



Jovette Marchessault Award for Women Theatre Artists

Presentation

2020 COMPETITION



1. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE ENTERING THIS COMPETITION?

1.1. WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD?

Professional artists¹ who identify as female and who work in theatre as playwrights, directors or designers, regardless of years of experience.

1.2. WHAT ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES QUALIFY?

Theatre only.

1.3. WHY WAS THIS AWARD CREATED?

In offering this award, the Conseil des arts de Montréal in partnership with ESPACE GO and in collaboration with the Théâtre de l’Affamée, Imago Theatre and the Femmes pour l’Équité en Théâtre (F.E.T.) movement, are addressing one of the recommendations made by the theatre community at the 2019 “Chantier féministe” event organized by ESPACE GO, which was that awards be created specifically to recognize the outstanding work of women in theatre and raise the profile of female artists.

1.4. WHAT DOES THIS AWARD SEEK TO ACKNOWLEDGE?

Recent studies by the Réseau québécois en études féministes (RéQEF) and the F.E.T., presented at ESPACE GO’s “Chantier féministe”, found that women in the theatre community face disparities due to systemic discrimination, unconscious bias or more deliberate choices. Some of these women also experience a degree of segregation because they are immigrants, Indigenous, racialized, trans or handicapped. Achieving greater gender balance in the arts community is a question of equity, of ensuring that all artists have access to the same resources and have the same opportunities to be recognized, be successful and make their contribution to society.

One of the goals of this award is to salute and promote the contribution of women to the advancement of theatre arts and to Montreal’s artistic vitality.

1.5. HOW IS THE AWARD BROKEN DOWN AND WHEN IS IT PRESENTED?

This annual award will be presented in a three-year rotation to women in a different professional role in theatre, broken down as follows:

- the 2020-2021 competition is intended for women designers of costumes, sets, make-up, wigs, hairstyles, puppets, masks, props, lighting, sound, video;
- the 2021-2022 competition is for women playwrights (for original works or artistic adaptations only).
- the 2022-2023 competition is for women directors.

1.6. WHAT IS THE MONETARY VALUE OF THE AWARD?

The award is accompanied by a cash prize of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

1.7. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW WHEN SUBMITTING MY NAME FOR THE FIRST TIME?

First-time candidates are urged to contact the Conseil staff in charge of the award to clarify eligibility and evaluation criteria as well as any other details (see section 9).

¹ **Female professional artist:** An artist, whether self-taught or academically trained, who has acquired the necessary experience and knowledge to develop her personal practice, and who is recognized by her peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition). A female professional artist creates, performs or publishes works for public audiences, is dedicated mainly to the practice of her art, and receives remuneration for her works.

1.8. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS?

There is one deadline per year for the submission of nominations, in this case: January 25, 2021.

1.9. WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE AWARD?

- to salute and promote the contribution of women to the advancement of theatre arts and to Montreal's artistic vitality;
- to raise the visibility of women artists;
- to recognize the excellence of their work;
- to promote the potential and outstanding work of women theatre artists;
- to salute an artistic approach that contributes to the development of theatre practice, be it applied by a playwright, a director or a designer.

1.10. WHERE CAN I FIND DEFINITIONS FOR CERTAIN RELEVANT TERMS?

Before completing a submission form, you are urged to consult the Conseil's glossary (in English or French) at:

www.artsmontreal.org/fr/glossaire

www.artsmontreal.org/en/glossary

2. WHAT CONDITIONS MUST BE MET TO MAKE A SUBMISSION?

2.1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INDIVIDUALS (INDEPENDENT ARTISTS)

Status and conditions

- i. Must be a professional artist who identifies as female and works in theatre as a playwright, director or designer, regardless of years of experience;
- ii. Must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada at the time of submission;
- iii. Must reside on the Island of Montreal.

Professionalism

- i. Must be a professional artist as defined by the Conseil.

3. WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE AND WHY?

3.1. INELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

- Artists who do not meet the general eligibility criteria;
- Translators who have not produced an original work or an original artistic adaptation;
- Collectives and organizations, whether they are incorporated or not;
- Public and para-public organizations/agencies and municipal corporations.

3.2. SUBMISSIONS THAT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

- Incomplete submissions;
- Submissions received after the deadline;
- Submissions filed by a member of the principal partners' teams or boards of directors (the Conseil des arts de Montréal and ESPACE GO);
- Submissions filed by a third party nominating a member of the principal partners' teams or boards of directors.

4. WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE AWARD?

4.1. WHO FILES THE SUBMISSION?

The artist herself or a person representing her.

4.2. HOW MANY FINALISTS AND WINNERS ARE THERE?

Three candidates will be selected as finalists each year and will receive substantial public exposure. One of the three finalists will be chosen as winner.

4.3. CAN I MAKE MORE THAN ONE SUBMISSION?

Women theatre artists may submit their name only once per competition, depending on their artistic role and the year of the competition for that role (see section 1.5).

4.4. WILL I HAVE TO TAKE PART IN CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE AWARD?

The finalists will be expected to provide certain communication tools and to participate in a special event at which the winner will be announced. This collaboration is intended to promote the artistic approach of the participating women artists and help advance their careers. All communication tools concerning these artists that are prepared by the award partners will be approved by the artists before being published.

5. HOW ARE SUBMISSIONS EVALUATED?

Submissions will be evaluated by a selection committee made up of professional women reflecting the diversity of the theatre community (cultural, language and generational diversity and different artistic practices depending on the year of the competition). To demonstrate openness to gender diversity and acknowledge the contribution of allies of the feminist movement, a professional artist identifying as male may be invited to join the committee.

5.1. WHAT ARE THE EVALUATION CRITERIA?

The selection committee will take into account the award's objectives and the following criteria:

- quality and originality of the artistic approach applied to one or more produced work(s);
- impact of the artistic approach or the artistic production on the development of theatre practice.

The selection of finalists will aim to be representative of the diversity of Montreal's theatre scene.

5.2. WHO EVALUATES SUBMISSIONS AND HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

5.2.1. What is the evaluation procedure?

Two-step process:

1. Reception of submissions and screening for eligibility by the assigned professionals;
2. Review of submissions and recommendation of three finalists, one of which will be the winner, by members of a selection committee coordinated by the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

5.2.2. Who else has access to my submission?

If necessary for evaluation purposes, the Conseil may consult with other organizations concerned with the submissions or outside experts.

5.2.3. Are the documents filed kept confidential?

The Conseil guarantees the confidentiality of all personally identifiable information in its possession and restricts access to all confidential documents it receives, with the exception of cases subject to the provisions of the *Act respecting the Protection of Personal Information in the Private Sector* (Chapter P-39.1).

6. HOW DO I MAKE A SUBMISSION?

6.1. WHO CAN NOMINATE AN ARTIST FOR THIS AWARD?

Artists may submit their own name or may be nominated by a person representing them.

The evaluation criteria remain the same, regardless of who submits the candidate's name.

6.2. WHAT FORMAT IS USED FOR SUBMISSIONS?

The artist or the person representing her must complete the [nomination form](#) for the *Jovette Marchessault Award for Women Theatre Artists*.

The duly completed form must be signed by the artist or, where applicable, by the person representing her.

6.3. WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER?

You can make an appointment with us and one of our staff members will provide you with access to a computer and any assistance you may require.

6.4. WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I HAVE TO ATTACH?

For all submissions:

- a duly completed nomination form;
- the artist's CV;
- two letters of support (750 to 1,000 words each) written and signed by professional artists or cultural workers, regardless of their artistic role or years of experience. To avoid any conflict of interest, these letters must not be written by employees or Board members of the award's partner organizations. The letters must give the selection committee members a good indication of how the candidate artist meets the award's objectives and criteria;
- a letter (maximum 1,500 words) written and signed by the candidate artist, in which she describes her artistic approach;
- support material to be determined by the artist, bearing in mind a consultation time of no more than 15 minutes. Support material may include internet links to video or audio clips, photographs, text documents, etc. Please indicate if the material being submitted is royalty-free; this information is required in the event the candidate is selected as a finalist.

6.5. HOW ARE SUBMISSIONS TO BE SENT?

Ideally, all documents are to be sent in a single email in a single zip file, or using the WeTransfer or Dropbox service. Accepted formats are PDF, DOC, DOCX. Links to websites or video or audio clips can be uploaded to platforms like Vimeo, YouTube, SoundCloud, etc.

All nomination packages are to be sent by email only to: prix@espacego.com.

The subject line must include the award name: *Jovette Marchessault Award*.

6.6. ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON WHAT I CAN ATTACH?

Written material must be limited to the number of words or pages requested, support material must not exceed the maximum consultation time, and audio or video presentations must not exceed the number of minutes indicated.

Unsolicited attachments, or any written, audio or video support material received after the deadline, will not be taken into account in the evaluation.

7. HOW WILL I RECEIVE THE AWARD MONEY?

7.1. WHAT ARE THE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS?

The \$20,000 purse will be paid to the winner in a single instalment by Théâtre ESPACE GO.

7.2. WHAT ARE THE PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS?

To receive the payment, the winner is required to provide her Social Insurance Number and contact details to Ms. Mayi-Eder Inchauspé, Administrative Director of Théâtre ESPACE GO, at 514-845-5455, extension 207, so she can issue a T4A slip for tax purposes. Under existing tax legislation, a cash prize is considered taxable income.

8. WHEN CAN I FILE MY SUBMISSION? WHEN CAN I EXPECT A REPLY?

8.1. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS?

Deadline: January 25, 2020

8.2. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE DEADLINE FALLS ON A NON-WORKING DAY?

When a deadline falls on a weekend or a statutory holiday, it is carried forward to the next working day.

8.3. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET A REPLY?

The three finalists will be notified within twelve (12) weeks of the submission deadline. The winner will be announced at a special event to be held in the spring of 2021, which all three finalists will be invited to attend.

8.4. HOW WILL I BE INFORMED OF THE DECISION?

The finalists will be informed of the decision by email. Decisions are not relayed by telephone.

8.5. CAN I APPEAL THE DECISION?

The decisions of the Conseil des arts de Montréal are final and not subject to appeal. However, Conseil employees are available to answer any questions regarding its decisions.

8.6. WHO CAN I CONTACT ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF MY SUBMISSION?

Candidates agree not to contact any members of selection committees or the Conseil's Board of Directors, at any time, regarding the processing, evaluation or decision related to their submission. Only Conseil employees are authorized to answer questions from candidates.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THIS AWARD?

9.1. VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.artsmontreal.org

9.2. CONTACT ONE OF THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AWARD

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