

Guild Hall

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Honorees and Inductee Bios [HERE](#)

GUILD HALL'S 39TH ANNUAL ACADEMY OF THE ARTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DINNER HONORED ERIC FISCHL AND LINDA LINDENBAUM

**The Annual Event, hosted by new Academy President Susan Stroman, was held
at the Rainbow Room in New York City on Tuesday, April 22, 2025,
featuring special performances by Broadway icons
Debra Monk, Tony Yazbeck, and Seth Rudetsky**



Guests at The Rainbow Room for Guild Hall's 39th Academy of the Arts Achievement Awards Dinner. Photo: Jessica Dalene

New York, NY (April 28, 2025)— Guild Hall celebrated the 39th annual **Academy of the Arts Achievement Awards Dinner** on Tuesday, April 22 at the iconic Rainbow Room in New York City. The event, which recognizes the lifetime achievements of artists, creative professionals, and individuals who passionately support the arts, honored arts patron and Guild Hall trustee **Linda Lindenbaum** with the **Special Award for Leadership and Philanthropy**, presented by board chairman **Marty Cohen**; and artist and outgoing Academy president **Eric Fischl** with the **Chairman's Award for Service to the Academy**, in recognition of his Academy stewardship and co-founding of the Guild House Artist-in-Residence program. Executive Director and budding stand-up comic, **Andrea Grover**, presented Fischl (author of the autobiography *Bad Boy*) with an uproarious Friar's Club-inspired roasting that included the call and response, "He's so bad...*How bad is he?*"

After an impactful speech on her new role as Academy president, Broadway director and choreographer, Susan Stroman invited the newest Academy inductees in attendance to the stage and presented them with medals. Those in attendance included **Sheree Hovsepian**, **Joseph M. Pierce**, **Jeffrey Seller**, and **Almond Zigmund**. Stroman then acknowledged additional inductees **Katie Couric**, **Neil Patrick Harris**, **Jane Krakowski**, **Ebon Moss-Bachrach**, and **David Rockwell**.

Stroman then passed the mic to SiriusXM host and Broadway conductor, **Seth Rudetsky**, who, in his signature witty style, accompanied stage veterans **Tony Yazbeck** and **Debra Monk** with tribute performances in honor of their dear friend, "Stro." Yazbeck belted "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" from *Oklahoma* (where he appeared in the ensemble) followed by a rousing tap dance while singing "I Can't Be Bothered Now" from *Crazy For You*, which Stroman choreographed on Broadway. He then joined Rudetsky for a charming duet of "Til Him" from another Stroman-helmed hit, *The Producers*. Next, Rudetsky took center stage for a heart (and key) pounding rendition of "Rhapsody in Blue" in honor of Stro's love for Gershwin. Finally, Tony Award winner Debra Monk brought down the house with a bawdy performance of "Everybody's Girl," the number she performed in *Steel Pier* (originally choreographed by Stroman) flaunting a bright yellow boa for added dramatic effect.

This Academy Dinner was more Guild Hall than ever— with a whirlwind of Broadway performances, attendance by art and theater world luminaries, and an abundance of laughter and joy," said Andrea Grover, Executive Director.

In addition to the hosts, honorees, inductees, and performers in attendance, other notable guests included artists Julian Schnabel, Rashid Johnson, April Gornik, Joel Mesler, Ross Bleckner, Jason Bard Yarmosky, Nina Yankowitz, Toni Ross, Arcmanoro Niles, Alice Hope, Evan Yee, Philippe Cheng, and Bastienne Schmidt. Additional attendees of note included Daryl Roth, Ana Gasteyer, Victor Garber, Tovah Feldshuh, Peter Gallagher, Fern Mallis, Arne and Milly Glimcher, Sarah and Andrew Wetenhall, Sirius XM radio personality Julie James, Music From The Sole's Leonardo Sandoval and Gregory Richardson, choreographers Gina Gibney and Roderick George, and *New York Times* food & wine writer Florence Fabricant.

Anthony Taccetta Event Design transformed the Rainbow Room into a springtime haven, featuring elegant table arrangements that seamlessly blended seasonal florals with the venue's iconic Art Deco charm. The menu, selected by *The New York Times'* Florence Fabricant, included local burrata with fava beans, spring peas, basil

pesto, and pancetta, followed by a choice of slow-baked Alaskan king salmon, baby kale, asparagus, snap peas, horseradish mash, roasted beet pistou, and chives or seared grass-fed beef tenderloin, herbal tat soi, smoky mash, crispy onion straws, and cherry mustard. Dessert featured a Guild Hall-branded rainbow royal warm chocolate cake with a vanilla ice cream quenelle.

The Academy of the Arts is a community of over 200 of the nation's most accomplished artists and creative professionals who lend their talent and expertise to Guild Hall. This year's annual affair hosted **250 guests and raised nearly \$700,000** to allow Guild Hall to continue celebrating those who champion the near century-old institution's dynamic mission as an inventive, artist-driven establishment.

Event photos by Sean Zanni for Patrick McMullan and Jessica Dalene for Guild Hall can be found here: <https://adobe.ly/42KYVSe>

ABOUT THE ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

In 1985, in recognition of the abundance of visual, literary, and performing artists in the Hamptons, Guild Hall's Board of Trustees initiated an awards program and honored local luminaries Kurt Vonnegut, Willem de Kooning, and Alan Alda. The following year, the Guild Hall **Academy of the Arts** was founded by Roy Lichtenstein, Frank Perry, Joseph F. Cullman, III, Peter Jennings, Sydney Gruson, Wilfred Sheed, Elaine Steinbeck, Henry Geldzahler, and Sherrye P. Henry as an association of talented artists and arts professionals who have an affiliation with Guild Hall. 40 years later, the Academy, presided over by President Susan Stroman, is an incredible assemblage of internationally recognized artists who advocate Guild Hall's mission. The Academy's 250 members are a resource of talent for our programs and for mentoring younger artists in the community to extend the region's legacy as one of the country's most storied art colonies.

ABOUT GUILD HALL

Guild Hall is the cultural heart of the East End: a museum, performing arts, and education center, founded in 1931. We invite everyone to experience the endless possibilities of the arts: to open minds to what art can be; inspire creativity and conversation; and have fun. Guild Hall has served four generations and introduced audiences to the most storied artists and performers of our time. As we approach our centennial, we have completed a state-of-the-art renovation to match the caliber of our artistry for twenty-first-century audiences. The facility-wide Capital Improvements Project & Campaign includes top-of-the-line physical and technological enhancements to better deliver on our mission as an artist-driven, interdisciplinary institution.

For more information, visit www.guildhall.org or follow Guild Hall on Instagram at [@GUILD_HALL](https://www.instagram.com/GUILD_HALL) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GUILD_HALL).