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## Halston to Host Innovative Theatre Awards

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Actress-comedian Julie Halston, who played Electra and Miss Cratchitt in the Bernadette Peters revival of *Gypsy*, will host the third annual New York Innovative Theatre Awards, according to the New York Times.

The awards, which honor achievement in theatre Off Off-Broadway, will be presented Sept. 24 at the Haft Auditorium at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Among those who are scheduled to present awards are lighting designer Natasha Katz, director Leigh Silverman and City Council speaker Christine C. Quinn.

Playwright Doric Wilson, who penned *And He Made a Her* — which played Caffe Cino in 1961 — will receive the artistic achievement award. That award is presented to "an individual who has made a significant artistic contribution to the Off Off Broadway community."

Julie Halston's New York theatrical credits include roles in *Twentieth Century*, *Hairspray*, *White Chocolate*, *Gypsy*, *The Butter and Egg Man*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* and *Red Scare on Sunset*. She received a Drama Desk nomination for her work in *Red Scare*. Also a stand-up comedian, Halston played Bitsy Von Muffling in HBO-TV's "Sex and the City" and co-starred on the CBS series "Class."

The IT Awards were created "to bring recognition to the great work being done in Off Off-Broadway and help create a community base for the estimated 40,000 artists working in the Off-Off-Broadway venue," according to a previous release.

The New York Innovative Theatre Awards can be found on the web at [www.nyitawards.org](http://www.nyitawards.org).