

2020 Spotlight Acting Semifinal Panel

Daniel Guzman has appeared on Broadway in *Cyrano, The Musical* and *Les Miserables* as well as having appeared in national and international tours including *Camelot, Jesus Christ Superstar, Cats, Les Miserables, Guys and Dolls, Sweet Charity, Evita, West Side Story, Man of La Mancha, The King and I,* and *A Chorus Line*, among others. Mr. Guzman has performed several shows at The Hollywood Bowl, highlights which include the honor of singing for Stephen Sondheim at his 75th birthday concert, as well as performing in *Les Miserables* as Grantaire. Mr. Guzman executive produced the feature film *First Comes Like* and can be seen in the new series the for his production company Laughing House Productions, *The Secret Office*, both which are available online at Amazon.com. His musical *SAVE THE GIRL* is now being work shopped and hopefully will have a full production soon.

Gai Jones is the Vice President of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) Governing Board which sets Policy for the two million members of the International Thespian Society as the honor society for middle and high school students; Educational Theatre Foundation (ETF) Board Member; Vice President of Membership for California Educational Theatre Association (CETA); Director of Advocacy for Drama Teachers Association of Southern California (DTASC). She has served as CETA President and CA State Thespian Chapter Director. She is the recipient of the EdTA President's Award, inductee into the CA Thespian and EdTA's Hall of Fame. She earned her MA in Theatre from CSUF and I'd the Founder of California Youth in Theatre. She taught at El Dorado High School, Placentia, CA; upon her retirement the Black Box Theater was renamed the Gai Jones Theater. She has authored four Theatre Education books and teaches Professional Developments around the nation.

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.

Carla Renata was last seen on Broadway playing "Gary Coleman" in the Tony Award winning musical *Avenue Q*. Other Broadway credits include *The Lion King* (NAACP Theatre Award Nominee), *Smokey Joe's Café*, *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and *The Who's Tommy*. Ms. Renata, who now recurs on NBC's *Superstore*, is the only African-American actress to recur on four episodic series on one season...TWICE. A graduate of Howard University and Adjunct Professor her book "An Actors Guide to Self-Marketing: How to Brand and Promote Your Unique Image" drops January 2019. As a Rotten Tomatoes approved Critic, her film reviews can be seen weekly at Black Hollywood Live and at TheCurvyFilmCritic.com. Carla is proud to be a Spotlight Judge for more than ten years.

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.