



BTN 39-Los Angeles, CA

Happy New Year

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy 2026!! I hope each of you had an enjoyable and restful holiday and are ready for a creative New Year. I am pleased to provide the following updates...

Board Updates

We are pleased to welcome Chhaya Deonauth (top right) as our new **Undergraduate Liaison**. Chhaya is a Theatre and Performance major at the illustrious Spelman College. Chhaya is an aspiring actress and multifaceted creative who has explored the art of acting since she was ten years old. Her recent performances include being a member of Spelman's Noire singing ensemble, Krys in *Stage Black* (2024), Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* (2023), and her first IMDb credit this year in the upcoming web series, *The Self We Seek* (2025).

H'arrya Canty (bottom right) has been hired as **Business Manager**. H'arrya is an MFA Acting candidate at West Virginia University with a passion for storytelling that centers community, identity, and artistic truth. She holds a BFA in Professional Theatre from North Carolina A&T State University, where her training laid a strong foundation for work in classical and contemporary theatre. Beyond performance, H'arrya is deeply committed to advocacy for Black arts and children's theatre, championing access, representation, and creative equity.



BTN's Vision and Values

At the core of our work is a commitment to celebrate Black voices, tell stories of the diaspora, and promote artistry in the theatre community. We strive to nurture creativity, foster equity, and build spaces where Black artists and audiences thrive. Our mission guides our steps as we build a future grounded in empowerment, inclusion, and cultural celebration.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open for BTN 2026-2028 Executive Board positions

Are you ready to step into leadership and serve the global theatre community?

We are accepting nominations for the following board positions

- Undergraduate Liaison
- Graduate Liaison
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Parliamentarian
- Membership Chair
- Asst. Treasurer (this officer automatically ascends to the position of Treasurer during the 2028-2030 term)
- Asst. Secretary (this officer automatically ascends to the position of Secretary during the 2028-2030 term)
- Vice President & Conference Committee Chair (this officer automatically ascends to the position of President during the 2028-2030 term)

Important Dates

- 1/1/26 – 2/14/26--Call for Board Nominations opens

Any financial member is eligible for nomination. If you need a list of financial members, visit our website or contact our Membership Chair, Tyja Lynn, at tyja.lynnx@gmail.com.

[The nomination link is here and will be available via the BTN website.](#)

- 3/1/26 – 3/31/26--Online Voting period begins
- 4/30/26--Election Results Announced

All incoming officers will be sworn in at BTN 40!!

Do you have a panel idea
for BTN 40? Our
conference Call for Papers
is forthcoming, so stay
tuned for details!!



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