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Associated Designers of Canada Awards Owen Hutchinson the 2022 Jack King Award

Calgary, August 9, 2022 — The Associated Designers of Canada is thrilled to announce the 2022 recipient of the \$1,500 Jack King Award. The Award is presented annually to a Canadian live performance designer in a pursuit of personal artistic development.

The jury was unanimous in selecting **Owen Hutchinson** as the 2022 recipient of the Jack King Award, noting:

The fact that, after almost 20 years, Owen has decided to leave the comfort and stability of the Citadel Theatre shows a true sense of adventure and risk. Leaving the comfort of his past life combined with his goal of taking on research into new ways of working with digital technologies strikes to the heart of the Jack King Award.

About Owen

Owen is a graduate of the Theatre Production program at Grant MacEwan University, and has been nominated for three Sterling awards for his production and design work. Selected design credits include: *Arcadia*, *Make Mine Love*, *Million Dollar Quartet* and *9-5 The Musical* (Citadel Theatre, Edmonton), *As You Like It* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre) and *Drowsy Chaperone* (Citadel and National Arts Centre, Ottawa). Operation credits include out of town tryouts of Broadway hits *Hadestown*, and *Six*. When not creating theatre, Owen enjoys making feline furniture for the family-owned Douglas Cat Bed Company. Owen lives in Edmonton with his wife Christy and sons Theo and Amos.

Owen is pursuing some personal development in the integration of differing technologies into theatrical design and production. Of particular interest is the relationship between physical sensors and interfaces, and the operation of stage machinery and playback controls. As communications technologies advance, there are many opportunities to allow theatrical design elements to integrate more holistically.

About the Jack King Award

First presented in 1992, the Award was established as a memorial to Jack King, and supports a Canadian live performance designer in a pursuit of personal artistic development—be it an apprenticeship, a period of creative exploration, or an acquisition of new skills. After a 15-year hiatus, the Associated Designers of Canada relaunched the award in 2021 thanks to the 2019 establishment of a permanent endowment fund.



About the Jury

We were thrilled to have a jury consisting of three distinguished women designers to guide the awarding of this year's prize. The jury included: *Carmen Alatorre*; *Shawn Kerwin*; and *Michelle Ramsay*

More information about the jury members is available at: <https://designers.ca/jackking/jury2022/>



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About Jack King

Jack King is remembered as a designer, but he was much more. His experience as an actor, director, prop maker, dyer, scenic artist, and administrator reveals itself in the depth and maturity of his work. He was largely self-taught, benefitting from every influence that came his way, from early teen-aged years at the Chatham Little Theatre to his long association with Leslie Hurry at the Stratford Festival. Throughout his career, he continued to grow as an artist, maintaining his personal style while allowing each project its own unique expression.



"... when I start a show, I settle myself down to read the play. I am imagining each character ... who they are, where they are moving, what they are wearing, where they are on the set. That is emerging in my head. In other words I am directing and acting the play as well as designing it. When I finish reading the play, I immediately scribble down my ideas, concepts, flashes of shapes ... anything that has come into my head at the first reading ... these will usually be in the finished product somewhere, although they may be greatly altered, but they have been a clue to the whole puzzle ..."

- From notes for a talk – c. 1980

Inquiries

More information is available at: <https://designers.ca/jackking/>

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