



Curt Columbus, The Arthur P. Solomon and Sally E. Lapidés Artistic Director, Tom Parrish, Executive Director
201 Washington Street Providence • Rhode Island 02903 • www.trinityrep.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 25, 2019

CONTACT: Caitlin Howle, Digital Marketing Coordinator; (401) 453-9226; chowle@trinityrep.com

INDIGO GIRLS TO RECEIVE 2019 PELL AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS

Pell Awards Gala to be held June 3, 2019

PROVIDENCE, RI – Trinity Repertory Company announced today that the **Indigo Girls** will be honored with the **2019 Pell Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts** in recognition of their artistic achievements and advocacy at the theater's 23rd annual Pell Awards Gala on **Monday, June 3, 2019** at the WaterFire Arts Center in Providence, RI. Tickets and more information can be found at TrinityRep.com/pell.

Amy Ray and **Emily Saliers** (better known collectively as Indigo Girls) met in elementary school in Atlanta, Georgia and began singing together professionally while in high school in 1980. They began recording in 1985 and toured and recorded independently until they were signed by Epic Records in 1988. In 1989 they were nominated for a Grammy for Best New Artist, and took home the Grammy for Best Contemporary Folk Recording. Indigo Girls would go on to receive multiple Grammy nominations, sell 15+ million albums worldwide and record 15 studio releases along with many live releases and compilations.

Ray and Saliers are committed activists who have worked on issues such as immigration (working with such groups as El Refugio), supporting the Zapatistas in Mexico, working to abolish the death penalty, supporting sensible gun laws, LGBTQ rights, voter education, women's health, Imagination Library, and Indigenous Environmental Justice. They met Winona LaDuke at an Earth Day concert in 1991 and subsequently formed Honor the Earth in 1993, in conjunction with several other Native run organizations. They continue to commit their time and resources to Honor the Earth, working as

liaisons between Native and non-Native communities, and supporting the environmental justice work of Honor the Earth through concerts, recordings and outreach.

Curt Columbus, The Arthur P. Solomon and Sally E. Lapidés Artistic Director, said, “The Indigo Girls are extraordinary: two amazing musicians and two incredible citizens of the world. Amy and Emily combine the best of what we celebrate every year at the Pell Awards gala -- lifelong artistic excellence and public service combined in the greatest artists living and working in America today. Senator Pell's legacy is alive and well in these two women, and their singular body of work.”

The Indigo Girls join previously announced local honorees: storyteller **Valerie Tutson** of Rhode Island Black Storytellers who will receive the Rhode Island Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts; educator **Deloris Davis Grant** of Central Falls High School who will receive the Charles Sullivan Award for Distinguished Service in the Arts); and **Rosanne Somerson**, president of Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), who will receive the Pell Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Arts.

Trinity Rep's 2019 Pell Awards Gala will be held the evening of Monday, June 3, 2019 at the WaterFire Arts Center in Providence. The annual fundraising event is co-chaired by **Sally Lapidés and Art Solomon** and **Alison and Larry Eichler**. Honorary co-chairs **Clay Pell, Nick and Annie Pell, Tripler Pell and Tawfik Hammoud, Christina Neal Pell, and Eames Yates, Jr.**

The Pell Awards gala event committee includes: Charlene Carpenzano; Buff Chace; Johnnie Chace; Liz Chace; John Chan; Joseph Chazan and Vicki Veh; Ann Marie Clarkson; Joan Countryman; Jim DeRentis and Brett Smiley; Martha Douglas-Osmundson; Joe and Sally Dowling; Jon and Julie Duffy; Rebecca Gibel; Phil Gould and Athena Poppas; John and Yvette Harpootian; Laura Harris; Janet Hasson; Mayer and Judy Levitt; Joe Madden; Suzanne and Ira Magaziner; Ronald C. Markoff and Karen Triedman; Heidi Keller Moon; Paul and Jean Moran; Timothy Philbrick; Myrna and Hershey Rosen; Barbara and Larry Schoenfeld; Gretchen Dow Simpson and James Baird; Alec Stais and Elissa Burke; Judith Lynn Stillman; Mindy and Stanley Wachtenheim; and Toots Zynsky.



Honorary event committee members include: Kate Burton; Len Cabral; Jeannine Chartier; Congressman David Cicilline; Curt Columbus and Nate Watson; Michael Corrente; Ruth Dealy; P. William Hutchinson and Jeri McElroy; Richard and Sharon Jenkins; Congressman James Langevin; Brooke and Eugene Lee; Mary McDonnell; Tom Parrish; Bernadet V. and Ricardo Pitts-Wiley; Senator Jack Reed; Rose Weaver; George Wein; and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.

The creative black-tie event will begin at 6:00 pm with a VIP cocktail reception, sponsored by The Providence Real Estate Guy. The seated gourmet dinner will begin at 7:15 pm, followed by the awards ceremony at 8:15 pm. Guests will enjoy mixing and mingling with artists, business, political, and social leaders; catering by Russell Morin Fine Catering; and unforgettable moments as the theater honors individuals who are committed to bettering the world through art, education and activism.

Sponsors of the 2019 Pell Awards gala include: Brown University; IGT; Jonathan and Maya Nelson; Stenhouse Consulting; The Providence Real Estate Guy; Alison and Larry Eichler; Gilbane; Hayes & Sherry; Hinckley Allen; Navigant Credit Union; Sayles Livingston Design; Residential Properties LTD; Barbara and Larry Schoenfeld; Textron; Liz Chace; CVS Health; John and Yvette Harpootian; Suzanne and Ira C. Magaziner; Grandchildren of Claiborne and Nuala Pell; and Starkweather & Shepley. Southwest Airlines is the official airline of Trinity Rep.

Tickets for Trinity Rep's Pell Awards Gala are \$500 (VIP) and \$250 (dinner and ceremony only). Tables, sponsorships and event program ads are also available. All proceeds benefit Trinity Rep's artistic programs. For more information or to purchase tickets, sponsorships or ads, visit www.trinityrep.com/pell or call (401) 453-9237.

ABOUT THE INDIGO GIRLS

Twenty years after they began releasing records as the Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have politely declined the opportunity to slow down with age. With a legacy of releases and countless U.S.

and international tours behind them, the Indigo Girls have forged their own way in the music business. Selling over 15 million records, they are still going strong. Amy and Emily are the only duo with top 40 titles on the Billboard 200 in the '80s, '90s, '00s and '10s.

In 2012, Saliers and her Indigo Girls partner Amy Ray embarked on a bold new chapter, collaborating with a pair of orchestrators to prepare larger-than-life arrangements of their songs to perform with symphonies around the country. The duo found an elusive sonic sweet spot with the project, creating a seamless blend of folk, rock, pop, and classical that elevated their songs to new heights without scarifying any of the emotional intimacy and honesty that have defined their music for decades. Now, after more than 50 performances with symphonies across America, the experiences have finally been captured in all its grandeur on the band's stunning new album, *Indigo Girls Live With The University of Colorado Symphony Orchestra*.

The power of unity, both in music and in life, has been an Indigo Girls calling card ever since they burst into the spotlight with their 1989 self-titled breakout album. Since then, the band has racked up a slew of Gold and Platinum records, taken home a coveted GRAMMY Award, and earned the respect of high profile peers and collaborated from Michael Stipe to Joan Baez. *NPR's Mountain Stage* called the group "one of the finest folk duos of all time" while *Rolling Stone* said "they personify what happens when two distinct sensibilities, voices, and worldviews come together to create something transcendentally its own."

The duo has balanced their long, successful musical career by supporting numerous social causes – the Indigo Girls don't just talk the talk; they walk the walk. Both on and off the stage, Emily Saliers and Amy Ray have secured their spot as one of the most legendary musical acts of this generation.

ABOUT THE PELL AWARDS



Trinity Rep's Pell Awards were established in 1997 to honor the legacy of **Senator Claiborne Pell** (D-RI) and recognize artistic excellence in Rhode Island and the New England region as well as on the national level. Between 1961 and 1997, Senator Pell held influential Senate posts in the fields of human resources, education, arms control, health, human rights, foreign relations, the environment, and the arts and humanities. Throughout his life, Senator Pell worked to support the arts and provide new opportunities for artists. He was the principal sponsor of landmark legislation that established the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities in 1965, and chaired the Senate Education and Arts subcommittee. He also took a lead role in eliminating barriers to higher education with his legislation creating the Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, which Congress named "Pell Grants" in 1980.

Past Pell Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts honorees include: 2018's Mary McDonnell, Jane Alexander, Kate Burton, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, Viola Davis, Olympia Dukakis, Laurie and Oskar Eustis, Adrian Hall, Richard and Sharon Jenkins, Jessica Lange, Arthur Miller, Liza Minnelli, Toni Morrison, Robert Redford, Chita Rivera, Jason Robards, Maurice Sendak, Beverly Sills, and Stephen Sondheim.

Additional information is available at www.TrinityRep.com/pell.



Indigo Girls (Amy Ray and Emily Saliers)

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/155398158@N03/tfe88p>

2019 Pell Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

What: Trinity Rep's 2019 Pell Awards Gala
When: Monday, June 3, 2019
VIP Reception: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 7:15 pm
Awards Ceremony: 8:15 pm

Honorees: **Indigo Girls (Amy Ray and Emily Saliers)**, Pell Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts
Valerie Tutson, Rhode Island Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts
Rosanne Somerson, Pell Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Arts
Deloris Davis Grant, Charles Sullivan Award for Distinguished Service in the Arts

Location: WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley St., Providence, Rhode Island

Summary: The Pell Awards Gala celebrates national and local excellence in the arts. Guests will enjoy mixing and mingling with artists, business, political, and social leaders; dinner by Russell Morin Fine Catering; and unforgettable moments as the theater honors individuals who are committed to bettering the world through art. All proceeds benefit artistic programming at Trinity Rep.

Dress Code: Creative Black Tie

Tickets: Full event including VIP reception: \$500
Ceremony and dinner only: \$250 (limited availability)
Sponsorships and event program ads are also available.

To Purchase: www.TrinityRep.com/pell or (401) 453-9237.

ABOUT TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY

Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, Trinity Rep has created unparalleled professional theater for and with its community since its founding in 1963. Trinity Rep strives to facilitate human connection and has been a driving force behind the creativity that fuels and defines the region for more than 50 years. Trinity Rep is committed to reinventing the public square and inspiring dialogue by creating emotionally-stimulating live productions that range from classical to contemporary and innovative education programs for all ages and abilities. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol* has brought families together for over 40 years and made memories for over a million audience members.

For more information visit Trinity Rep's website at www.TrinityRep.com.

###