

2018 Spotlight Acting Semifinal Panel

Gai Jones has served on the Southern California Educational Theatre Association board, California Educational Theatre Association (CETA) and CETA boards as member-at-large, then President. She was Regional Director of Educational Theatre Association and CA State Thespian Director. Ms. Jones was named to Who's Who in Secondary Education, Young Leaders of Education, and Who's Who in Women Educators. She is an inductee into the Educational Teachers Association and CA Thespian Hall of Fames and a recipient of CETA Outstanding Educator award. Other awards include: Outstanding Arts Educator for Orange County; Educational Theater Association Hall of Fame, CA. Jones earned an MA in Theater from California State University at Fullerton and is the founder of CA Youth in Theatre. She taught theatre at El Dorado High School for thirty-four years. She recently published *Raising the Curtain and Curtain Goin Up*.

Lee Taylor-Allan has appeared extensively on stage and screen. NYC Off Broadway, Off-Off Broadway and repertory credits include: Ellen Stewart's *La Mama E.T.C.*; *Circle Rep*; *Young Playwright's Festival*; the NYC revival of Lanford Wilson's *Home Free*; *Theatre Off Park*; *Union Square*; *Dan Lauria's, The Vietnam Vet Theatre*. International and regional theatre includes: *Electric Shakespeare Company*, *Baltimore Corner Theatre*, *Yale Drama and Yale Cabaret* among others. She has been seen in numerous films and on TV including *Stargate* and her reoccurring role as Katherine Thayer on *As The World Turns*. Ms. Taylor-Allan has performed at The Kennedy Center honoring Aaron Copeland, as well as appearing in numerous TV commercials. Lee holds a degree in Theatre Arts, with post-graduate work at Yale Drama School, and studied extensively with her mentor Nikos Psacharopoulos. She has taught and lectured at high schools and colleges.

Susan Wieder was the youngest person to ever be inducted into the Casting Society of America (C.S.A.). Ms. Wieder has cast for theater, film and television. She was on the casting teams for some of the top theaters in the country including *La Jolla Playhouse*, *Actors Theater of Louisville*, *Virginia Stage*, *Syracuse Stage*, *A.R.T.*, *Wilma Theater* and many more. While in Chicago, Susan was involved in all the Midwest casting for ABC television projects. In addition, she was known for heading major national searches for children for Disney films. She has worked with directors such as Ron Howard, Arthur Hiller, and David Frankel. Currently, Susan consults on independent films. Susan was on AFI's Third Decade Council, as well as Women in Film and many committees for C.S.A. She is very involved with guiding high school students about the different musical theater college programs.

Michael Leon Wooley is a Broadway, film and TV actor whose voice is best known as the voice of Louis, the jazz singing, trumpet playing alligator in Disney's Oscar nominated animated film, *The Princess and the Frog*. Other films include *Dreamgirls*, *Premium Rush*, and *Ghost Town*. On Broadway, Mr. Wooley is the voice of the man-eating plant Audrey 2 in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Broadway credits include: *The Music Man*, *5 Guy's Named Moe*, *American Buffalo*, *Abby's Song & House of Flowers*. His Voice can be heard on numerous cartoons and commercials on Nickelodeon, Disney, Cartoon Network, Dreamworks, and WB. He is the voice of the Fox Movie Channel and AMC movie theaters. He is also Creator of *Broadway to the Rescue*, which raises money for Homeless Charities.

Christopher Youngsman has appeared on Broadway and National Tours of: *Urinetown*; and *Grease!* Off Broadway/Regional productions include: *The Gorey Details*; *Just So!*; *Hair*; *Pageant*; *Forever Plaid* (jazz and standards); *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*; and *Gypsy*. Television credits include: *Hannah Montana*; *The Tonight Show*; *Rescue Me*; *Starved*; *Love Monkey*; *Tony Awards*; *Between the Lions*. Film: *Across the Universe*. He has produced events for CTG, GLAAD and AIDS WALK SF, directed and cast productions for The Wallis Annenberg, taught improvisation for The Deborah Gibson Electric Youth Camp and playwriting for The Virginia Avenue Project. Every Summer he performs with the Transcendence Theatre Company in Sonoma and every Winter is a featured singer at Hong Kong Disneyland.