NEW YORK CITY, January 10, 2017 – Taylor Mac inspired attendees today with artistry and hope as Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) annual gathering, APAP|NYC 2017, wound to a close. More than 3,600 members attended the conference from 36 countries and all 50 U.S. states, celebrating APAP’s 60th anniversary, joining in the creativity and showmanship and attending to the business of performing arts. APAP|NYC 2018 returns to New York on January 12-16, 2018.

“I was especially inspired this year by our speakers and members who encouraged one another to see past the apprehension of the unknown as we move into 2017, to the opportunities that exist to continue to work together to bring down barriers, build bridges and open hearts,” said Mario Garcia Durham, president and CEO of APAP. “I’m looking forward to coming together again next January to see where we have taken our work and our industry.”

A surprise visit and insights from “Hamilton’s” Brandon Victor Dixon, was a highlight at APAP’s artists’ plenary.

APAP members voted in new 2017 board members: Krista Bradley, Executive Director, BlackRock Center for the Arts (Germantown, MD); Renae Williams Niles, Chief Operating Officer, USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance (Los Angeles); and Francine Sheffield, Owner, Sheffield Global Arts Management (New York).

The group also honored the top performing arts leaders of 2016 at its annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon. Winners are nominated by their peers for having had a significant impact on the industry and on communities worldwide. Actor Ben Vereen served as master of ceremonies.

Laurie Anderson, American avant-garde composer, musician and film director, received APAP’s Award of Merit for Achievement in the Performing Arts. Within her acceptance remarks, Anderson shared her vision for thinning of lines between disciplines and institutions in the U.S. She talked about a recent series of recording sessions she did in Denmark sponsored by the national library and the acquisition and installation of an extremely subtle and introspective sound work by Brian Eno in a British hospital. “Walls between music and medicine are much thinner than they are in the U.S.,” Anderson said. “One of my dreams is that artists start integrating our work with other groups and make those lines much thinner.”

The William Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence and Sustained Achievement in Programming was presented to Mary Rose Lloyd, Director of Artistic Programming at The New Victory Theater. The Sidney R. Yates Award for Outstanding Advocacy on Behalf of the Performing Arts was awarded to Michael Alexander, Executive Director of Grand Performances. A surprise each year, APAP’s coveted Fan Taylor Distinguished Service Award for Exemplary Service to the Field Of Professional Presenting was presented to Mikki Shepard, who most recently served as Executive Director/Producer, Apollo Theater in Harlem.

North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents (NAPAMA) also presented two awards to its agents and presenters at the APAP event: the Liz Silverman Award for Agent-Manager of the Year (newly named this year after a respected friend and colleague in the performing arts community passed in March, 2016).
awarded to Laura Colby, Director, Elsie Management; and Presenter of the Year 2016 awarded to Michele Roberge, former Executive Director of the Carpenter Performing Arts Center at California State University Long Beach. Under Roberge, the Carpenter Center was awarded a Creative Campus grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters for which she coordinated a two-year, campus-wide project on censorship. In September, she resigned her position in protest over the university’s cancellation of a provocatively-titled play.

APAP|NYC 2017 is one of 12 public festivals and industry events collaborating as January In NYC, a partnership which brings more than 45,000 industry professionals, performing artists and enthusiasts to New York City, January 3-22. Some were incubated at APAP|NYC. Other events sprung, in part, from the fact that the APAP|NYC Conference draws so many performing arts professionals to New York City every January. Many of the 12 events will run beyond the timeframe of APAP|NYC again this year, through January 22.

ABOUT APAP: The Association of Performing Arts Presenters is the national service, advocacy and membership organization for presenters of the performing arts. APAP is dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts industry and the professionals who work within it.

APAP|NYC conference information APAPNYC.org, APAP membership information membership APAP365.org, Twitter @APAP365, #APAPNYC, Facebook facebook.com/APAPNYC.  

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