

# valley youth theatre

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Valley Youth Honored with STARS Awards For Theatre Excellence

Valley Youth Theatre honored scores of young people from across the Valley for their work during the 2006-2007 season at the inaugural presentation of the STARS (Sensational Talent and Rising Stars) Award event on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Herberger Theater Center. Every young person who participated in a Valley Youth Theatre show, whether on stage or behind the scenes, was eligible for recognition.

Ballots were cast by season members during each of the season's six shows to recognize a cast member in the categories of Best Ensemble Member, Best Supporting Performer and Best Principal Performer. Cast and crew members then voted at the conclusion of each show for the peer they believed best served as a role model by their work both on and off stage to receive the Inspiration Award for that show.

"Valley Youth Theatre is proud of every young person who plays a part in our productions", says Bobb Cooper, Producing Artistic Director. "This evening was a chance to honor those children, parents and professionals who work so hard to create the magic that audiences have come to expect of VYT. These are the young people who grow up to not only become the Jordin Sparks and Max Crumms of the world, but successful doctors, teachers, lawyers and other contributing members of society. It is wonderful to affirm the work being done by so many."

Awards were given in the areas technical design for sets, lighting and sound as well as directing, choreography, music and overall production.

Following is a complete list of awards:

### **Best Overall Production: CATS**

#### **Inspiration Awards:**

*CATS*- Melissa Eixenberger, Age 18, Ahwatukee, BYU Freshman  
*Narnia*- Rachel Brown, Scottsdale, Age 10, Pinnacle Peak Elementary, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
*A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail*- Christine Margo, Ahwatukee, Age 16, Desert Vista Senior  
*Charlotte's Web*- Cathy Landry, Age 15, Phoenix, Xavier College Prep Sophomore  
*Little Women*- Carrie Braver, Age 14, Tempe, McClintock HS 10<sup>th</sup> Grader  
*High School Musical*- Cory McClosky, FOX 10 Weatherman

### **Best Ensemble Member:**

*CATS*-Nicole Roberts, Age 17, Gilbert, University of Arizona Freshman  
*Narnia*-Jessica Moffitt, Age 15, Tempe, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Tempe Preparatory Academy  
*A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail*-Taylor Stephens, Cave Creek, Age 14, Xavier College Prep Freshman  
*Charlotte's Web*- Robyn McBurney, Age 14, Tempe, Arizona School for the Arts Freshman and Olivia Perry, Age 14, Phoenix, Arizona School for the Arts Freshman  
*Little Women*-Rachael Killeen, Age 20, ASU Junior from Glendale

*High School Musical*- Cathy Landry, Age 15, Phoenix, Xavier College Prep  
Sophomore

**Best Supporting Performer:**

*CATS*- Derek Rushing, Age 17, Gilbert, ASU Sophomore  
*Narnia*- Justin Rapp, Age 18, Ahwatukee, Texas Christian University Freshman  
*A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail*- Justin Rapp, Age 18, Ahwatukee,  
Texas Christian University Freshman  
*Charlotte's Web*- Michael Margetis, Age 17, Glendale, Brophy College Prep  
Senior  
*Little Women*- Justin Rapp, Age 18, Ahwatukee, Justin Rapp, Age 18,  
Ahwatukee, Texas Christian University Freshman  
*High School Musical*- Dallas Mogensen, Age 15, Deer Valley High School  
Sophomore

**Best Principal Performer:**

*CATS*- Eddie Maldonado, Age 17, Glendale, Herberger College of Fine Arts  
Freshman  
*Narnia*- Eddie Maldonado, Age 17, Glendale, Herberger College of Fine Arts  
Freshman  
*A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail*- Yichao Wang, Age 19, Gilbert, ASU  
Sophomore  
*Charlotte's Web*- Cecilia Iole, Tempe, Age 14, Corona High School Freshman  
*Little Women*- Kaitlyn Hickey, Age 17, Paradise Valley, Xavier College Prep  
Senior  
*High School Musical*- Nathan Doonan, Age 18, Scottsdale, Horizon High School  
Graduate

**Best Lighting Design:** Michael Eddy, Phoenix- CATS

**Best Sound Design:** Dave Temby, Phoenix- CATS

**Best Scenic Design:** Bobb Cooper, Phoenix- *A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail*

**Best Costume Design:** Karol Cooper, Phoenix- CATS

**Best Hair and Makeup Design:** Karol Cooper (Phoenix) and Cindy Guthrie (Ahwatukee)-  
CATS

**Outstanding Orchestra:** CATS

**Best Choreography:** Sloan Bayer, Anthem- *High School Musical*

**Best Musical Direction:** Mark Fearey, Phoenix- CATS

**Best Direction:** Bobb Cooper, Phoenix- CATS

For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact Carolyn McBurney, 480-329-8998.

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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