

THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE
POLONSKY SHAKESPEARE CENTER

Annual Spring Gala
Celebrating Shakespeare's Birthday
Monday, May 13, 2024



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*CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE'S*

ANNUAL SPRING

GALA

Celebrating Shakespeare's Birthday

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

FEATURING

The 20th presentation of the Samuel H. Scripps Award
for Extraordinary Artistic Achievement to

Robert A. Caro

and

The 13th presentation of the *Life in Art* Award to

Leonard Tow and The Tow Foundation

CIPRIANI 25 Broadway, New York

6:30 PM Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction

7:30 PM Seated Dinner and Awards Presentation

Live Music Performance by the Jazz Museum
in Harlem All-Stars

Festive Attire

Responses received by April 29, 2024 will be included in the evening's program.

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2024 GALA HONOREES

SAMUEL H. SCRIPPS AWARD

Robert A. Caro



Photo Credit: Joyce Ravid

Robert A. Caro is one of our nation's most acclaimed and honored authors, "the greatest political biographer of our times" according to the London Sunday Times. For his biographies of Robert Moses (*The Power Broker*) and Lyndon Johnson (*The Years of Lyndon Johnson*) he has twice won the Pulitzer Prize, twice won the National Book Award, and three times won the National Book Critics Circle Award. In 2010 President Barack Obama awarded Caro the National Humanities Medal. Born and raised in New York City, Caro graduated from Princeton, was later a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, and worked for six years as an investigative reporter for *Newsday*. He lives with his wife, the writer Ina Caro, in New York City, where he is at work on the fifth and final volume of the Johnson biography.

LIFE IN ART AWARD

Leonard Tow and The Tow Foundation



Leonard Tow, PhD, is the founder and chairman of **The Tow Foundation** and chief executive officer of New Century Holdings. Educated at Brooklyn College and with graduate degrees from Columbia University, Dr. Tow served as the chairman and chief executive officer of Citizens Utilities and founder of Century Communications and Centennial Cellular. His current board service includes Lincoln Center Theater and Educational Broadcasting Corporation. He is a trustee of the Brooklyn College Foundation and the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, as well as a director of AMC Networks. Led by Emily Tow, The Tow Foundation was established in 1988 by Leonard and Claire Tow. It has a long history of supporting visionary leaders and nonprofit organizations, as well as providing playwright residencies and director fellowships at major theatres in New York.



THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE

Founded in 1979 by Jeffrey Horowitz, and led by Horowitz and Managing Director Dorothy Ryan, TFANA is a New York City theatre for Shakespeare and other contemporary playwrights.

In 2013, TFANA opened its permanent home, Polonsky Shakespeare Center (PSC) in Brooklyn playing for an audience of all ages and backgrounds in the uniquely flexible 299-seat Samuel H. Scripps Mainstage and 50-seat Theodore C. Rogers Studio. TFANA also aspires to a civic role. In 1984, it created and continues to run the largest program for Shakespeare and classic drama in New York City's public schools which has now served more than 140,000 students.

With Shakespeare as its guide, TFANA explores the ever-changing forms of world theatre and promotes a dialogue between Shakespeare and diverse authors, past and present. TFANA has presented thirty-three of the Bard's plays alongside authors such as Samuel Beckett, Adrienne Kennedy, Christopher Marlowe, and Thornton Wilder and supports artists' ongoing development through the Merle Debuskey Studio Fund.

TFANA's productions have played Off and on Broadway, nationally and internationally. In 2001, TFANA became the first American theatre invited to bring a production of Shakespeare to the Royal Shakespeare Company. TFANA is currently producing the Shakespeare Exchange, a transatlantic partnership with Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum Theatre. This spring, TFANA presents the Lyceum's *Macbeth (an undoing)*. In January 2025, the Lyceum presents TFANA's *The Merchant of Venice*, featuring John Douglas Thompson as Shylock and directed by Arin Arbus.

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