

# Star-Telegram FORT WORTH

September 16, 2009

## Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Spread the Love Around With Awards

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Special to the Star-Telegram

The Dallas Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum spread the honors around in its just-announced 2008-09 awards. The nine reviewers voting mentioned in their citations 44 productions at 26 theaters.

Three institutions each had four shows honored this season: Theatre Three, Kitchen Dog Theater and, in its first year, DeSoto's African American Repertory Theater.

Audiences can still check out the show with the single greatest haul. Undermain Theatre is presenting a revival of *The Black Monk*. The critics cited the production for Katherine Owens' direction, John Arnone's set design, Bruce DuBose's music and sound design, and the lead actor, Jonathan Brooks.

The Dallas Theater Center and Addison's WaterTower Theatre, big winners in the past, came up short with only one show mentioned apiece. In the Theater Center's case, that's partly a fluke. The first production of its 2008-09 season, *The Who's Tommy*, began performances before the dates covered in this year's awards and raked in its prizes last year.

### The awards

**Direction:** Jac Alder, *Lost in the Stars*, Theatre Three; Robin Armstrong, *Incorruptible*, Circle Theatre, and *Vincent River*, Theatre Britain; B.J. Cleveland, *The House of Blue Leaves*, Theatre Arlington; Ellen Lucy and Pam Myers-Morgan, *The Nibroc Trilogy*, Echo Theatre; Doug Miller, *Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type*, Dallas Children's Theater; Rene Moreno, *The Seafarer*, Stage West, and *This Is Our Youth*, Upstart Productions; Katherine Owens, *The Black Monk*, Undermain Theatre; Ed Smith, *The Bluest Eye*, Jubilee Theatre; Jonathan Taylor and Christina Vela, *The Pillowman*, Kitchen Dog Theater; T.J. Walsh, *Defiance*, Theatre Three, and *Twelfth Night*, Trinity Shakespeare Festival.

**New play or musical:** *Death! The Musical* by Scott Eckert, Pocket Sandwich Theatre; *The Good Negro* by Tracey Scott Wilson, Dallas Theater Center; *Hello Human Female* by Matt Lyle, Audacity Theatre Lab; *Under a Texaco Canopy* by Ellsworth Schave, One Thirty Productions

**Actor:** Jonathan Brooks, *The Black Monk*; David Coffee, *Twelfth Night*; Michael Federico, *Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes*, Kitchen Dog Theater; Vince McGill, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *A Soldier's Play* and *Seven Guitars*, African American Repertory Theater; Jerry Russell, *The Seafarer* and *On Golden Pond*, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas; Lee Trull, *The Pillowman*; Drew Wall, *Defiance*, *This Is Our Youth* and *A Skull in Connemara*, Second Thought Theatre; Ted Wold, *The House of Blue Leaves*, Theatre Arlington.

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**Actress:** Sue Birch, *Vincent River*; Diane Casey Box-Worman, *Defiance* and *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?*, Kitchen Dog Theater; Catherine DuBord, *Some Girl(s)*, Second Thought Theatre; Emily Gray, *The Norman Conquests*, Stage West, *Romeo and Juliet*, Trinity Shakespeare Festival, and *Seagulls*, WingSpan Theatre Company; Julie Johnson, *Always . . . Patsy Cline*, Casa Mañana; Regina Washington, *Neat*, African American Repertory Theater; Wendy Welch, *The Light in the Piazza*, Theatre Three; Kimberly Whalen, *The Light in the Piazza* and *West Side Story*, Lyric Stage.

**Ensemble:** *As Thousands Cheer*, Lyric Stage; *The Nibroc Trilogy*; *Topdog/Underdog*, Upstart Productions; *A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant*, Circle Theatre.

**Creative contributions:** John Arnone, scenic design, *The Black Monk*; Bruce R. Coleman, costume design, *Trysts in Toledo*, Theatre Three; Terry Dobson and Vonda Bowling, music direction, *Lost in the Stars*; Bruce DuBose, music and sound design, *The Black Monk*; Cameron Cobb, violence and gore design, *Titus Andronicus*, Kitchen Dog Theater; John S. Davies, makeup design, *The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia*, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas; Design team, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*, Trinity Shakespeare Festival; Matthew Posey, puppetry design, *The Coppertone Trilogy*, *Balanced Almond*; John de los Santos, choreography, *Altar Boyz*, Uptown Players; Aaron Patrick Turner, costume design, *The Neverending Story*, Dallas Children's Theater; Jeffrey Schmidt, production designs, *The Old Woman in the Wood*, The Drama Club.

**Touring productions:** *A Chorus Line*, Dallas Summer Musicals; *The Play About the Coach*, Rocketship Productions at WaterTower Theatre's Out of the Loop Festival; *Rent*, Dallas Summer Musicals.

**Special awards:** B.J. Cleveland, for his achievements during his 27-year association with Theatre Arlington (15 as artistic director) and for his unstoppable energy; Irma P. Hall, co-founder of the African American Repertory Theater, for her lifetime contribution to North Texas theater; Kevin Moriarty, artistic director of the Dallas Theater Center, for reintroducing a resident acting ensemble to the center and for his spirit of community-building.