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News

News

West November 18, 2004

Winners of Ovations 2004 Named

Twenty stage productions took top honors during the 2004 LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards held Nov. 15 at downtown's Orpheum Theatre. Leading the tally with five Ovation Awards was a relative newcomer to the awards show: Performance Riverside took top honors for its production of 1776. Baz Luhrmann's production of La Boheme scored four awards for the Center Theatre Group, Ahmanson Theatre. Exits and Entrances, at the Fountain Theatre, and Intimate Apparel, at the Mark Taper Forum in conjunction with the Roundabout Theatre Company, received three awards each. Other productions receiving two awards each were: All My Sons, Rubicon Theatre Company; Caught in the Net, International City Theatre; and Romeo and Juliet, Antebellum New Orleans, 1876, The Theatre@Boston Court.

The Ovation Awards, established in 1989, celebrate "the artistic excellence of L.A.'s theatres and theatre artists, and their continuing contribution to the vibrant cultural scene." They are the only peer-judged theatre awards in Los Angeles. LA Stage Alliance, formerly Theatre LA, is a non-profit association of theatres, performing arts organizations, and producers. It operates discounted advertising programs in major Los Angeles media, half-price ticketing programs on the Web, membership programs for patrons and enthusiasts, a conference exploring the business side of performing arts, advocacy and lobbying efforts at the local, state, and national level, and publishes LA Stage, the bi-monthly magazine covering performing arts throughout Southern California.

The 2004 winners are:

World Premiere Play: Exits and Entrances, Athol Fugard, Fountain Theatre. World Premiere Musical: The Shaggs: The Philosophy of the World, Joy Gregory and Gunnar Madsen, Powerhouse Theatre Company at Inside the Ford, with Andrew Barrett-Weiss and Tess Skorczewski. Lead Actor in a Play: Exits and Entrances, Morlan Higgins, Fountain Theatre. Lead Actress in a Play: Intimate Apparel, Viola Davis, Center Theatre Group: Mark Taper Forum and The Roundabout Theatre Company. Lead Actor in a Musical: 1776, Steve Glaudini, Performance Riverside. Lead Actress in a Musical: Dinah Was, Yvette Freeman, International City Theatre. Featured Actor in a Play: All My Sons, Joseph Fuqua, Rubicon Theatre Company. Featured Actress in a Play: The Fan Maroo, Carolyn Hennesy, Theatre of NOTE. Featured Actor in a Musical: 1776, Nils Anderson, Performance Riverside. Featured Actress in a Musical: 1776, Jill Van Velzer, Performance Riverside. Ray Stricklyn Memorial Award for Solo Performance: Non-Vital Organs (redux), Gigi Bermingham, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble. Ensemble Performance: Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme," Center Theatre Group: Ahmanson Theatre; Caught in the Net, International City Theatre. Director of a Play: Caught in the Net, Ray Cooney, International City Theatre; Exits and Entrances, Stephen

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Sachs, Fountain Theatre; Intimate Apparel, Daniel Sullivan, Center Theatre Group: Mark Taper Forum and The Roundabout Theatre Company. Director of a Musical: 1776, Nick DeGruccio, Performance Riverside. Choreography: Swing!, Dana Solimando, Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities. Musical Direction: Lady Macbeth Sings the Blues, Dean Mora, Rubicon Theatre Company. Production From a Touring Company: The Phantom of the Opera, Center Theatre Group: Ahmanson Theatre, Cameron Mackintosh, and Really Useful Theatre Company, Inc. Play (Smaller Theatre): Master Class, Fountain Theatre. Play (Larger Theatre): All My Sons, Rubicon Theatre Company. Franklin R. Levy Memorial Award for Musical in a Smaller Theatre: Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Celebration Theatre. Musical (Larger Theatre): 1776, Performance Riverside. Set Design (Smaller Theatre): Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Joel Daavid, RKA Productions in association with Sam Pink's Red Cat Jazz Cafe and Elephant Stageworks. Set Design (Larger Theatre): Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme," Catherine Martin, Center Theatre Group: Ahmanson Theatre. Lighting Design (Smaller Theatre): Nocturne, Mike Durst, Black Dahlia Theatre. Lighting Design (Larger Theatre): Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme," Nigel Levings, Center Theatre Group: Ahmanson Theatre. Sound Design (Smaller Theatre): Cold/Tender, Steve Goodie, The Theatre@Boston Court; Romeo and Juliet: Antebellum New Orleans, 1836, Julie Ferrin, Martin Carrillo, Paul Hepker, The Theatre@ Boston Court. Sound Design (Larger Theatre): Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme," Acme Sound Partners, Center Theatre Group: Ahmanson Theatre. Costume Design (Smaller Theatre): Romeo and Juliet: Antebellum New Orleans, 1836, Alex Jaeger, The Theatre@Boston Court; The Devils, A. Jeffrey Schoenberg, Open Fist Theatre Company. Costume Design (Larger Theatre): Intimate Apparel, Catherine Zuber, Center Theatre Group: Mark Taper Forum and The Roundabout Theatre Company. James A. Doolittle Award for Leadership in the Theatre: Paula Holt. The Career Achievement Award: Betty Garrett. Community Outreach Award: Cornerstone Theater Company.