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**Judges Select Kalish, Ormes for Eisner Hall of Fame**

*Voters Will Select 4 More Inductees*

SAN DIEGO – Comic-Con International (Comic-Con), the largest comic book and popular arts event of its kind in the world, has announced that the Eisner Awards judges have selected two individuals to automatically be inducted into the Will Eisner Comic Awards Hall of Fame for 2018. These inductees are **Carol Kalish** (pioneering direct sales manager for Marvel Comics), and **Jackie Ormes** (first black female newspaper cartoonist, for the strip *Dixie in Harlem* featuring the character Torchy Brown).

 The judges have also chosen 16 nominees from which voters will select 4 to be inducted in the Hall of Fame this summer. These nominees are **Charles Addams, Jim Aparo, Gus Arriola, Karen Berger, Howard Cruse, Carlos Ezquerra, Dave Gibbons, Paul Levitz, Tarpé Mills, Francoise Mouly, Thomas Nash, Lily Renée Peter Phillips, Posy Simmonds, Rumiko Takahashi,** **John Wagner,** and **S. Clay Wilson.** More information on the nominees can be found on the Eisner Awards website: http://www.comic-con.org/awards/eisner-awards-current-info

 All voting is online. To vote, you must be a professional working in the comics or related industries as a creator (writer, artist, cartoonist, colorist, letterer), a publisher or editor, a retailer (comics store owner or manager), a graphic novels librarian, or a comics historian/educator. Eligible voters can visit www.eisnervote.com to register (or to sign in if they have voted in the past) and then select up to four picks in the Hall of Fame category. **The deadline for voting is March 16.**

 The 2018 Eisner Awards judging panel consists of librarian Candice Mack (Los Angeles Public Library), comics reviewer/journalist Graeme McMillan (i09, Wired, *Hollywood Reporter*), comics retailer Tate Ottati (Tate’s Comics, Lauderhill, FL), comics scholar Nhora Serrano (Hamilton College, Clinton, NY), writer/artist/educator Alexander Simmons (*Blackjack, Scooby Doo,* Archie; Kids Comic Con), and longtime Comic-Con volunteer William Wilson (anime/manga expert).

 The judges would like to give a special thank you to the students at the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Vermont (courtesy of Steve Bissette and James Sturm) for their helpful input to the Hall of Fame selection process.

 Submissions are currently being accepted in the other Eisner categories; the deadline is March 16. The nominees for these categories will be announced in late April.

 The Eisner Awards will be presented at a gala awards ceremony to be held on July 20 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel. Jackie Estrada is the Eisner Awards Administrator.

 The Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards are presented under the auspices of Comic-Con International, a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to creating awareness of and appreciation for comics and related popular artforms, primarily through the presentation of conventions and events that celebrate the historic and ongoing contributions of comics to art and culture.

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