



Special Recognition Olivier Award winners announced for 2022

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Watch a video of interviews with the Special Recognition winners here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zjBTpmc1-0>

Five individuals have been honoured with Special Recognition Awards ahead of the Olivier Awards 2022 with Mastercard, recognising their outstanding contributions to the theatre industry.

Lisa Burger, Executive Director and Joint Chief Executive of the National Theatre who has been part of the theatre's executive for the past 20 years, has been awarded for her role in expanding the theatre's reach, forging partnerships UK-wide and playing a key part in the industry's pandemic recovery through initiatives like NT At Home.

Designer **Bob King** receives an award for creating some of theatre's most iconic and instantly recognisable visuals for hit shows in the West End over a 40-year career - including the artwork for *Oliver!*, *Back To The Future*, *Frozen*, *Mary Poppins*, *Tina - The Tina Turner Musical* and many more.

Gloria Louis is awarded for her trailblazing career, which began front of house at the Strand Theatre (now the Novello), progressed into theatre management and now to a role as the inclusion and diversity lead for Delfont Mackintosh Theatres, using her knowledge, passion and dedication to inspire young people from all backgrounds about theatre careers.

Also recognised is **Susie Sainsbury**, whose long-time philanthropy and support of the arts has made a significant difference to theatre in London and beyond. She founded The Backstage Trust to fund live arts projects and was also instrumental in the creation of the Theatre Artists Fund during the pandemic.

Influential theatre school founder **Sylvia Young** has been recognised for giving countless students opportunities to study performing arts and go on to prolific careers in theatre, film and TV, since she first started teaching in 1972.

Julian Bird, Chief Executive of Society of London Theatre and Executive Producer of the Olivier Awards, said:

'The Special Recognition Olivier Awards shine a spotlight on inspirational individuals doing vital work, often behind the scenes, who have been a force for good and helped shape our industry in a wide range of ways. The five people we are honouring this year have all

inspired generations of colleagues and theatre audiences, been pioneers in their fields and are hugely deserving of this long-due recognition. It is a privilege to celebrate their achievements as part of this year's Olivier Awards.'

The Olivier Awards will take place on Sunday 10 April at the Royal Albert Hall, hosted by Jason Manford. This year will see sustainability take centre stage, with guests walking a 'Green Carpet' of real, reusable grass, and headline sponsor Mastercard pledging to plant a tree for every public ticket sold via [Priceless.com](https://www.priceless.com).

The full list of nominations for the Olivier Awards 2022 with Mastercard is available here: <https://officiallondontheatre.com/olivier-awards/year/olivier-awards-2022/>

#OlivierAwards

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EDITORS NOTES

Images of the Special Recognition recipients available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kK0wMSa2hRWZ-wCn3lC-SlbVjqHINBr?usp=sharing>

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Special Recognition recipient bios:

Lisa Burger is Executive Director and Joint Chief Executive of the National Theatre, having been part of the theatre's executive team for 20 years. Instrumental in expanding the reach of the National Theatre, she established NT Live, helping to make theatre more accessible to people across the country.

In founding the Theatre Nation Partnerships, she has forged partnerships with community organisations across the country and as a producer she has spread National Theatre productions not only across the West End but to Broadway and around the world.

Over the last two years Lisa has also played a key part in the industry's recovery from the pandemic, creating NT at Home; bringing theatre to people during lockdown and playing a role in the delivery of the Cultural Recovery Fund, supporting cultural organisations' recovery from the pandemic.

Bob King has been the creative force behind hundreds of West End and Broadway marketing campaigns. After 30 years as Creative Director of live entertainment marketing company Dewynters, Bob set up Bob King Creative, which has produced work for shows around the West End, Broadway and beyond.

Bob and his team have worked on many of the iconic visuals for West End shows that are instantly recognisable to theatre fans and novices alike, including the artwork for Olivier!, Back To The Future, Frozen, Mary Poppins, Tina - The Tina Turner Musical, Wise Children and more.

Gloria Louis began working with the Front Of House team at the Strand Theatre over 30 years ago, and when she became manager there, she was one of the first women to do so.

After many years of service to the Strand Theatre - renamed the Novello Theatre in 2005 - she has taken on a new challenge as the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer for Delfont Mackintosh Theatres, using her years of knowledge and experience in outreach to young people.

Her dedication in this new role has taken her into schools and even Tottenham Hotspur Football ground to inspire young people to consider a role in the theatre and give them the advice and tools they need to do so.

Susie Sainsbury is a long-time supporter of the Arts, and her philanthropy has been invaluable to theatre in London and beyond.

Having worked as an editor in educational publishing, Susie is now Deputy Chairman of the Royal Academy of Music and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

She is the founder of The Backstage Trust, which provides grants to registered charities for projects involving the live performing arts, including professional development of small and medium scale arts organisations, and assisting live arts projects involving disadvantaged children and young people. In the last two years, she has been instrumental in the establishment and support of the Theatre Artists Fund.

Sylvia Young started part-time drama classes in London in 1972. Rapidly expanding, the Sylvia Young Theatre School became a full-time school in 1981 and is now situated in a converted church in Westminster.

Teaching hundreds of students every year in full-time, part-time and holiday school education, the students have gone on to make careers in television, film and theatre as well as in the music industry. Many West End productions as well as the National Theatre and RSC have seen alumni of the Sylvia Young Theatre School on their stages.

Sylvia was given an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2005 for her services to the arts.

About the Olivier Awards, SOLT and Mastercard:

Established in 1976 and run by the Society of London Theatre (SOLT), the [Olivier Awards](#) celebrate the world-class status of London theatre, and are regarded as Britain's most prestigious stage honours.

[Society of London Theatre \(SOLT\)](#) is a not-for-profit organisation which represents approximately 230 London-based producers, theatre owners and managers, including all the major subsidised theatrical organisations in London. SOLT runs the Olivier Awards, West End LIVE, TKTS, Theatre Tokens, Kids Week, the New Year Sale and Official London Theatre.

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