

## Blog Stage - Acting in Film, TV, Theatre - Backstage

### The Second Annual David Desk Awards



Now that all the theatre awards has been handed out and the hoopla is over, it's time for the real honors to be distributed. Yes, I am referring the second annual Dvaidd Desk Awards, based on all the shows I've seen over the past season. This is strictly for fun and is not meant as a commentary on the Tonys, Obies, Drama Desks, etc. This is just my opinion on outstanding work during the recently-ended 2011-12 New York theatre season. However, there are a few shows and performances I feel were unjustly ignored by the other prizes and I'd like to acknowledge them.

Sarah Ruhl's "Passion Play" was a fascinating epic journey through four centuries and three countries, exploring how the story of Christ's death and resurrection affected those who act it. It had a brief run in Brooklyn last summer and was not noticed at award time. Among the outstanding performances overlooked were Jeanine Frumess as the homeless birth mother in "The Kid," T. Ryder Smith (pictured) who was a triple threat as Elizabeth I, Hitler, and Ronald Reagen in "Passion Play," and Terence Archie as the blustering wrestling icon in "The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Diety."

#### **Play**

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Kristoffer Diaz)

Good People (David Lindsay-Abaire)

Jerusalem (Jez Butterworth)

Sarah Ruhl's Passion Play (Sarah Ruhl)

Tigers Be Still (Kim Rosenstock)

War Horse (Nick Stafford)

#### **Musical**

The Book of Mormon

The Kid

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

Sister Act

#### **Revival (Play)**

Angels in America

The Comedy of Errors (Propellor/BAM)

The Merchant of Venice (Public Theater/Broadway)

The Normal Heart

Wings

**Revival (Musical)**

Anything Goes

Hello Again

**Actor (Play)**

Desmin Borges, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity

Joe Mantello, The Normal Heart

Al Pacino, The Merchant of Venice

Geoffrey Rush, The Diary of a Madman

Mark Rylance, La Bete and Jerusalem

Michael Shannon, Mistakes Were Made

**Actress (Play)**

Nina Arianda, Born Yesterday

Frances McDormand, Good People

Laurie Metcalf, The Other Place

Lily Rabe, The Merchant of Venice

Heather Alicia Simms, born bad

Jan Maxwell, Wings

**Actor (Musical)**

Norbert Leo Butz, Catch Me If You Can

Josh Gad, The Book of Mormon

Tony Sheldon, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

Christopher Sieber, The Kid

Aaron Tveit, Catch Me If You Can

**Actress (Musical)**

Sutton Foster, Anything Goes

Patina Miller, Sister Act

Donna Murphy, The People in the Picture

**Featured Actor (Play)**

Terence Archie, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity

Christian Borle, Peter and the Starcatcher

Brian Bedford, The Importance of Being Earnest

Patrick Breen, The Normal Heart

Peter Friedman, After the Revolution

T. Ryder Smith, Sarah Ruhl’s Passion Play

**Featured Actress (Play)**

Ellen Barkin, The Normal Heart

Laura Heisler, Kin

Polly Noonan, Sarah Ruhl’s Passion Play

Deirdre O’Connell, In the Wake

Elizabeth Rodriguez, The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat

Fiona Shaw, John Gabriel Borkman

**Featured Actor (Musical)**

Adam Godley, Anything Goes

Joel Grey, Anything Goes

Tom Wopat, Catch Me If You Can

**Featured Actress (Musical)**

Laura Benanti, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

Victoria Clark, Sister Act

Jeanine Frumess, The Kid

Alexandra Silber, Hello, Again

**Director (Play)**

Marianne Elliott, Tom Morris, War Horse

Joel Grey, George C. Wolfe, The Normal Heart

Roger Rees, Alex Timbers, Peter and the Starcatcher

Daniel Sullivan, The Merchant of Venice

Edward Torres, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity

Mark Wing-Davey, Sarah Ruhl’s Passion Play

**Director (Musical)**

Jack Cumming III, Hello Again

Scott Elliott, The Kid

Kathleen Marshall, Anything Goes

Casey Nicholaw, Trey Parker, The Book of Mormon

**Choreography**

Maxine Doyle, Sleep No More

Kathleen Marshall, Anything Goes

### **Set Design**

Todd Rosenthal, The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat

Rae Smith, War Horse

Ultz, Jerusalem

Mark Wendland, Wendall K. Harrington, Angels in America

Donyale Werle, Peter and the Starcatcher

### **Costume Design**

Tim Chappel, Lizzy Gardiner, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

Gabriel Berry, Antonia Ford-Roberts, Sarah Ruhl's Passion Play

Desmond Heeley, The Importance of Being Earnest

Ann Hould-Ward, A Free Man of Color

Ann Roth, The Book of Mormon

Mark Thompson, La Bete

### **Lighting Design**

Mark Barton, Gatz

Paule Constable, War Horse

Jane Cox, Wings

Jeff Croiter, The Pee-Wee Herman Show, Peter and the Starcatcher

Jesse Klug, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity

David Weiner, Sarah Ruhl's Passion Play

### **Sound Design**

Acme Sound Partners, Cricket S. Myers, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

Stephen Dobbie, Sleep No More

Mikhail Fiksel, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity

Bray Poor, Wings

Ben Williams, Gatz

### **Ensemble Cast**

Angels in America

The Pitman Painters

### **Unique Theatrical Experience**

Gatz

The Great Game: Afghanistan

The Pee-Wee Herman Show

Sleep No More

### Special Awards

Adrian Kohler, Basil Jones, Handspring Puppet Company, War Horse

Basil Twist, puppetry for The Pee-Wee Herman Show

(Photo of T. Ryder Smith in Sarah Ruhl's Passion Play: Carol Rosegg)

--David Sheward



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