

MEDIA RELEASE

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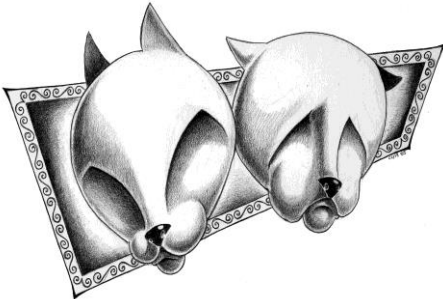
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2017 CAT AWARD NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED!

Calgary, AB: Nominations for the 2017 CAT Awards (Community Theatre Awards), celebrating the best of community theatre in Calgary and neighbouring communities were announced on July 17, 2017. There are 120 nominees in the 22 award categories this year for productions from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, and a total of 21 productions were nominated over 10 different companies.



The CAT Awards are presented annually by **Calgary-ACTS, Calgary's Alliance of Community Theatres**. Calgary-ACTS is a not-for-profit society founded in 2000 with a focus on promoting community theatre in Calgary. It also provides a network of communication, support and resource sharing for its members. **This year's ceremony will mark the 14th annual presentation of the CAT Awards.**

Calgary and area audiences were offered 38 productions from 18 local theatre companies who are members of Calgary – ACTS. The awards acknowledge, reward, and celebrate the contributions of local theatre artists with **nominations selected through a combination of public input and show adjudications**. Audiences were not disappointed by the quality and professionalism of the casts and crews of these productions.

The recipients of the 2017 CAT Awards will be announced at the gala ceremony on Saturday, August 26th, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the Rozsa Centre at the University of Calgary. Please join the best in local community theatre for this amazing evening of celebration. **The theme for this year is "Canada 150: A Canadian History". Creative costuming is possible!** As always, formal wear is an acceptable alternative!

Tickets to the event are \$15 and will be available soon through the University ticketing webpage at www.ucalgary.ca/tickets. Please visit www.calgary-acts.com for more information.

For publicity information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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2017 CAT Award Nominees (listed alphabetically)

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play

- Jerry Callaghan as Jack in *The Weir* (Liffey Players)
- Stephen Gomori as John Smith in *Run for Your Wife* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Mike Johnson as Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Fadi Saghir as Don Juan in *Don Juan in Chicago* (Simply Theatre)
- Mike Sornberger as George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* (Morpheus Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play

- Sarah Gibbs as Mary Smith in *Run for Your Wife* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Elizabeth Greenwood as Veta Louise Simmons in *Harvey* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Gillian Klassen as Dona Elvira in *Don Juan in Chicago* (Simply Theatre)
- Jen LeClaire as M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias* (Torchlight Theatre)
- Mande Marcil as Della in *Laws of Thermodynamics* (Scorpio Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Play

- Clark Adams as Jim in *The Weir* (Liffey Players)
- Michael Armstrong as Leporello in *Don Juan in Chicago* (Simply Theatre)
- Michael Armstrong as Stanley Gardner in *Run for Your Wife* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Jonathan Martin as Bobby Franklin in *Run for Your Wife* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Cesar Salvater Jr as Clarence Oddbody in *It's a Wonderful Life* (Morpheus Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Play

- Dylan Carter as Sandy Wendy Sandy in *Don Juan in Chicago* (Simply Theatre)
- Kate Dekker as Young Scrooge/Belinda Cratchit in *Scrooge a Christmas Carol with a Twist* (Torchlight Theatre)
- Zena Drabinsky as Rhonda Penney in *Office Hours* (Confederation Theatre w/ Workshop Theatre)
- Deborah Ferguson as Clairee in *Steel Magnolias* (Torchlight Theatre)
- Brit Kennedy as Ruth Kelly, RN in *Harvey* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Jennifer LeBlanc as Jill in *Skin Flick* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Jennifer MacLean as Nickki Bottom in *Midsummer Jersey* (Gas & Light Productions w/ Workshop Theatre)
- Jennifer Merio as Matilda in *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* (Scorpio Theatre)
- Lisa Shaw as Myrtle May Simmons in *Harvey* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Vicki Trask as Dolores Breckinridge in *It Came from Mars* (Scorpio Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical

- Praneet Akilla as Jekyll/Hyde in *Jekyll and Hyde* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Danny Gulleckson as Dan in *Next to Normal* (Cappuccino Theatre)
- Jeff Rivet as Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Fadi Saghir as Saucy Jack in *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)
- Logan Shave as J. Pierrepont Finch in *How to Succeed in Business* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Janos Zeller as Strephon in *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical

- Winnifred Hume as Phyllis in *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Kimberly Jetté as Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Tanis Laatsch as Lucy Harris in *Jekyll and Hyde* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Shandra McQueen as Diana in *Next to Normal* (Cappuccino Theatre)
- Jamie Robinson as Mary Lane in *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Jamie Robinson as Jubilee Climax in *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)
- Ginette Simonot as Iolanthe in *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Musical

- Cody Field as Orin Scrivello in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Riley Galarneau as Ralph Wiley in *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Kyle Gould as Lord Tolloller in *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Steven Hanson Smythe as The Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Esther O'Genn (Mike Sornberger) as Booby Shevalle in *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Musical

- Victoria Clark as Natalie in *Next to Normal* (Cappuccino Theatre)
- Tanis Laatsch as Sally in *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Lyndsey Patterson as Mae in *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Tracy Smith as Queen of the Fairies in *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Ashley Soles as Hedy in *How to Succeed in Business* (Front Row Centre Players)

Outstanding Performance by a Chorus/Ensemble in a Play

- *Don Juan in Chicago* (Simply Theatre)
- *Harvey* (Morpheus Theatre)
- *It's a Wonderful Life* (Morpheus Theatre)
- *It's Only a Play* (Simply Theatre)
- *Skin Flick* (Morpheus Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by a Chorus/Ensemble in a Musical

- *How to Succeed in Business* (Front Row Centre Players)
- *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)
- *Jekyll and Hyde* (Front Row Centre Players)
- *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)

Outstanding Costume Design

- Tawni Barton & Ian Pond for *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* (Scorpio Theatre)
- Faith Casement for *Harvey* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Sandy Forbes for *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)
- Christie Johnson for *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Rhonda Perry for *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)

Outstanding Stagecraft

- Kristine Astop (Set), Meghan Skeet (Props), Anna Toneguzzi (Floor) for *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Rich Davis, Lorie Masur & Jeffrey Diodati (Set), Leah Winter (Props) for *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Rylee Petkau for *Steel Magnolias* (Torchlight Theatre)
- Matt Pickering & James Ravenhill (Set Design), Susan Soprovich & Diane Edwards (Scenic Painting), Mikee Ames & Brad Laberge (Props and Set Dec) for *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* (Scorpio Theatre)
- Harlan Sterner (Set Design), Susan Soprovich (Scenic Artist), Mikee Ames & Brad Laberge (Properties) for *Next to Normal* (Cappuccino Theatre)

Outstanding Lighting Design

- Lisa Floyd for *Next to Normal* (Cappuccino Theatre)
- Patrick Fitzsimmons for *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* (Scorpio Theatre)
- Thomas Geddes for *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- James Ravenhill for *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- James Ravenhill for *The Weir* (Liffey Players)
- Andrew Simon for *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)

Outstanding Soundscape (Play)

- Chad Blain for *Scrooge a Christmas Carol with a Twist* (Torchlight Theatre)
- Chad Blain for *Steel Magnolias* (Torchlight Theatre)
- Cam Lugg for *Harvey* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Luke Moar for *It Came from Mars* (Scorpio Theatre)
- Patrick Murray & Steve Ford for *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* (Scorpio Theatre)
- Andrew Simon for *It's Only a Play* (Simply Theatre)

Outstanding Engineering/SFX (Musical)

- Steven Eastgaard-Ross for *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Rahim Manji for *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Andrew Simon for *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)

Outstanding Direction of a Play

- Jamie Eastgaard-Ross for *It's a Wonderful Life* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Dale Hirlehey for *Don Juan in Chicago* (Simply Theatre)
- Dorin McIntosh for *It's Only a Play* (Simply Theatre)
- Richard Michelle-Pentelbury for *Harvey* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Alice Nelson for *Skin Flick* (Morpheus Theatre)
- James Noonan for *Run for Your Wife* (Morpheus Theatre)

Outstanding Direction of a Musical

- Danielle Desmarais for *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Jeffrey Diodati for *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Jamie Eastgaard-Ross for *How to Succeed in Business* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Dale Hirlehey for *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)
- Lindsay Kurtze for *Jekyll and Hyde* (Front Row Centre Players)

Outstanding Musical Direction

- Allie Higgins-Pompu for *How to Succeed in Business* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Mandee Marcil for *Next to Normal* (Cappuccino Theatre)
- Carey Unger for *Iolanthe* (Morpheus Theatre)
- Danielle Wahl for *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Chelsea Wellman for *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)

Outstanding Choreography

- Nicole Bouwman for *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)
- Danielle Desmarais for *Little Shop of Horrors* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Jeffrey Diodati for *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Andrea Gleason for *How to Succeed in Business* (Front Row Centre Players)
- Amy Tollefson for *Jekyll and Hyde* (Front Row Centre Players)

Outstanding Fight Direction

- John Knight for *Don Juan in Chicago* (Simply Theatre)
- John Knight for *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (Simply Theatre)
- John Knight for *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* (Scorpio Theatre)
- Ian Pond for *It Came from Mars* (Scorpio Theatre)
- Anastasia St. Amand for *Reefer Madness* (Front Row Centre Players)

Outstanding Production of a Play

Harvey (Morpheus Theatre)

Producer: Lynda Elliott, Director: Richard Michelle-Pentelbury, Stage Manager: Caren Johnson

It's a Wonderful Life (Morpheus Theatre)

Producer: Kurt Archer, Director: Jamie Eastgaard-Ross, Asst Director: Kurt Archer, Stage Manager: Trish Befus

It's Only a Play (Simply Theatre)

Producers: James Noonan, Dale Hirlehey & Fadi Saghir, Director: Dorin McIntosh, Stage Managers: Caitlin Farley & Serena Olfert

Run for Your Wife (Morpheus Theatre)

Producer: David Young, Director: James Noonan, Stage Manager: Caitlin Farley

Skin Flick (Morpheus Theatre)

Producers: Lisette Allan & Randolph West, Director: Alice Nelson, Stage Manager: Lisa Floyd

Steel Magnolias (Torchlight Theatre)

Producer: Chelsea Restall, Director: Chelsey Fawcett, Stage Manager: Warren Jones

Outstanding Production of a Musical

Iolanthe (Morpheus Theatre)

Producer: Sean Anderson, Director: Kelly Reay*, Musical Director: Carey Unger, Choreographer: Karen Iwanski, Stage Manager: Troy Couillard

Jekyll and Hyde (Front Row Centre Players)

Producers: Jeffrey Diodati & Matt Ryan, Director: Lindsay Kurtze, Musical Director: Winnifred Hume, Choreographer: Amy Tollefson, Stage Manager: James Ravenhill

Little Shop of Horrors (Front Row Centre Players)

Producer: Kristine Astop, Director: Jeffrey Diodati, Musical Director: Danielle Wahl, Choreographer: Danielle Desmarais, Stage Manager: Krista Hudson

Next to Normal (Cappuccino Theatre)

Producer: James Ravenhill, Director: Trevor Rueger*, Musical Director: Mandeé Marcil, Stage Manager: Haley Day

Reefer Madness (Front Row Centre Players)

Producers: Darren Stewart & Kris Mish, Director: Danielle Desmarais, Musical Director: Chelsea Wellman, Choreographer: Jeffrey Diodati, Stage Manager: Claire Bolton & Samantha Carson

* Professional status