

Paul Green Foundation

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National Theatre Conference Person of the Year Names Paul Green Awardee

The National Theatre Conference (NTC), whose members are distinguished individuals of the American Theatre Community, was established in 1925: “To explore the means of best serving the interests of the American Theatre, and to initiate, encourage, and support projects of value.”

Paul Green, who was on the drama faculty at the UNC – one of the 1925 original theatre department organizers of what was to become the National Theatre Conference – served as its president in 1941 and '42.

Each year the NTC honors outstanding theatres and artists through the presentation of several awards including the Person of the Year Award. In 1967, **Hallie Flanagan Davis** was the first recipient. Other notable Persons of the Year have been: **Tennessee Williams** in 1972, **Paul Green** in 1974 and **John Housman** in 1976. Beginning in 1988, the Paul Green Foundation established the **Paul Green Award** that recognizes and encourages excellence in new professional theatre talent and is presented to a young theatre artist. This awardee is named by the current Person of the Year.



NTC Person of the Year George Takei (Mr. Sulu in *Star Trek*) has had a varied acting career in TV, films, live theatre and radio. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, George (age 5) and his family were relocated to internment camps. Takei's firsthand knowledge of the unjust interment of 120,000 Japanese-Americans in World War II, created a lifelong interest in politics and community affairs and he now stars in Broadway's *Allegiance* based on the internment experience.

Mr. Takei has selected Elena Wang for the 2016 Paul Green Award.

Elena Wang, who has worked all over the world, has a BA in musical theatre and an MFA in Film. In London, Elena performed in *The King and I* with Daniel Dae Kim at the Royal Albert Hall. While in Singapore, her leading roles such as Ivy in *Beauty World* and Snow White in *Snow White*, won Elena ELLE magazine's 'Breakout Star of the Year'. Her recent works include the role of Kim in *Miss Saigon (LA)* and *Allegiance* on Broadway as Nan/Kei Kimura.



The Paul Green Foundation Spring Grants

- ❖ **Studio 1** – for a “Shadowed” Performance of *The Miracle Worker*. The deaf audience will see the actors in full costume, and “hear” the words of the **signing** actors in black, also on the stage.
- ❖ **National Theatre Conference** – Paul Green Award
- ❖ **Hidden Voices** – to support their play *Serving Life* that explores race, class, compassion and justice with men on Death Row
- ❖ **Hannah Bowman** – production of a documentary film about Paul Green
- ❖ **Institute of Outdoor Theatre** – Paul Green Seminar
- ❖ **ACLU of North Carolina** – for their efforts to repeal North Carolina's HB2

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