



International City Theatre Nets Three Ovation Awards

By Harry Saltzgaver
Executive Editor

International City Theatre won three Ovation Awards on Monday night, including trophies for best ensemble and best actress in a musical.

The awards, presented by the Los Angeles Stage Alliance, are touted as the Los Angeles area's version of the Tony Awards. ICT and Musical Theatre West represented Long Beach with 23 nominations this year.

ICT's comedy "Caught in the Net" won two awards, for best ensemble and for best director of a play — Ray Cooney. The cast of "Caught in the Net" shared the ensemble award with the Center Theatre Group's Ahmanson Theatre production of "La Boheme," while Cooney shared the director's award with Stephen Sachs (Fountain Theatre) and Daniel Sullivan (Center Theatre Group).

Yvette Freeman won the Ovation for lead actress in a musical for her ICT performance of "Dinah Was," a play about Dinah Washington. Four of the five nominees in the lead actress category were from Long Beach — Freeman, Sally Struthers and Christa Jackson in MTW's "Always Š Patsy Cline," and Carol Dennis in MTW's "Hot Mikado."

Three of the seven nominees for best musical in a larger theater also were from Long Beach — "Always Š Patsy Cline" and "Hot Mikado" from MTW and "Dinah Was" from ICT. But that award went to the dominant musical of

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the evening, “1776” at Performance Riverside. “1776” won five Ovations, including lead actor, featured actor and actress, and director.

While Musical Theatre West did not win an award this year, one of its actors was part of a show-stopping number. David Engel reprised his cross-dressing — and Ovation-nominated — role in “La Cage Aux Folles” as half of a musical number with the star of a “Rocky Horror Picture Show” production.

The Ovation Awards were established in 1989. They are the only peer-judged theater awards in the Los Angeles area.

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