

valley youth theatre

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National Youth Theatre Awards Honors Young Artists from 11 States Ceremony to be Held at the Herberger Theater Center August 12

The Second Annual National Youth Theatre Awards honoring outstanding work in youth theatre will be held Sunday August 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Herberger Theater Center in Downtown Phoenix. Honorees represent 89 youth productions from 56 different theatres in 44 cities spanning 11 states. Valley Youth Theatre is well represented and will host the event in conjunction with this season's performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". VYT performers/productions to be honored for excellence for work done in the 2006-2007 season are:

Jeffrey Reynolds – Lead Actor in a Musical – Bye Bye Birdie
Hannah Bentley – Lead Actress in a Musical – Bye Bye Birdie
Kaitlyn Hickey – Lead Actress in a Musical – Little Women
Michael Margetis – Supporting Actor in a Musical – Bye Bye Birdie
Michelle Veziel – Outstanding Supporting Actress of the Year – Bye Bye Birdie, Cats, Narnia
Justin Rapp – Outstanding Supporting Actor of the Year – Bye Bye Birdie, Cats, Little Women
Carrie Braver – Supporting Actress in a Musical – Little Women
Bye Bye Birdie – Outstanding Production and Outstanding Ensemble
Little Women – Outstanding Ensemble
Cats – Outstanding Costume Design

Eddie Maldonado receives honorable mention for his role as Aslan in VYT's production of NARNIA: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

The award winners were selected from nominations by a panel of eight judges and reviewers. In addition to the youth who performed in the youth theatre companies, any minor (under age 18) who performed at a show reviewed by a National Youth Theatre judge was also considered for the awards, as well as the adults who participated in the youth theatre productions backstage (directors, set designers, costume designers, etc.).

The California nominees were honored at a ceremony at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center located in La Jolla on June 11. The awards for the rest of the country will be held the night of Sunday, August 12 at the Herberger Theater.

Admission to the awards ceremonies is free to all. To RSVP, contact National Youth Theatre at http://www.nationalyouththeatre.com/news/news_nyt_awards2007_rsvp.html or email rob@nationalyouththeatre.com.

Valley Youth Theatre is a non-profit organization that targets young people age 7 – 19 for participation in and attendance at quality live theatre productions. VYT's mission is to inspire young people to be the best that they can be by providing them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. VYT is an award-winning theatre company whose Alum include American Idol, Jordin Sparks and Broadway Star, Max Crumm. Valley Youth Theatre is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Partial funding also is provided by the Phoenix Arts Commission through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

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