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PULSAR XI

City Pulse announces nominees for 11th annual theater awards

by City Pulse

The votes have been tabulated, and City Pulse has announced its 2014-15 Pulsar Award nominees. This year's installment of the awards, created to recognize the best in local theater, will be handed out at a July 13 award ceremony. Winners will be published in the July 15 issue.

Peppermint Creek Theatre, under the direction of Chad Badgero, made a big splash this year. The group garnered 34 total nominations, including two nominations in both Best Play and Best Musical categories. Badgero earned a Best Director nomination for his work on the musical "Dogfight."

MSU Department of Theatre also had a big year, earning 23 nominations, largely on the strength of the salacious drama "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" and '60s rock musical "Hair."

Meanwhile, Starlight Dinner Theatre picked up eight nominations for its ambitious staging of the musical "Camelot," and Williamston Theatre earned 15 nominations for its season. Upstart company Ixion Theatre, which performs bare-bones shows in REO Town's AA Creative Corridor, snagged five nominations, including three nominees for Best Actor.

The Pulsar judges are City Pulse reviewers Erin Buitendorp, Mary Cusack, Kathy Helma, Tom Helma, Meegan Holland, Paul Wozniak and Ute Von Der Heyden; a show must have been seen and scored by at least three Pulsar judges to qualify. All of the Lansing area's community, professional or college theater groups were in contention (Pulsars do not cover children's theater, high school theater, gala presentations, student showcases or workshop shows). The season ran from Aug. 1 last year to June 30 this year.

2014-15 Pulsar Awards

City Pulse awards for best in local theater Open to the public 6 p.m. Monday, July 13 FREE The Riv 231 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing Food and drinks available for purchase Awards ceremony begins at 7 p.m.

Best Play

- "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre • "Outside Mullingar" — Williamston Theatre
- "Top Dog/Underdog" — Ixion Theatre • "Venus in Fur" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Musical

- "Ain't Misbehavin'" — Riverwalk Theatre
- "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre • "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- "Hair" — MSU Department of Theatre • "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Director — Play

- Paige Dunckel, "Top Dog/Underdog" — Ixion Theatre
- Michael Hays, "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Rob Roznowski, "Miracle on South Division Street" — Williamston Theatre
- Rob Roznowski, "Venus in Fur" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Dan Smith, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Director — Musical

- Chad Badgero, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Jane Falion, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Linda Granger, "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre
- Deric McNish, "Hair" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Hope Rollins, "Ain't Misbehavin'" — Riverwalk Theatre

Best Lead Actor — Play

- Rick Dethlefsen, "Shipwrecked!" — Ixion Theatre
- Michael Schacherbauer, "The Lyons" — Riverwalk Theatre
- Kirill Sheynerman, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Rico Bruce Wade, "Top Dog/Underdog" — Ixion Theatre • Sineh Wurie, "Top Dog/Underdog" — Ixion Theatre

Best Lead Actress — Play

- Mary Dilworth, "Venus in Fur" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Carolyn Conover, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Terry Heck, "Sirens" — Williamston Theatre • Anna Szabo, "A Streetcar Named Desire" — LCC Theatre Program
- Ruth Crawford — "Miracle on South Division Street" — Williamston Theatre

Best Lead Actor — Musical

- Joseph Baumann, "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre
- Patrick Harney, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

- Martin Underhill, "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre
- Adam Woolsey, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Lead Actress — Musical

- Jayna Katz, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Mary Maurer, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Paula Sheynerman, "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre

Best Supporting Actor — Play

- Michael Banghart, "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Brennan Hattaway, "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Andy Head, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Todd Heywood, "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Tony Sump, "Miracle on South Division Street" — Williamston Theatre

Best Supporting Actress — Play

- Mary Dilworth, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Wendy Hedstrom, "Miracle on South Division Street" — Williamston Theatre
- Sumar Henderson, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Dominique Lowell, "Outside Mullingar" — Williamston Theatre
- Katie Noyes, "Sirens" — Williamston Theatre

Best Supporting Actress — Musical

- Lauren Ezzo, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Amanda Harvey, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Featured Actress — Play

- Colleen Bethea, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" — Riverwalk Theatre
- Jackie Payne, "Blithe Spirit" — Riverwalk Theatre

Musical Director

- Seth Burk, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- James Geer, "Ain't Misbehavin'" — Riverwalk Theatre • James Geer, "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre
- Edric Haleen, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Dave Wendelberger, "Hair" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Supporting Actor — Musical

- Joseph Baumann, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Ed Baker, "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre • Matthew Bill, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Bob Purosky, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Joe Quick, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Featured Actor — Play

- Andrew Bailiff, "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Joseph Mull, "Child's Play" — Riverwalk Theatre
- Zev Steinberg, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre

Choreographer

- Chantelle Henry and Hope Rollins, "Ain't Misbehavin'" — Riverwalk Theatre
- Karyn Perry, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Karyn Perry, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Zev Steinberg, "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Kellyn Uhl, "Hair" — MSU Department of Theatre

Set Design

- Bartley Bauer, "Miracle on South Division Street" — Williamston Theatre
- Kirk Domer, "The Gravedigger" — Williamston Theatre • Tim Fox, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Daniel Hobbs, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Properties

- Bruce Bennett, "The Gravedigger" — Williamston Theatre
- Taylor Blair and Joey Meier, "Hair" — MSU Department of Theatre • Katie Doyle, "A Streetcar Named Desire" — LCC Theatre Program
- Daniel Hobbs, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Michelle Raymond, "Miracle on South Division Street" — Williamston Theatre

Best Sound Design

- Bill Bartilson, "Dogfight" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Paige Dunckel, "A Streetcar Named Desire" — LCC Theatre Program
- Quintessa Gallinat, "Miracle on South Division Street" — Williamston Theatre

- Steve Parkinson, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Michelle Raymond, "The Gravedigger" — Williamston Theatre

Best Lighting Design

- Michael Bayer, "A Streetcar Named Desire" — LCC Theatre Program
- James B. Brunk III, "Venus in Fur" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Jessica Osos, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Tyler Rick, "Animals Out of Paper" — LCC Theatre Program • Shannon Schweitzer, "Hair" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Costume Design

- Ashley Ault, "Venus in Fur" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Christine Kennedy, "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre
- Kate Hudson Koskinen, "A Streetcar Named Desire" — LCC Theatre Program
- Elspeth Williams, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre

Best Hair/Make-Up Design

- Jocelyn Merriweather, "Ain't Misbehavin'" — Riverwalk Theatre • Suzie Perazza, "Parade" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Angie Wendelberger, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Miranda Sue Hartman, "Camelot" — Starlight Dinner Theatre

Best Original Script

- Rob Roznowski, "60/50 Theatre Project" — MSU Department of Theatre
- CJ Valle, "Theatre 2 Film" — MSU Department of Theatre
- Joseph Zettelmaier, "The Gravedigger" — Williamston Theatre

Best Ensemble — Play

- "60/50 Theatre Project" — MSU Department of Theatre
- "Animals Out of Paper" — LCC Theatre Program
- "Best of Friends" — Riverwalk Theatre
- "Or You Could Kiss Me" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Ensemble — Musical

- "Ain't Misbehavin'" — Riverwalk Theatre
- "Hair" — MSU Department of Theatre

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