



Liverpool
International
Theatre
Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2026

Liverpool International Theatre Festival announces 2026 JesterFish Award winners

LIVERPOOL, Nova Scotia — October 19, 2026 — Five days of international theatre came to a close Sunday evening as the 17th biennial Liverpool International Theatre Festival (LITF) celebrated its award winners and the artists who brought productions from around the world to Liverpool.

From October 14–18, the Astor Theatre welcomed performers from across the globe for a festival that went beyond the stage. Productions, conversations, Coffee Critiques and opportunities to connect gave visiting artists and local audiences a chance to share ideas, learn from one another, and discover the experiences that connect us across cultures.

“Theatre is more important than ever in the world we’re living in,” said Vic Mills, LITF Co-Artistic Director alongside Neil Maidman. “It brings people together across cultures, creates opportunities to share ideas and build friendships, and reminds us that, despite our differences, we share so many of the same experiences of being human. That understanding matters.”

The festival concluded Sunday evening with its JesterFish Awards and Closing Ceremonies. Special guests included His Honour the Honourable Mike Savage, ONS, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and Her Honour Ms. Darlene Savage, along with the Honourable Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management and MLA for Queens. His Honour presented the People’s Choice Award.

As a volunteer-run festival, LITF depends on the generosity of people who give their time, skills and talent to bring the event to life. The festival sincerely thanks its volunteers, sponsors, community partners, audiences, and everyone who helped welcome the visiting troupes and make the 2026 festival possible.

Now it’s time to rest, reflect and reimagine what comes next. LITF looks forward to building on 2026’s connections and experiences as preparations for the next festival in 2028 begin.

For more information about the Liverpool International Theatre Festival, visit LITF.ca.

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LITF 2026 JesterFish Award Winners

Outstanding International Production: Morina (Where Are You?) — Dream Team (UAE), Khaled Hafex, Mohammed Bassiouny and Doaa Salim

Best Original Script: Chiara Fumanti, The Extraordinary Life of a Rat Racer — Stage Leftovers (Italy)

Outstanding Visual Presentation: Nest — Hoosh Theater (Netherlands)

Outstanding Actor in a Female Supporting Role: Vannia Maldonado, Leyendas — En Movimiento Teatro (México)

Outstanding Actor in a Male Supporting Role: Grant Crawley, A Kind of Vesuvius — Players Theatre (Wales)

Outstanding Actor in a Female Lead Role: Chiara Fumanti, The Extraordinary Life of a Rat Racer — Stage Leftovers (Italy)

Outstanding Actors in Male Lead Roles: Khaled Hafex and Mohammed Bassiouny, Morina (Where Are You?) — Dream Team (UAE)

Eva Moore Outstanding Director Award: Mohammed Bassiouny, Morina (Where Are You?) — Dream Team (UAE)

People's Choice Award

Winner: Break the Silence — Theatre Studio Beloe (Switzerland)

Presented by His Honour the Honourable Mike Savage, ONS, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

Special Artistic Director Awards

Presented and chosen by LITF Co-Artistic Directors Neil Maidman and Vic Mills.

Ushindi Community Theatre (Uganda): Recognizing the company's filmed production, The Pursuit, and its contribution to LITF's international theatre program.

LITF Tech Team: Recognizing the team's technical expertise, hard work, and dedication behind the scenes in supporting the productions and events that made the festival possible.