

MEDIA RELEASE

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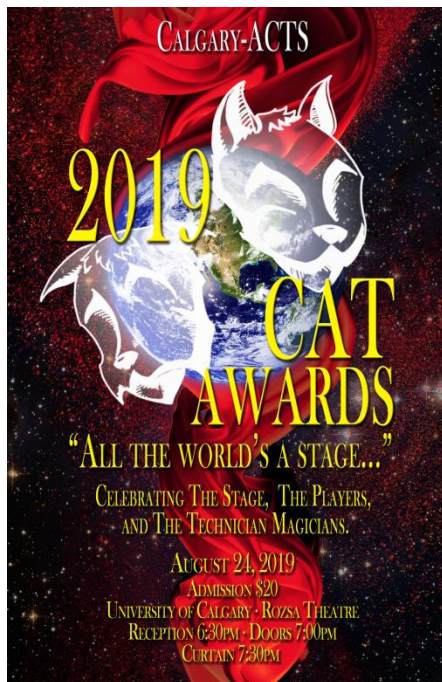
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2019 CAT AWARD **RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED!**



Saturday, August 24, 2019, marked the **16th Annual CAT Awards**, a celebration of Calgary’s Community Theatre at the University of Calgary’s Rozsa Centre.

The annual CAT Awards is an event that celebrates the quality of work that Calgarians can expect to see from Community Theatre in Calgary and surrounding areas. The CAT Awards are produced by Calgary-ACTS (Calgary’s Alliance of Community Theatres Society) which focuses on promoting community theatre in Calgary, by informing its members and the public of events related to the arts, and providing a communication and support network for its members. Recipients of the CAT Awards are determined by a combined process of public nomination and adjudication. We encourage everyone to attend community theatre productions, and then nominate their favourites at the end of the 2019-2020 season. Please visit www.calgary-acts.com to nominate anyone (starting September 1st), or if you have any questions about the CAT Awards or Calgary-ACTS.

This season, there were a total of 38 productions from 17 different community theatre member companies, and 21 of these productions from 11 companies received nominations. Overall, there were 108 nominees spread out over 23 award categories.

We are proud to name **Tanya Elliott Wolff** as the recipient of the **Sandy Singer Award** for Outstanding Contribution to Community Theatre this year. Over the past 40 years, Tanya has participated in 49 different productions in Community Theatre for companies as diverse as Rosebud Theatre, Strathmore Theatre Players, Front Row Centre Theatre Players, Simply Theatre, and Liffey Players. She has received numerous CAT and Acting Irish International Theatre Festival Awards. She served as President of Calgary-ACTS from 2013 to 2016, and is currently the President and Artistic Director of Liffey Players. She has worn many hats in community theatre including actress, director, and producer, and is looking forward to directing *God of Carnage* with Liffey Players this fall, her 50th show.

Every year, theatre companies are given the opportunity to honour any of their exceptional volunteers. These volunteers are people who have gone above and beyond the normal to ensure that the show, project, or event they are working on is a success.

Recipients of the 2018 Volunteer Awards:

The Fea Family – Dewdney Players

Angie McCormack – Silver Stars Musical Revue Society

Carl Bishop – Front Row Centre Players

Jesse Beilman – Front Row Centre Players
Taylor Cormack – Liffey Players Drama Society
Jennifer Lealand – Scorpio Theatre
Sue Soprovich – Scorpio Theatre
Darcy Wilson – Scorpio Theatre

Congratulations to all recipients and nominees for a wonderful 2018-2019 season! See you next year!

2019 CAT Awards Committee

2019 CAT Award Nominees List – Notes

Front Row Centre Players - The Wedding Singer - 16 Nominations - Musical
Front Row Centre Players - Evita - 12 Nominations - Musical
Front Row Centre Players - Avenue Q - 12 Nominations - Musical

Morpheus Theatre - Shakespeare In Love - 10 Nominations - Play
Simply Theatre - A Few Good Men - 9 Nominations - Play
Dewdney Players Group Theatre - Macbeth - (out of town) - 6 Nominations - Play

Top nominees by company:

1. Front Row Centre - 50 nominations over five productions
2. Morpheus Theatre - 14 nominations over three productions
3. Scorpio Theatre - 11 nominations over three productions
4. Simply Theatre - 11 nominations over three productions

Some interesting tidbits:

- Swamp Donkey received one nomination, and this was their first year with Calgary-ACTS.
- Imagine Performing Arts joined last year, and received four nominations, all for one of their two shows.

2019 CAT Award Recipients List – Notes

Front Row Centre Players - Avenue Q – 8 Awards – Musical – Including Outstanding Production
Front Row Centre Players - The Wedding Singer – 4 Awards - Musical
Front Row Centre Players - Evita - 1 Award - Musical

Morpheus Theatre - Shakespeare In Love – 3 Awards – Play – Including Outstanding g Production
Simply Theatre - A Few Good Men – 2 Awards - Play
Scorpio Theatre – Blood of the Red Queen: Citizen Smee – 2 Awards - Play

Top CAT Award recipients by company:

1. Front Row Centre - 13 awards over 3 productions
2. Scorpio Theatre – 4 awards over 3 productions
3. Morpheus Theatre – 3 awards over 1 production
4. Simply Theatre – 2 awards over 1 production
5. Liffey Players – 1 award over 1 production

2019 Calgary-ACTS CAT Award Recipients

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play

- Caleb Gordon as "Will Shakespeare" – *Shakespeare In Love* by Morpheus Theatre

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical

- Jason Bakaas as "Princeton" – *Avenue Q* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play

- Shandra McQueen as "Jessica" – *Women Playing Hamlet* by Scorpio Theatre

Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical

- Selena Fisher as "Eva Peron" – *Evita* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Play

- Trevor Matheson as "Kit Marlowe" – *Shakespeare In Love* by Morpheus Theatre

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Musical

- Matthew McPhail as "Rod" – *Avenue Q* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Play

- Sandy Lucas as "Aoife Muldoon" – *Outside Mullingar* by Liffey Players Drama Society

Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Musical

- Sandy Lucas as "Rosie" – *The Wedding Singer* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Performance by a Chorus/Ensemble in a Musical

- *Avenue Q* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Performance by a Chorus/Ensemble in a Play

- *A Few Good Men* by Simply Theatre

Outstanding Stagecraft

- Bryan Smith, Danielle Renton, Alexandra May, Harlan Sterner, Meghan Skeet – *Avenue Q* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Costume Design

- Tawni Marie (Costumes), Stephen Welch (Hair/Makeup) – *The Wedding Singer* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Lighting Design

- Ian McLellan – *The Wedding Singer* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Engineering/SFX (Musical)

- Andrea Katz – *Avenue Q* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Soundscape (Play)

- Thomas Hall – *Moby Dick* by Scorpio Theatre

Outstanding Direction of a Play

- James Noonan – *A Few Good Men* by Simply Theatre

Outstanding Direction of a Musical

- Joey Sayer – *Avenue Q* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Musical Direction

- Mike Jarzecki – *Avenue Q* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Choreography

- Jeff Diodati/Danielle Desmarais – *The Wedding Singer* by Front Row Centre Players

Outstanding Fight Direction

- Anastasia St. Amand – *Blood of the Red Queen: Citizen Smea* by Scorpio Theatre

Outstanding Original Script of Adaptation &/or Composition

- Dan Gibbins – *Blood of the Red Queen: Citizen Smea* by Scorpio Theatre

Outstanding Production of a Play

- *Shakespeare In Love* by Morpheus Theatre

Outstanding Production of a Musical

- *Avenue Q* by Front Row Centre Players

As always we appreciate the number of professional theatre participants contributed to a variety of productions this year. The CAT Award Committee thank them for their participation and appreciate that their efforts that help raise the bar for community theatre in Calgary and area.

For a full list of the nominees, please visit www.calgary-acts.com.
