

MEDIA RELEASE

Citadel Theatre Honoured by the 2016 Sterling Awards

28 June 2016

EDMONTON – The 29th annual Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards took place last night at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre in West Edmonton, with the Citadel Theatre winning eight awards out of the 20 categories in which it was nominated, along with an Individual Achievement Award.

One of the standout winners of the evening was the Citadel's 2016 production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, 50 years after the American classic took the stage as the Citadel's very first production. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* took home top honours for Outstanding Production of a Play, while actors **Tom Rooney** (Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role) and **Brenda Robins** (Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role) were recognised for their superb work under director **James MacDonald**.

Another Citadel performance that received great praise was *West Side Story*, directed by **Bob Baker**. The play remains very modern in a time when ethnic conflicts and immigration continue to dominate the news. The incomparable **Pamela Gordon** (Anita) received the award for Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role. For a show traditionally done on a proscenium style stage, a unique challenge was set forth when the Maclab's thrust stage was chosen as the theatre for this dance-heavy production. **Laura Krewski** (Choreographer) was up to the task and took home the award for Outstanding Choreography for her magnificent work on *West Side Story*.

On the production side, Citadel's Head of Wardrobe **Patsy Thomas** was recognised for Individual Achievement in Production, an award well-warranted for one of the Edmonton theatre scene's brightest and most positive spirits. **David Leclerc** (BOOM) took home the award for Outstanding Multi-Media Design while **Bretta Gerecke** won the Outstanding Costume Design award for *Alice Through The Looking-Glass*.

"I am very proud of the work created by all of our artists and technicians" said Artistic Director Bob Baker, "not just this past year, but for the last 50 years. Congratulations to all nominees and recipients."

"It was a fantastic surprise and a great honour" said Executive Director **Penny Ritco**, "What a way to end our 50th Anniversary Season."

Here is the full list of last night's winners:

The 2016 Sterling Awards

Production of a Play: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Citadel Theatre)

Timothy Ryan Award for Outstanding Production of a Musical: West Side Story (Citadel Theatre)

Outstanding New Play: The Good Bride by Rosemary Rowe (Northern Light Theatre)

Outstanding Director: Dave Horak, Burning Bluebeard (Edmonton Actors Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role: Tom Rooney, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Citadel Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role: Brenda Robins, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Citadel Theatre):

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role: John Ulyatt, Burning Bluebeard (Edmonton Actors Theatre)

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role: Pamela Gordon, West Side Story (Citadel Theatre)

Outstanding Independent Production: Burning Bluebeard (Edmonton Actors Theatre)

Outstanding Set Design: Scott Peters, Burning Bluebeard (Edmonton Actors Theatre)

Outstanding Costume Design: Bretta Gerecke, Alice Through the Looking-Glass (Citadel Theatre/ Stratford Festival/ National Arts Centre)

Outstanding Lighting Design: Scott Peters, Burning Bluebeard (Edmonton Actors Theatre)

Outstanding Multi-Media Design: David Leclerc & Logograph, BOOM (Citadel Theatre presents a Kidoons and Wyrld Production)

Outstanding Score of a Play or Musical: Michelle Sabourin Rempel, Keith Rempel & Brennan Cameron, The Supine Cobbler (The Maggie Tree in association with Azimuth Theatre and Theatre of the New Heart)

Outstanding Musical Director: Erik Mortimer, The Last Five Years (Theatre Network)

Outstanding Choreography or Fight Direction: Laura Krewski, West Side Story (Citadel Theatre)

Outstanding Production for Young Audiences: Under Cover (Concrete Theatre)

Outstanding Artistic Achievement, Theatre for Young Audiences: Beth Graham, playwriting, Working It Out (Alberta Workers' Health Centre)

Individual Achievement in Production: Patsy Thomas, Head of Wardrobe (Citadel Theatre)

Outstanding Fringe Production: The Amish Project (Pocket Theatre/Trunk Theatre)

Outstanding Fringe New Work: Louise Casemore, OCD (Defiance Theatre)

Outstanding Fringe Performance by an Actor: Garrett Ross, A New Brain (Plain Jane Theatre Company)

Outstanding Fringe Performance by an Actress: Clarice Eckford, The Amish Project

Outstanding Fringe Director: Amy DeFelice, The Amish Project

The Margaret Mooney Award for Outstanding Achievement in Administration: Marian Brant

The Ross Hill Award for Career Achievement in Production: Robert Montgomery

The Sterling Award for the Most Valuable Contribution to Theatre in Edmonton: Artstrek

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