

2025 THEATER ALLIANCE GALA PRESENTS IMPACT AWARDS TO INDUSTRY VETERANS ALEX HODGES AND AARON EGIGIAN; RAISES FUNDS TO STRENGTHEN THEATERS NATIONWIDE

Annual Theater Alliance Gala united more than 150 leaders from across live entertainment to support the performing arts.

*Comedian Ron Funches Hosted with Live Performances
from Andrew McMahon and Betty Who*



At the third annual Theater Alliance Gala, Impact Honorees Alex Hodges (2nd from left) & Aaron Egigian (right) pose with Gala Co-Chairs Joe Giordano (left) and Noel Mirhadi (2nd from right)

Link to Event Photos [Here](#)

Los Angeles, CA (October 16, 2025) – Oak View Group’s 2025 [Theater Alliance Gala](#) presented by DeKuyper brought together more than 150 leaders from the live entertainment, theater, and hospitality industries at YouTube Theater at Hollywood Park on Tuesday, October 14, for an evening celebrating artistic excellence and community impact.

Theater Alliance honored two of the industry’s most respected executives – **Alex Hodges**, CEO of Nederlander Concerts, and **Aaron Egigian**, founding lead of Artistic Programming at Segerstrom Center for the Arts — with the 2025 Theater Alliance Impact Awards. Over five decades, Hodges has shaped the live music landscape as a promoter, agent, and manager for

artists including Otis Redding and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Egigian, who recently retired after a 39-year tenure, helped bring a wide range of performances, from classical to pop, to audiences in Southern California. Presented live on stage by Gala Co-Chairs **Joe Giordano**, Vice President, OVG Alliances and **Noel Mirhadi**, Senior Director, OVG Theater Alliance, the awards recognize each honoree's decades of leadership, innovation, and dedication to advancing the performing arts.

Hosted by comedian and actor **Ron Funches**, the gala featured live performances by multiplatinum singer-songwriter **Andrew McMahon**, celebrated for his work with Jack's Mannequin and Something Corporate, and international pop artist **Betty Who**. McMahon delivered an intimate set blending fan favorites and storytelling about his connection to live performance and gala attendees, while Betty Who brought her signature charisma and powerhouse vocals to the stage with a vibrant performance.

"The Theater Alliance Gala is more than a gathering of live entertainment leaders, it's a testament to the strength and spirit of our industry," said **Giordano**. "Every year, this community comes together to celebrate the people, partnerships, and creativity that keep live performance thriving. Nights like this remind us why the work we do matters and how powerful the arts can be in shaping connection and culture."

"I appreciate this honor more than you can imagine," said **Hodges**. "Life is fragile, often tough, but wonderful. Stevie Ray Vaughan once said, 'music heals,' and it truly does. Music touches our hearts, brings people together, and reminds us why live performance matters. I've spent my life surrounded by artists, colleagues, and audiences who believe in the power of that connection. Live events will be forever; there will be no ending to that story."

"I am honored by this recognition and delighted to share it with so many cherished colleagues here tonight," added **Egigian**. "Over 39 years, we've had the privilege of shaping extraordinary experiences across every discipline – from pop to ballet, Broadway to jazz, comedy, and special events. What has mattered most is building a sense of community through the arts. It has never been just transactional; it's always been about engaging people in something bigger than us. Thank you for this honor, it's a joy to celebrate together."

The Theater Alliance Gala serves as a cornerstone fundraiser for the [OVG Theater Alliance Fund](#), a 501(c)(3) organization created in collaboration with Music's Promise, helping theaters continue their invaluable work and ensuring the arts thrive for generations to come. Funds raised through the gala directly support theaters across the Alliance network through capital improvement grants, community engagement initiatives, youth arts education programs and more via alliance members and their nonprofit and philanthropic partners.

The OVG Theater Alliance is a nationwide collective of marquee theaters and performing arts venues. Members benefit from collective buying power, routing of nontraditional content, sponsorship opportunities, industry best practices, and shared resources, all designed to strengthen and sustain live theater.

What People Are Saying:

“It’s inspiring to see so many leaders, artists, and partners come together with such purpose. The Theater Alliance is built on collaboration, and nights like this remind us how powerful that energy can be when we work toward a shared vision for the arts” – **Noël Mirhadi, Senior Director, OVG Theater Alliance**

“Tonight is the celebration of the essential work that Alliance members do to create those lifelong, unforgettable memories. We know that to keep the magic alive we must invest in the future. Thank you to Oak View Group for your vision and the Theater Alliance Members for supporting that future through this Gala. – **Russell Gordon, Vice President & General Manager, YouTube Theater**

“The OVG Theater Alliance has been a valuable resource, not just in terms of fundraising through the annual gala, but also for collaboration with colleagues across the country to make better decisions and provide patrons with the best experiences” – **Ryan Henry, Associate Director for Programming, AT&T Performing Arts Center**

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