

ON CUE

The electronic newsletter of the Association of Community Theatres of Greater Cincinnati.

OCTA WRAP 2007

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OCTA REGIONAL

What a great weekend for Community Theatre in Ohio. The State OCTA conference wrapped up Labor Day in Beechwood, Ohio. The theme this year was 007 License to Thrill. Ginny Morrison and the crew from the Northeast worked very hard to make this year's event a success.

Something new was tried this year. In the past, people have complained that there was little time to attend workshops and grab a bite to eat. So this year, workshops were held in the morning and excerpts began on 11:15 on both Saturday and Sunday. There were 9 excerpts on Saturday and 6 on Sunday. This made for a late Saturday night as the final excerpt did not begin until after 10pm. It will be interesting to see what the final comments will be on this set up.

The Southwest region was represented by Wyoming Players' "Talk Radio", which was scheduled Saturday at 5:25 pm, and Beechmont Players' "Grease" which took the stage at 10:05pm. Both excerpts were well done and congratulations to all members of these fine shows for their great performances.

As always, there was a nice mix of shows presented this year. Some were standards like "Grease", some oldies like "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and some new like "Don't Hug Me". All in all it was a great weekend of theatre from around the state.

Those people arriving on Friday in time for the festivities were treated to the OCTA Jr. winning shows, The Jungle Book Kids (Morrison Playmakers Inc) and Honk Jr. (Mansfield Playhouse Youth Theatre). After watching these shows, it was apparent that community theatre in Ohio is indeed in good hands.

The three responders this year represented a variety of experience. Stephen Krempasky is the current VP of Theatre Operations at Witaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Paul Nelson has a BFA in Theatre and a BS in Education from SUNY Geneseo. Annette Proconier has adjudicated more than 80 festivals around the world.

These judges handed out the following awards to the SW region theatres:

”Talk Radio”

Merit in Acting to Alex Cline for Barry Champlain

Merit in Acting to Tony Belanger as Kent.

“Grease”

Merit in costumes to Carol Wagner

Excellence in Choreography to Alyssa Foley.

Beechmont Players also won the OCTA traveling award for the largest number of people who traveled the furthest to perform.

There were no entries from the SW region in either the Set Design competition or in the Costume competition.

Footlighters took home several awards for their Newsletter.

Tim Binzer received an Excellence in Layout Design and Christine Wolff received an Outstanding for Reader Appeal and Overall Design of the newsletter. She also was the winner of the Outstanding Newsletter Award for the state.

Congratulations to all of these winners.

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Our region was very fortunate to have received a few other special awards this year.

Lauren Sprague was awarded a \$300 OCTA scholarship to help further her theatrical education.

Roger Grooms was inducted into OCTA’s Hall of Fame this year.

This year marked the first year for a special award given by OCTA to a person in each region who embodies the “Spirit” of Community Theatre. The Hall of Fame committee determined this award and they sought out those people who they felt were a tribute to their region. The SW region winner is Linda Roll. Stepping out of my role as editor, I want to tell you that I was truly surprised and humbled at receiving this award.

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Finally, after many years of dominating the late night activities, there were no winners from the Southwest Region in either the Euchre tournament, the OCTA Feud or the Match Game.....Better luck next year.

At the annual masked ball, the following groups won awards in the costume competition:

Best Over All BOND Theme went to... The Beechmont Bond Villans..Charlie & Stephanie Russell, Greg Good, Michelle Grove, Rebecca Wiseman, Jeff Serber, Jennifer & Adam Drake, Aimee Horn, Greg Shaffer. FIRST PLACE. BEST GROUP COSTUME To... Robert Weidle & Jon Vater. as BIG Bond and His Bond Girl.. Lane Bryant. SECOND PLACE

Went to. Southwest crew. Shawn Schuester, Peggy Kenney, Sharon Shelton, Julie Shelton, Larry Webber, Brian Anderson, Ruth, Crowley....AS. Austin Powers and His OCTA Pussies Galore!(Thanks to Robert Weidle for supplying these names.)

Speaking of next year, the state conference will once again be held in Columbus. Harold Poppe announced that the theme for the conference is "OCTA, How Sweet It Is". So begin making your plans for Labor Day weekend 2008 for a weekend of fun and excitement. If it has been several years since you attended a conference, please do so next year. If you have never been, consider going. You will have a very fun filled weekend surrounded by the best people in the State of Ohio....Theatre People

Now for a final note before I leave for a much needed vacation. A very special Thank You is in order to Rilla Foster and Dee Anne Bryll. These two talented "shoppers" used the money raised at the regional to created 7 baskets for the chinese auction at the conference. It is amazing what they come up with to fill these baskets!

Please note: If there are any errors or omissions in this newsletter, please keep in mind that it is after midnight and I have had little quality sleep over the past three days. There is no slight intended on the editor's part!