

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

2008 Pulsar Awards

by staff



Front row: (from left) Chad Badgero, Tony Caselli, Joe Dickson, Rob Roznowski. Second row: (from left) Ben Whittlege, Eric Dawe, Doak Bloss, Kristine Thatcher, Emily Sutton-Smith, Mary Kay Hodges-Nees. Third row: (from left) Michael Hayes, Bill Bartilson,

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. stole the show for the second year in a row with 10 awards, including Best Production-Community and Best Director for "Rabbit Hole" and Best Musical and four other awards for "A New Brain." {mosimage}

Relative newcomer Williamston Theatre, which staged its first production in June 2006, took home top honors for its original show "Maidens, Mothers and Crones," winning Best Production by a professional theater. The first installment in the theater's "Voices of the Midwest" series also won for Best Ensemble Cast in a Play (Professional) and Best Original Script (Professional).

Other big winners included Michigan State University's Department of Theatre, which won three Pulsars (Best Choreography, Best Ensemble Cast in a Musical and Best Featured Actress in a Musical) for "Babes in Arms" and three for Professor of Acting Rob Roznowski's original show "Arts or Crafts:" Best Original Script (Community), Best Costumes and Best Set Design (Community).

Accepting the award for original script, Roznowski only had this to say: "Writing a play is really, really hard."

Longtime MSU Theatre Professor Frank Rutledge, who passed away earlier this year and won the Pulsar for Best Director last year, was remembered with a round of applause before Roznowski presented the award for this year's Best Director. {mosimage}

BoarsHead Theater scored five awards, two of them for "Doubt:" Best Featured Actress in a Play (Professional) and Best Properties (Professional). "Murderers," "Moonlight and Magnolias" and "Escanaba in Love" took one each: Best Lead Actress - Play (Professional), Best Supporting Actor - Play (Professional) and Best Set Design (Professional), respectively.

Actor Doak Bloss, who amused the crowd with a revival of his George W. Bush role from Peppermint Creek's "Stuff Happens" while presenting the award for "Best Make-Up/Effects" — "Because I'm always making stuff up" — swept the Best Lead Actor category, winning Best Lead Actor in a Play and Best Lead Actor in a Musical.

Here's a complete list of all the winners and some of the sights from the night. {mosimage}

Best Production (Professional)

"Maidens, Mothers and Crones"
Williamston Theatre

Best Production (Community)

"Rabbit Hole"
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Musical

"A New Brain"
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Director – Play

Louis Balestra {mosimage}
"Rabbit Hole"
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Best Director – Musical

Kevin Burnham
"Godspell"
Ledges Playhouse/Lansing Civic Players

Best Ensemble Cast – Play (Professional)

"Maidens, Mothers and Crones"
Williamston Theatre

Best Ensemble Cast – Play (Community)

"Stuff Happens"
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

