

# Guild Hall

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Images at the link: <https://adobe.ly/4vjf1jk>

**GUILD HALL'S 40TH ACADEMY OF THE ARTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DINNER  
TO BE HOSTED BY ACADEMY PRESIDENT, SUSAN STROMAN**

**HONORING CARL BERNSTEIN & KATIE COURIC  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS  
&  
LEILA STRAUS  
SPECIAL AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP & PHILANTHROPY**

*Plus, Welcoming Academy Inductees:  
Victor Garber, Sarah Sze, Colson Whitehead*

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY RESISTANCE REVIVAL CHORUS**



*Andrea Grover, Executive Director speaking at Guild Hall's 39th Annual Academy of The Arts Achievement Awards Dinner.  
Photo: Jessica Dalene*

**April 9, 2026 — East Hampton, NY:** Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton) announced today the 40<sup>th</sup> Academy of the Arts Achievement Awards Dinner will take place on **Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** at **The Rainbow Room** in New York City. The Academy of the Arts, established in 1985, is a community of over 200 of the nation's most

accomplished artists and creative professionals, affiliated with the East End of Long Island, who lend their talent and expertise to Guild Hall.

This year, Guild Hall will honor **Carl Bernstein and Katie Couric** each with the **Lifetime Achievement Award in Media & Communications** and **Leila Straus with the Special Award for Leadership and Philanthropy**. Additionally, we are delighted to recognize our newest inductees to the Academy of the Arts: **Victor Garber, Sarah Sze, and Colson Whitehead**. The event will be **hosted by Guild Hall's beloved Academy President, Susan Stroman**, and guests will be treated to a special performance by Resistance Revival Chorus. Katie Couric to receive a special introduction by long time friend **Christie Brinkley**.

"Guild Hall honors Katie Couric, Carl Bernstein, and Leila Straus for exemplifying and championing the core values of community and integrity in a rapidly evolving media and cultural landscape," states Andrea Grover, Executive Director, Guild Hall. Grover continued, "We are honored to welcome new inductees as well, including Victor Garber, Sarah Sze, and Colson Whitehead."

### **ABOUT CARL BERNSTEIN**

Carl Bernstein is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist. His coverage, with Bob Woodward, of Watergate at *The Washington Post*, led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon and set new standards for investigative journalism. The pair went on to write two classic best-sellers: *All the President's Men* (also a movie starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman); and *The Final Days*, chronicling the end of the Nixon presidency. Carl's other best-selling books include: *Chasing History: A Kid in the Newsroom*; *Loyalties: A Son's Memoir*; *His Holiness: Pope John Paul II and The History of Our Time*; and *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton*. His magazine articles have appeared in *Time*, *USA Today*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The New Republic*. From 1999-2001, Bernstein served as editor and executive vice president of Voter.com, a pioneering website that Forbes named the best political site on the internet. He has worked as Washington bureau chief and correspondent for ABC News; and, while at the Washington Post, was also a part-time rock critic.

### **ABOUT KATIE COURIC**

Katie Couric (@katiecouric) is an award-winning journalist and #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of her memoir, *Going There*, which was published in October 2021. She is also a co-founder of Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) which has raised almost \$800 million for cancer research. Couric was the first woman to solo anchor a network evening newscast, serving as anchor and managing editor of the *CBS Evening News* from 2006 to 2011 following 15-years as co-anchor of NBC's *Today* show.

In 2017, she founded Katie Couric Media (KCM), which has developed a number of media projects, including a daily newsletter, "Wake-Up Call", a podcast, "Next Question", digital video series, and several documentaries.

### **ABOUT LEILA MAW STRAUS**

Leila Maw Straus has lived in New York since leaving London in 1981. She is a graduate of Leeds University and LSE and has loved the theatre and the arts since she first worked in London in the seventies. Whilst living in London, she worked for the

Boston Consulting Group, ran her own Market Development Service, and worked in group corporate planning and evaluation of diversification opportunities for the Granada Group PLC. She then became Managing Director for Granada Television International in New York. She has served on several not-for-profit boards and is currently Chair of the National Theatre in America Board.

Leila was recognized by the Queen in the 2014 New Year Honours list - awarded an MBE for her services to philanthropy and the arts. The Straus Family Foundation broadly aims to serve the common good and encourage equal opportunity. Her late husband Mickey was Chair of Guild Hall for many years.

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## **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.

Today, 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 200+ members are resources 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.

The 40th Academy of the Arts Achievement Awards Dinner will take place at The Rainbow Room (30 Rockefeller Plaza, NY) on **Monday, April 27, 2026 from 6-10 PM**. Tickets and tables can be purchased at [GuildHall.org/AcademyDinner](https://GuildHall.org/AcademyDinner).

The 2026 Academy Dinner is supported by:



## **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 about Guild Hall, please visit [@GUILD\\_HALL](https://GuildHall.org)