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Theatre Bay Area Announces Award Recipients of Inaugural TBA Awards Celebration

Bay Area Theatre Community Comes Together for TBA Awards at Historic A.C.T. Theater

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Nov. 14, 2014 — Theatre Bay Area (TBA), a nonprofit service organization for theatre and dance artists in the Bay Area, announced the award recipients honored at the TBA Awards Celebration on Monday night. Over 700 theatre makers, fans and guests gathered to celebrate outstanding achievement in Bay Area professional theater.

The TBA Awards, divided into three tiers to reflect the resources and professional affiliations of each company were presented at American Conservatory Theater's historic Geary Theater, followed by an after-party at Ruby Skye on Nov. 10.

"The Bay Area is home to the third largest theatre community in the country and these Awards have shone a spotlight on the abundance of artistic achievement all around the region in companies both large and growing," said Brad Erickson, Executive Director of TBA.

Hosted by nationally acclaimed performers Will Durst and Marga Gomez, presenters included actors, directors, playwrights, designers and artistic leaders from companies such as African-American Shakespeare Company, AlterTheater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Broadway By the Bay, Center Repertory Theatre, City Lights Theater Company, Ferocious Lotus Theatre Company, Lucky Penny Productions, Marin Shakespeare Company, Marin Theatre Company, San Francisco Mime Troupe, San Francisco Playhouse, Shotgun Players and Z Space. Tony Award-winner Betty Buckley helped open the evening with a welcome to the audience.

San Jose Stage Company's "The Threepenny Opera" garnered multiple awards in Tier I including Outstanding Production of a Musical. Director Kenneth Kelleher received the award for Outstanding Direction of a Musical, and actors Johnny Moreno and Monique Hafen were honored for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Principal Role and Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Featured Role.

Broadway By the Bay received the most awards in the Tier II, with five out of its six honors recognizing "In the Heights" for its production, music direction, lighting design, choreography and Jessica Coker's featured role. Alex Rodriguez of "Evita" was awarded Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Principal Role in a Musical.

Altarena Playhouse and Stanford Repertory Theater earned many awards for their work in the Tier III. Altarena Playhouse's production of "Always...Patsy Cline" being named Outstanding Production of a Musical, while Stanford Repertory Theater's "Moby Dick – Rehearsed" was recognized as Outstanding Production of a Play.

In addition to the three tiers, individual awards recognized the accomplishments of outstanding world premiere play and musical, solo production, anthology production, presentations of a guest production, original underscore for a play, video design and the creative specialty of fight/stunt choreography.

For a full list of the categories and names of the award recipients, visit <http://bit.ly/1xtWC0s>.

Highlights of the evening included special performances from the cast members of Thrillpeddlers' "Pearls Over Shanghai," Z Space's "Hundred Days," TheatreWorks' "Marry Me a Little" and Broadway By the Bay's "Dreamgirls."

The TBA Awards Celebration was sponsored by Actors Equity Association, Celebrity Cruises, Flying Moose Pictures, Goldstar, The Ira and Leonore S. Gershwin Philanthropic Fund, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Wells Fargo Bank and Vendini. The annual program is underwritten in part by grants from the Fleishhacker Foundation and the Kenneth Rainin Foundation. The ceremony was produced by Robert Sokol of VIA MEDIA with TBA's Brad Erickson serving as Executive Producer.

About Theatre Bay Area

Theatre Bay Area was founded in 1976 to serve the vital artistic community of the Bay Area, and is today one of the largest regional theatre service organization in North America, known for its innovative programs and serving as a model for other service organizations around the country. Its mission is to unite, strengthen, promote and advance the theatre community in the San Francisco Bay Area, based on the conviction that the performing arts are an essential public good, critical to a healthy and truly democratic society, and invaluable as a source of personal enrichment and growth.

The San Francisco Bay Area is the third largest theatre center in the country, with more than 400 companies in nine counties. The region boasts more theatre companies per capita than almost any other metropolitan area in the US, and is home to the third largest community of Equity (union) actors, following New York City and Chicago. Some 200 new plays are premiered here each year, many going on to wider success.

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