

valley youth theatre

CONTACT: Carolyn McBurney
Valley Youth Theatre
602-253-8188 x 301

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Valley Youth Theatre's Bobb Cooper Honored as Executive Director of the Year

PHOENIX (December 4, 2006)— Bobb Cooper, Producing Artistic Director of Valley Youth Theatre (VYT) was named by the Organization of Non-Profit Executives (ONE) as Executive Director of the Year among midsize non-profits for 2006. The award was presented at the ASU Center for Non-Profit Leadership and Management's 14th Annual Nonprofit Conference, Friday, December 1.

Nominees were judged on their leadership and management skills. Other factors included what motivates them to work in their selected field and how they actively contribute to the mission and vision of the organization. "Bobb is passionate about providing young people with the opportunity to participate actively in the production of live theatre. He knows from first-hand experience that ... young people who are involved are far less likely to engage in negative behaviors if they are working in a collaborative, positive environment that the arts provide.", reads an excerpt from his nomination. Bobb has overseen the growth of Valley Youth Theatre, seeing it expand from a staff of one in 1989 and a budget of \$100,000 to a staff of 12 fulltime and a budget of \$1.5 million.

"I am extremely grateful to have been selected by O.N.E. for this honor", says Cooper. "Recognition by one's peers means so much, because they understand the challenges we face as non-profits and I am humbled to be recognized for the work we are doing at Valley Youth Theatre."

Also honored were Jill La Rose of the Angel Society and Carmen Watts-Clayton of The Southwestern Institute for Culture and Art in the small program category and Diana Yazzie-Devine of Native American Connections in the large organization category.

Valley Youth Theatre is a non-profit organization, which targets kids aged 7-19 for attendance at and participation in quality live theatre productions. Its positive impact on youth provides them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. For more information, visit VYT.

**Theatre address: 525 N. First St. Business Office address: 807 N. Third St. Phoenix, AZ 85004
602/253-8188 fax 602/253-8282**