2012 Birney returned to Broadway in *Picnic*. In 2014 he was nominated for a Tony for his performance *Casa Valentina*, a role which also won him the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actor. He earned a Tony for *The Humans*. With a reputation as an “actor’s actor,” he has a rich film career, with TV roles on “House of Cards,” "The Blacklist," "The Handmaid's Tale," and "Succession," among others. Recent film roles include *Mass*, *The Forty Year Old Version*, and *The Hunt*. He is part of an all-actor family with wife Constance Shulman, daughter Gus and son Ephraim.

MID-CAREER AWARDS

TERENCE ARCHIE, a graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts, originated the role of Apollo Creed on Broadway in *Rocky The Musical* as well as the German-translated production in Hamburg, Germany. He currently stars in *Company* (2021) and his other Broadway credits include *Ragtime* (2009) and *Kiss Me, Kate* (2019). Along with his numerous theater, TV and film roles, Archie created and starred in the Urban Stages touring play, *The Peanut Prince*.

NIKKI M. JAMES originated the role of Nabalungi in the *Book of Mormon* (2011), for which she won a Tony Award. She was born and raised in New Jersey and graduated from NYU Tisch. James made her Broadway debut in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (2001) and later took on the role of Éponine in the Broadway revival of *Les Misérables* (2014). She also starred in Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day* (2019) at the Public Theater and multiple film and TV projects. During the closure of Urban Stages due to the onset of the pandemic, James starred in *The Silverfish* by Meghan Loughran in our virtual reading series.

A.J. SHIVELY appeared early in his career at Urban Stages in Joe Iconis’ *Rewrite* (2009). He began his professional career at the age of 12 in the national tour of *Big* and trained at the University of Michigan and RADA. In 2010, he made his Broadway debut in *La Cage aux Folles* (2010) playing Jean-Michel opposite Kelsey Grammer. He created the role of Billy Cane in Steve Martin’s and Edie Brickell’s *Bright Star* (2014) on Broadway for which he received a Drama Desk Nomination. Currently, A.J. is starring as Owen Duignan in the new Broadway musical *Paradise Square*. He has been seen as Jerry McConnell on CBS’s “Bull” and will be seen as Chef André Soltner in HBO Max’s *Julia*, premiering on March 31st.
urbanStages
Board of Directors Invites you to our 38th Annual Benefit Celebrating
ACTORS & LIVE THEATER

Presenting
Luminary Award
REED BIRNEY
Tony Award Winner, Best Performance by an Actor, Featured Role in a Play, The Humans (2016) as well as 3 Obies and 4 Drama Desks Awards throughout his prolific career.

Introduced by
SPECIAL GUEST

And Presenting
Mid-Career Awards
TERENCE ARCHIE
ROCKY (2014), Kiss Me Kate (2019), Company (2021)

NIKKI M. JAMES
Tony Award Winner, Best Featured Actress in a Musical, The Book of Mormon (2011)

A.J. SHIVELY
Bright Star (2016), Paradise Square (2022)

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022. 6:30PM
THE CENTRAL PARK BOATHOUSE | 72ND STREET & FIFTH AVENUE

CATCH THE SHUTTLE TROLLEY
6:30PM COCKTAILS & BOAT RIDES | 7:45PM DINNER, AWARDS CEREMONY & AUCTION
FESTIVE DRESS
FOR WINE LOVERS ONLY
For wine lovers!! Win a case of Phillips Hill’s 2018 Roma’s Vineyard Anderson Valley Pinot Noir with a score of 95 by Wine Enthusiast Magazine. “Great balance, pure fruit flavors and a brilliant mouthfeel makes this elegant wine a real standout.” Value: $500.

CO-HOST A RADIO SHOW
Have you ever wanted to be a co-host on a radio talk show? You can! Co-host with King Downing on WBAI. This morning show (6AM) is recorded live, but you can host at home in your PJs with a cup of coffee. You can even suggest a topic to talk about on the show. Value: $400.

ESCAPE TO PUERTO VALLARTA
Do margaritas and enchiladas sound good? Treat yourself to a week on the beach in a two-bedroom condo in Puerto Vallarta. Enjoy the PV’s new art center, the botanical gardens and whale watching. Included: A dinner or lunch at Daiquiri Dicks beach-side restaurant Value: $4000.

GOLF ON THE BEST COURSES IN NEW YORK
Shape up your game by playing at Long Island’s most prestigious clubs. Enjoy a round of golf and lunch at Maidstone Club in East Hampton. Then indulge yourself another day at Sebonack – the site of the 2014 LPGA Championship – with lunch overlooking the course for 3 players. Value: Priceless.

WIN A PIECE OF ART FOR YOUR COLLECTION
A great and rare opportunity to own a piece of art by Edwina Sandys. Her immense reputation, her humor and her signature skill for drawing the subtle and not so subtle has made her books and prints a focal point for many collectors. Value: $1200

ENJOY A WEEK IN SAUSALITO/SAN FRANCISCO
Spend a special week looking at spectacular views of the San Francisco Bay in a 3 bedroom/ bath house in Sausalito with decks, gardens off every room. Walk down the hill to the bayside town and enjoy the restaurants and shops. Close to wine country, the beach, and San Francisco by ferry. A French lunch at La Garage on the bay included. Value: $4000

TREAT YOURSELF TO LIVE THEATER AGAIN
Two tickets to COMPANY, with our Mid-Career Awardee Terence Archie playing Larry, Patti LuPone’s husband. Enjoy Sondheim favorites like “Ladies that Lunch” and “Side by Side” in this comedic musical. Dinner at Joe Allen’s famed restaurant included. Value: $600

The FINEST OMIKASE DINNER FOR TWO
Treat yourself and a special person to an OMIKASE “chef choice” experience at SUSHI YASUDA, 204 East 43rd Street - one of the highest rated sushi restaurants in New York. This Michelin Star restaurant was founded in 1999 by famed chef Naomichi Yasuda and is currently led by master chef Mitsuru Tamura. Value: $550

HAS VISITING THE IRISH ISLE BEEN YOUR DREAM?
Visit the beautiful Isle of Ireland and stay for 3 nights in the magnificent 5-star Dromoland Castle. This was the home of the Kings of Thomond, going back 1000 years. You are near the Cliffs of Moher and the delights of County Clare. Enjoy falconry, golf, spa as extras. Meals not included. Value: $3000
**URBAN STAGES’ MISSION** is to champion artists of diverse backgrounds, and to make art, theater and education accessible to all. Our Off-Broadway stage has been a NYC staple since 1984. Founded as a playwright’s theater, we are now a stepping-stone for up-and-coming artists of every expertise. Our stage is dedicated to the development and production of new plays, musicals and works. We give artists exposure, experience and employment and, through our commitment to low-priced tickets, we give audiences wider access to award-winning critically-acclaimed plays, musicals and concerts. Throughout the pandemic, we introduced free virtual programming for audiences, kept our entire staff onboard and continued to provide opportunities for artists.

**OUR OUTREACH PROGRAM**, active for over 25 years, shares theatrical and other arts-based programs with our community partners throughout New York City. When the pandemic hit, we quickly shifted our programs into virtual spaces without missing a beat. Our program numbers have continued to rise, and we've introduced many new workshops, including bilingual storytimes and programs centering civic engagement, based on changing requests. To date, our programs have reached over 62,000 virtual viewers!

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**FOR QUESTIONS**

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