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## 'Exits' enters winner's circle with Ovation

### Center takes top honors, nabs seven awards

By **JULIO MARTINEZ**

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Athol Fugard's "Exits and Entrances" won world premiere play honors and "The Shaggs: The Philosophy of the World" by Joy Gregory and Gunnar Madsen nabbed the musical equivalent at the 2004 L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation Awards, held Monday at downtown's Orpheum Theater.

Downtown-based Center Theater Group took top honors, nabbing seven awards.

Performance Riverside's tuner "1776" took home the most nods, five, with CTG's presentation of Baz Luhrmann's "La Boheme" at the Ahmanson grabbing four.

CTG's "Intimate Apparel," staged at the Mark Taper Forum, and "Exits and Entrances" at the Fountain Theater took home three trophies each at the ceremonies.

Other multiple winners were "All My Sons" (Ventura's Rubicon Theater Co.); "Caught in the Net" (Long Beach's Intl. City Theater) and "Romeo and Juliet, Antebellum New Orleans, 1876" (Pasadena's The Theater at Boston Court).

Ovations are handed out by LA Stage Alliance, formerly Theater LA, a nonprofit association of theaters, performing arts organizations and producers in the greater Los Angeles area. Garry Marshall and Hector Elizondo co-emceed the evening.

## And the winners are...

### **WORLD PREMIERE PLAY :**

"Exits and Entrances," Athol Fugard (Fountain Theater)

### **WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL :**

"The Shaggs: The Philosophy of the World," Joy Gregory and Gunnar Madsen (Powerhouse Theater Company at Inside the Ford, with Andrew Barrett-Weiss and Tess Skorczewski)

**LEAD ACTOR IN A PLAY :**

Morlan Higgins , "Exits and Entrances" (Fountain Theater)

**LEAD ACTRESS IN A PLAY :**

Viola Davis, "Intimate Apparel" (Center Theater Group: Mark Taper Forum and Roundabout Theater Company)

**LEAD ACTOR IN A MUSICAL :**

Steve Glaudini, "1776" (Performance Riverside)

**LEAD ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL :**

Yvette Freeman, "Dinah Was" (International City Theater)

**FEATURED ACTOR IN A PLAY :**

Joseph Fuqua, "All My Sons" (Rubicon Theater Company)

**FEATURED ACTRESS IN A PLAY :**

Carolyn Hennesy, "The Fan Maroo" (Theater of Note)

**FEATURED ACTOR IN A MUSICAL :**

Nils Anderson, "1776" (Performance Riverside)

**FEATURED ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL :**

Jill Van Velzer, "1776" (Performance Riverside)

**RAY STRICKLYN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SOLO PERFORMANCE :**

Gigi Bermingham, "Non-Vital Organs (redux)" (Odyssey Theater Ensemble)

**ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE (TIE):**

Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme" (Center Theater Group: Ahmanson Theater)

"Caught in the Net" (International City Theater)

**DIRECTOR OF A PLAY (TIE):**

Ray Cooney, "Caught in the Net" (International City Theater)

Stephen Sachs, "Exits and Entrances" (Fountain Theater)

Daniel Sullivan, "Intimate Apparel" (Center Theater Group: Mark Taper Forum and Roundabout Theater Company)

**DIRECTOR OF A MUSICAL :**

Nick DeGruccio, "1776" (Performance Riverside)

**CHOREOGRAPHY :**

"Brigadoon," Dana Solimando "Swing!" (Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities)

## **MUSICAL DIRECTION :**

Dean Mora , "Lady Macbeth Sings the Blues" (Rubicon Theater Company)

## **PRODUCTION FROM A TOURING COMPANY :**

"The Phantom of the Opera" (Center Theater Group: Ahmanson Theater, Cameron Mackintosh, and Really Useful Theater Co.)

## **PLAY (SMALLER THEATER):**

"Master Class" (Fountain Theater)

## **FRANKLIN R. LEVY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR MUSICAL IN A SMALLER THEATER :**

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch" (Celebration Theater)

## **MUSICAL (LARGER THEATER):**

"1776" (Performance Riverside)

## **SET DESIGN (SMALLER THEATER):**

Joel Daavid, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" (RKA Prods. in association with Sam Pink's Red Cat Jazz Cafe and Elephant Stageworks)

## **SET DESIGN (LARGER THEATER):**

Catherine Martin, Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme" (Center Theater Group: Ahmanson Theater)

## **LIGHTING DESIGN (SMALLER THEATER):**

Mike Durst, "Nocturne" (Black Dahlia Theater)

## **LIGHTING DESIGN (LARGER THEATER):**

Nigel Levings, Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme" (Center Theater Group: Ahmanson Theater)

## **SOUND DESIGN (SMALLER THEATER) (TIE):**

Steve Goodie, "Cold/Tender" (The Theater @ Boston Court)

Julie Ferrin, Martin Carrillo, Paul Hepker, "Romeo and Juliet: Antebellum New Orleans, 1836" (The Theater @ Boston Court)

## **SOUND DESIGN (LARGER THEATER):**

Acme Sound Partners, Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme" (Center Theater Group: Ahmanson Theater)

## **COSTUME DESIGN (SMALLER THEATER) (TIE):**

Alex Jaeger, "Romeo and Juliet: Antebellum New Orleans, 1836" (The Theater @ Boston Court)

A. Jeffrey Schoenberg, "The Devils" (Open Fist Theater Company)

## **COSTUME DESIGN (LARGER THEATER):**

Catherine Zuber, "Intimate Apparel" (Center Theater Group: Mark Taper Forum and The Roundabout Theater Company)

## **SPECIAL AWARDS :**

**James A. Doolittle Award for Leadership in the Theater:** Paula Holt

**The Career Achievement Award:** Betty Garrett

**Community Outreach Award:** Cornerstone Theater Company

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