

valley youth theatre

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 22nd 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, 6th 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 10th 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, 10th 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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