

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 17

The Third Annual National Youth Theatre Awards honoring outstanding work in youth theatre will be held Sunday August 17 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 "AIDA". VYT performers/productions to be honored for excellence for work done in the 2007-2008 season are:

Outstanding Production: [Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat](#)

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical (2): Mike Heslin (85213) as Joseph in [Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat](#) and Brennan Hillard (85259) as Seymour in [Little Shop of Horrors](#)

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical: [Carrie Braver](#) (85283) as Audrey in [Little Shop of Horrors](#)

Outstanding Ensemble: [Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat](#)

Outstanding Costume Design: Karol Cooper (85028) for [Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat](#)

Valley Youth Theatre received recognition as an honorable mention for:

Outstanding production: *Little Shop of Horrors*

Nathan Doonan (85085) as Pharaoh in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

William Marquez (85044) as Orin Scivello, DDS in *Little Shop of Horrors*

Max Nussbaum (85255) as Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*

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.).

Award ceremonies for other regions have been held in San Diego, New York, Temecula, CA, Kenosha, WI. The awards for the West outside of California will be held the night of Sunday, August 17 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_awards2008_rsvp.html or email rob@nationalyouththeatre.com.

About Valley Youth Theatre

Valley Youth Theatre is a world-class, nationally recognized 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, and was recently selected as the Best Arizona Children's Performing Arts and received the 2008 Governor's Arts Award for Arts in Education. Alum include American Idol, Jordin Sparks, Disney Channel's Chelsea Staub 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. Valley Youth Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the American Theatre. For more information, visit www.VYT.com.

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