

November 16, 2004

## LA Stage Alliance 2004 Ovation Winners



LOS ANGELES, CA - 20 stage productions took top honors during the 2004 LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards held last night at the Orpheum Theater in the historic downtown theatre district. Leading the tally with 5 Ovation Awards was a relative newcomer to the awards show: Performance Riverside took top honors for its production of the period musical "1776." "Baz Luhrmann's production of La Boheme" scored 4 Ovation Awards for the Center Theatre Group, Ahmanson Theatre, and "Exits and Entrances" at the Fountain Theatre and "Intimate Apparel," at the Center Theatre Group: 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 Center Theatre Group received a total of seven Ovation Awards (four for the Ahmanson Theatre and three for the Mark Taper Forum). Performance Riverside and Fountain Theatre each took four awards, and receiving three awards each was International City Theatre, Rubicon Theatre Company and The Theatre @ Boston Court.

The Board of Governors bestowed three special Ovation Awards at the ceremony: The James A. Doolittle Award for Leadership in the Theatre to **Paula Holt**; The LA Stage Board of Governors Award for Career Achievement Award to **Betty Garrett**; and The Community Outreach Award to **Cornerstone Theater Company**.

The hosts of this year's show were Hector Elizondo and Garry Marshall. The 2004 Ovation Awards was produced by the LA Stage Alliance, Jeff Brown executive produced, Nancy Adler produced and Brian Kite directed.

The Ovation Awards, established in 1989, celebrate the artistic excellence of LA'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 respected bi-monthly magazine covering performing arts throughout Southern California.

The winners follow (In some categories, there are more than one winner):

### 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

**SOLO PERFORMANCE**

***Non-Vital Organs (redux)***

Gigi Bermingham  
Odyssey Theatre Ensemble

**ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE (2)**

***Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme"***

Center Theatre Group: Ahmanson Theatre

***Caught in the Net***

International City Theatre

**DIRECTOR OF A PLAY (3)**

***Caught in the Net***

Ray Cooney  
International City Theatre

***Exits and Entrances***

Stephen 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

**CHOREOGRAPHER**

***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

**PLAY (SMALLER THEATRE)**

***Master Class***

Fountain Theatre

**PLAY (LARGER THEATRE)**

***All My Sons***

Rubicon Theatre Company

**MUSICAL (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 with Sam Pink's Red Cat Jazz Café 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) (2)**

***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) (2)**

***ROMEO & 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

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