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## Associated Designers of Canada Awards Sebastian Marziali the 2024 Jack King Award

Toronto, Sept 27, 2024 — The Associated Designers of Canada is thrilled to announce the 2024 recipient of the \$3,000 Jack King Award. The Award is presented biennially to a Canadian live performance designer in a pursuit of personal artistic development.

The selection committee was thrilled to select **Sebastian Marziali** as the 2024 recipient of the Jack King Award, noting:

*Sebastian has captured the heart of what the Jack King award can offer, a period of exploration that serves to enrich the artist within the designer. We think they've identified very clearly the environment they need to charge and expand their creative capacity and how this journey will have lasting impacts on their practice and identity as an artist.*

### About Sebastian Marziali

Sebastian Marziali is an award-winning Uruguayan-Canadian performer, designer, and creator based in Toronto. Sebastian has worked with and learned from Masters across the Americas such as Grupo Yuyachkani, La Pocha Nostra, and Teatro La Candelaria; as well as performing in and designing shows across five continents. Sebastian was the lighting designer for the 2018 & 2019 Toronto International Burlesque Festivals, 2019 Vanguardia Dance Festival, and venue designer at Factory for the 2022 RUTAS Festival. They starred in, designed, and choreographed for Sold-out T.O. Fringe hits *Lysistrata*, *Carmilla*, and *Mayhem* at Miskatonik; blending burlesque and immersive theatre. They were Lighting Designer of the acclaimed world premiere of *Homelands* for Kaha:wi Dance, set to tour to the NAC, and Prismatic Arts Festival in Halifax. Sebastian designed Sets & Lights for Theatre Francais de Toronto's *Convictions* and *Les Zinspiré.e.s.* touring the former to Limoges, France, and garnering a Dora nomination for the latter. With their collective Other Hearts they've created a variety of works that exist between theatre, performance art, and installation with a focus on new creative methodologies for access measures. Other Hearts' most recent production *Quartet* starred Sebastian and saw them Co-design Set, Lights, and Projection receiving critical acclaim and a 2024 Dora nomination for Set and Projection design. Sebastian is always striving to use their varied skills and interests to create performance works that challenge traditional structure and aim to treat design elements as characters/collaborators in the creation process.

### 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.



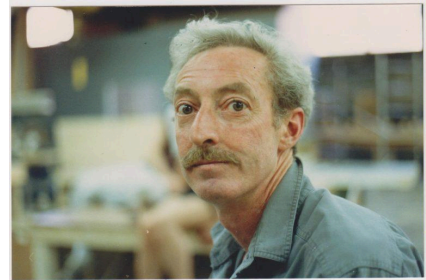
### About the Selection Committee

We were thrilled to have a selection committee consisting of six distinguished designers to guide the awarding of this year's prize. The jury included: *Carmen Alatorre; Rachel Forbes; Shawn Kerwin; Leigh Ann Vardy; Cory Sincennes and T. Erin Gruber.*



### 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/awards/>

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