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*Great Performances: Richard III*
TCA Panelist Bios

**Robert O’Hara**

Stage Director, *Great Performances: Richard III*; Playwright

Robert O’Hara was recently Tony nominated for his direction of *Slave Play* by Jeremy O. Harris, the most Tony-nominated play at Broadway’s Golden Theater. He also directed its world premiere at NYTW, its 2021 Broadway return, and with Center Theatre Group. Recently he directed *A Raisin in the Sun* at New York’s Public Theater; the critically acclaimed off-Broadway two-hour contemporary production of *Long Day’s Journey Into Night*; a world premiere musical, *UNI/SON*, inspired from the poetry of August Wilson, at Oregon Shakespeare Festival; a world premiere musical, *Bella*, by Kirsten Childs at Playwrights Horizons; *Macbeth* at Denver Center for Performing Arts; the world premiere of *Black Super Hero Magic Mama* by Inca Craig-Galvan at Geffen Playhouse; world premieres of Nikkole Salter and Danai Guiria’s *In the Continuum*, Tarell McCraney’s *The Brother/Sister Plays (Part 2)*, Colman Domingo’s *Wild With Happy*, Cheri and Baum’s *Gun & Powder*; as well as world premieres of his own plays: *Mankind*, *Bootycandy*, *Insurrection: Holding History*. He also directed *BLKS* by Aziza Barnes at Manhattan Class Company; *A Raisin in the Sun* at Williamstown Theater Festival; an Audible production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* starring Audra McDonald; and the revival of Kirsten Childs’ musical *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* for Encores!. O’Hara rewrote *The Wiz* for Des McAnuff’s production at La Jolla Playhouse. He directed *The Wiz* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and then again at Theater Under the Stars. He is currently directing Anthony Davis’s opera *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm* at Michigan Opera Theater, Seattle Opera, Omaha Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and New York’s Metropolitan Opera.

He has received the 2018 Herb Alpert Award, the NAACP Best Director Award for Danai Guiria’s *Eclipsed*, the NAACP Best Play Award for *Barbecue*, the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play for *Antebellum*, and two OBIE Awards. He’s also received an Audelco Award for Best Directing, the Oppenheimer Award, the Berwin Lee Award, a Rockefeller Fellowship, a TCG Extended Collaboration Grant, NEA/TCG Fellowship, and was a Van Lier Fellow at New Dramatists. O’Hara received the LAMBDA Literary Award for best LGBT Drama, the Mark Taper Forum's first Sherwood Award, and the TANNE Award for Exceptional Body of Work. He has directed around the country including Arena Stage, Steppenwolf, Kirk Douglas Theater/CTG, the Alley Theater, Primary Stages, Yale Rep, Woolly Mammoth, American Conservatory Theater, Magic Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Philadelphia Theater Company, City Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Goodman Theater, Alliance, Denver Theater Center, New York Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Playhouse and Playwrights Horizons. He has been an artist-in-residence at the American Conservatory Theater, New York Shakespeare Festival, Theater/Emory, and the Mellon Playwright in Residence at Woolly Mammoth, as well as a visiting professor at DePaul University School of the Arts. O’Hara has also taught at Yale University School of Drama, Tisch at New York University and Columbia University SOA.

**Danai Gurira**

Actress, Richard in *Great Performances: Richard III*

Danai Gurira is an award-winning playwright and actress. Distinguished as the first African female writer to have a play on Broadway, and to bring the perspective of African women to mainstream theater, her stage plays give voice to untold narratives. They include *In the Continuum* (OBIE Award, Outer Critics Award, Helen Hayes Award),*Eclipsed* (Tony nomination: Best Play, NAACP Award, Helen Hayes Award: Best New Play, Connecticut Critics Circle Award: Outstanding Production of a Play) and *The Convert* (six Ovation Awards, L.A. Outer Critics Award). Her newest play, *Familiar*, received its world premiere at Yale Rep and premiered in New York at Playwrights Horizons in February of 2016. Commissioned by Yale Rep, Center Theatre Group, Playwrights Horizons and the Royal Court, she is a recipient of the Sam Norkin Award (2016 Drama Desk Awards), a Whiting Award as well as a Hodder Fellowship. Most recently she sighed an overall deal with ABC Studios where she will develop, write and produce for the studio across all platforms.

As an actor, Gurira currently stars as General Okoye in Marvel’s highly anticipated Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, the sequel to the 2018 Academy Award-winning blockbuster *Black Panther*, for which she won a People’s Choice Award (Favorite Action Movie Star), an NAACP Image Award (Outstanding Supporting Actress/Motion Picture) and a shared SAG Award (Outstanding Performance by a Cast/Motion Picture). In 2018, she reprised her role in *Avengers: Infinity War* and again in *Avengers: Endgame*, which went on to become the second highest grossing film in history.

She most recently starred in her final season as Michonne on AMC’s “The Walking Dead.” Her other acting credits include the feature films *All Eyez on Me*, *Mother of George*, *The Visitor*, and Shakespeare in the Park’s stage production of *Measure for Measure* (Equity Callaway Award). Coming up, Gurira will go into production on a limited series for AMC in which she will reprise her role of Michonne from “The Walking Dead” and reunite her with co-star Andrew Lincoln. She will also serve as an executive producer.

Born in Iowa to Zimbabwean parents and raised in Zimbabwe, Gurira holds an MFA from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. An ambassador for Bono’s ONE campaign, she is co-founder of [Almasi Arts Alliance](https://www.almasiarts.org/), which works to give access and opportunity to African dramatic artists. With a personal dedication to effect tangible change in gender equality and push global leaders toward real policy transformation, she is founder of Love Our Girls, which spotlights the specific challenges faced by women and girls while celebrating the courageous work by organizations seeking to make a difference. In December 2018, she was also named a Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women, supporting its mandate of gender equality and women’s rights, and leveraging her celebrity as an amplifier of other women’s voices.

**David Horn**

Executive Producer*, Great Performances*

Director, Performance & Arts Programming, The WNET Group

Facebook: [@GreatPerformances](https://www.facebook.com/GreatPerformances); Twitter: [@GPerfPBS](https://twitter.com/GPerfPBS)

As the executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning series ***Great Performances***, David Horn oversees the development, production and programming of The WNET Group’s national performing arts presentations on PBS. During his 43-year tenure with the series, Horn has twice received the prestigious Peabody Award and has been nominated for a Primetime Emmy more than 25 times, winning five. In 2015, he was honored with he Drama League’s Unique Contribution to the Theater Award for his vital work in bringing New York theater to a larger audience across America.

In addition to ***Great Performances***, Horn is the creator and executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning series *NYC-ARTS*, a weekly magazine program hosted by Philippe de Montebello and Paula Zahn that features the dynamic arts and culture scene in New York City. Horn is also the creator, executive producer and director of *Theater Close-Up*,a series dedicated to showcasing the innovative productions of New York City’s Off- and Off-Off-Broadway theaters. Horn has also directed several productions in collaboration between the WNET Group and the subscription streaming service BroadwayHD, including the historic first live stream of the Broadway musical *She Loves Me*, followed by Noël Coward’s *Present Laughter* starring Kevin Kline, Paula Vogel’s critically acclaimed play *Indecent* and Irving Berlin’s *Holiday Inn*.

After his successful productions of *King Lear*, *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Macbeth*, all of which were recognized with Best Actor Emmy nominations for Sir Ian McKellen, Kevin Kline and Sir Patrick Stewart, respectively, Horn continued his commitment to incorporate Shakespeare into the ***Great Performances*** repertoire. In 2015, Horn served as executive producer alongside Sam Mendes and Gareth Neame for the series *The Hollow Crown*. Produced as film adaptations of Shakespeare’s history plays, *The* *Hollow Crown* featured Jeremy Irons, Tom Hiddleston and Ben Whishaw, and was followed by *The Wars of the Roses*,starring Tom Sturridge as Henry VI, Benedict Cumberbatch as Richard III and an all-star cast, including Sophie Okonedo, Judi Dench and Hugh Bonneville. In summer 2019, he directed the first ***Great Performances*** live recording from the Public Theater’s Free Shakespeare in the Park since 1974, Kenny Leon’s modern production of *Much Ado About Nothing*,featuring an all-Black cast, including Danielle Brooks.

Horn’s extensive catalog of original productions includes creating *In the Spotlight*(1993), a series of primetime popular music specials, and executive producing *Sessions at West 54th*; he was honored with the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for both in recognition of excellence in music broadcast programming. He was also the executive producer of two landmark miniseries for PBS: *Make ‘Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America* in 2009and *Broadway: The American Musical*, whichgarnered the Primetime Emmy for Non-Fiction Series in 2005.

Horn has produced numerous classical music concerts from Carnegie Hall, as well as internationally in Vienna, Salzburg, Rome and Paris. He has also played an instrumental role in producing a variety of regional operas, many of them world premieres, in San Francisco, Santa Fe, Los Angeles, Dallas and Houston, where he won an Emmy for John Adams’ *Nixon in China*.

Horn’s multi-camera directing credits for ***Great Performances*** include the *Bernstein Centennial from Tanglewood*, five *GRAMMY Salute to Music Legends* specials, the *Joan Baez 75th Birthday Celebration*, *Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga: Cheek to Cheek LIVE!*, *Steve Martin & Edie Brickell in Concert*, *Great Performances 40th Anniversary Celebration*, multiple Andrea Bocelliconcerts including his Central Parkevent, *Pete Seeger’s 90th Birthday Celebration at MSG*, *Chess in Concert*, *Hitman: David Foster & Friends*, *We Love Ella!: A Tribute to the First Lady of Song*, *South Pacific at Carnegie Hall*, *Michael Bublé: Caught in the Act*, *Josh Groban Live at the Greek* and many others*.* From 1981-1983, Horn produced the series *In Performance at the White House*.

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