

The 23rd Annual Charlotte Theater Awards: The Nominees

by Perry Tannenbaum



In the wake of last week's official announcement video, the buzz is building for Creative Loafing's 23rd Annual Charlotte Theatre Awards. Which shows, performances, feats of technical and design derring-do have survived the initial nomination process? Who has the inside track on the prestigious awards for actor, actress, newcomer, techie, theater event, theater company, theatreperson, and show of the year?

Here is the full list of nominations for the Charlotte Theater Awards, also known as The Perrys. This distillation of the 75 homegrown shows I attended in the metro Charlotte area during 2010 is a definitive rollcall of excellence for Metrolina theater fans and artists. Has been since 1987.

Congratulations to all the nominees! Let the online vigils begin as winners, accompanied by my 2010 wrap-up, will crystallize here in the cloud on May 25.

Best Actor, Musical

Ashby Blakely – *Goodnight Moon* (Bunny), *Into the Woods* (The Baker)

Jon Parker Douglas – *Five Course Love* (Dean, Gino, Klaus, Gillermo, Clutch)

Jonathan Van Caudill – *Reefer Madness* (Jimmy Fennimore Harper)

Joseph Klosek, Jr. – *Five Course Love* (Matt, Carlo, Heimlich, Ernesto, Pops)

Mark Sutton – *Scrooge!* (Ebenezer Scrooge)

Patrick Ratchford – *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Patrick)

Salvador Garcia – *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* (Mike Mulligan)

Steve Bryan – *Annie* (Oliver Warbucks)

Best Actress, Musical

Alyson Lowe – *Grey Gardens* (Edith Bouvier Beale/Little Edie Beale)

Bettina Martin – *Reefer Madness* (Mary Lane)

Cassandra Howley Wood – *Violet* (Violet), *Aladdin* (Princess Jasmine)

Hannah Gundersheim – *Annie* (Little Orphan Annie)

Lisa Smith Bradley – *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Lisa)

Maret Decker Seitz – *Five Course Love* (Barbi, Sofia, Gretchen, Rosalinda, Kitty)

Susan Roberts Knowlson – *My Fair Lady* (Eliza Doolittle), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Susan)

Whitney Drury – *Evita* (Eva Peron)

Best Director, Musical

Billy Ensley – *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*

Craig Kolkebeck – *Scrooge!*

Craig Spradley – *Five Course Love, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

Glenn T. Griffin – *Grey Gardens, Evita, Reefer Madness*

Melissa Ohlman-Roberge – *Violet*

Ron Chisholm – *Goodnight Moon*

Ron Law – *Annie*

Tom Hollis – *Bye Bye Birdie, Into the Woods, The Drowsy Chaperone*

Best Musical Director/Conductor

Brenda Lee – *Black Pearl Sings*

Drina Keen – *Goodnight Moon, Treasure Island, Into the Woods, The Drowsy Chaperone, Scrooge!*

Ellen Robison – *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*

Jill O'Neill – *Much Ado About Nothing*

Jon Lindsay – *ThomThom*

Marty Gregory – *Grey Gardens, Evita, Reefer Madness*

Ryan Deal – *Smoke on the Mountain, Annie*

Ryan Stamey – *Five Course Love*

Best Actor, Comedy

Ashby Blakely – *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (Peter)

Lamar Wilson – *End Days* (Arthur Stein)

Robert Crozier – *Biloxi Blues* (Eugene Morris Jerome)

Biniam Tekola – *My First Time* (Man #2), *Mum's the Word* (The Kid)

Jim Yost – *Mum's the Word* (Todd)

Dave Blamy – *Embraceable Me* (Edward), *The 39 Steps* (Richard Hannay)

Colby Davis – *Uncle Vanya* (Uncle Vanya)

Billy Ensley – *Becky's New Car* (Joe Foster)

Best Actress, Comedy

Alison Lamb – *End Days* (Sylvia Stein)

Andrea King – *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Syracuse)

Catherine Smith – *Becky's New Car* (Becky Foster)

Donna Scott – *The Dixie Swim Club* (Lexie Richards)

Johanna Jowett – *Embraceable Me* (Allison)

Julia Grigg – *ThomThom* (Jean Louise)

Maret Decker Seitz – *The 39 Steps* (Annabella Schmidt, Pamela, Margaret)

Shon Wilson – *My First Time* (Woman #1), *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Ephesus)

Best Director, Comedy

Barney Baggett – *ThomThom*

Chip Decker – *End Days*, *The 39 Steps*

Dave Blamy – *Biloxi Blues*

James Cartee – *Uncle Vanya*

Matt Cospers – *Mum's the Word*

Paige Johnston Thomas – *Our Lady of 121st Street*

Peter Smeal – *Incorruptible*

Sheila Snow Proctor – *Becky's New Car*

Best Actor, Drama

Aven Stephenson – *The History Boys* (Hector)

Berry Newkirk – *Rope* (Wyndham Brandon), *Trainspotting* (Mark Renton)

Derrick Parker – *Othello* (Othello)

Hank West – *The Elephant Man* (John Merrick)

J.R. Adduci – *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stanley Kowalski)

James K. Flynn – *The Lion in Winter* (King Henry II)

Mark Sutton – *Treasure Island* (Long John Silver)

Tom Scott – *The Road to Mecca* (Rev. Marius Byleveld)

Best Actress, Drama

Divina Cook – *The Road to Mecca* (Helen)

Jennifer Lynn Barnette – *Othello* (Desdemona), *Venus & Adonis* (Venus)

Karina Roberts-Caporino – *Evie's Waltz* (Evie)

Kathryn Stamas – *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn Eatenton)

Meg Wood – *Turn of the Screw* (Governess)

Polly Adkins – *The Lion in Winter* (Eleanor of Aquitaine)

Terry Henry-Norman – *Black Pearl Sings* (Alberta "Pearl" Johnson), *Home* (Pattie Mae)

Tonya Bludsworth – *The Road to Mecca* (Elsa)

Best Director, Drama

Alan Poindexter – *Treasure Island*

Dennis Delamar – *Black Pearl Sings*

Elise Wilkinson – *Othello*

Glenn T. Griffin – *Rope*

James Cartee – *Reservoir Dogs, Trainspotting*

Louise Robertson – *The Road to Mecca*

Michael Harris – *The Elephant Man*

Paige Johnston Thomas – *Steel Magnolias*

Best Choreographer

Alyson Lowe – *Grey Gardens, Evita*

Alyson Lowe and Robbie Jaeger – *Reefer Madness*

Billy Ensley – *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*

Christy Edney and Craig Spradley – *Five Course Love*

Eddie Mabry – *Into the Woods*

Linda Booth – *My Fair Lady, The Drowsy Chaperone*

Ron Chisholm – *Goodnight Moon, Bye Bye Birdie, Aladdin, Scrooge!*

Shannon Wightman-Girard – *Welcome to the Monkey House, Steambath*

Best Set Design

Bob Croghan – *Treasure Island, The Drowsy Chaperone, Scrooge!*

Chip Decker – *Becky's New Car*

Chris Timmons – *A Streetcar Named Desire*

David Dwyer and Michael Harris – *The Elephant Man*

Diego Francico – *Trainspotting*

James Duke – *Barefoot in the Park, The Lion in Winter*

Jim Gloster – *The Dixie Swim Club*

Mary Courtney Blake – *The Day They Shot John Lennon*

Peter Smeal – *Incorruptible*

Robert Lee Simmons – *Evie's Waltz, Real Women Have Curves, Steambath*

Ryan Wineinger – *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Goodnight Moon, Aladdin*

Stan Peal – *End Days, Othello*

Best Costume Designer

Barbara Wesselman – *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Bob Croghan – *Treasure Island, The Drowsy Chaperone, Scrooge!*

Courtney Burt Scott – *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*

Eric Grace – *Reefer Madness*

Erin Dougherty – *The Comedy of Errors, Othello*

James Cartee – *Uncle Vanya*

Jamey Varnadore – *End Days, Five Course Love, Annie, The 39 Steps*

Jennifer K. Matthews – *Goodnight Moon, Aladdin*

Jeremy Shane – *ThomThom*

Luci Wilson – *Incorruptible*

Wendy Bailey Yang and Michael Harris – *The Elephant Man*

Wendy Dietz/Wendy Bailey Yang – *Welcome to the Monkey House*

Best Composer/Sound Designer

Chip Decker – *Black Pearl Sings, End Days, Five Course Love, The 39 Steps, Becky's New Car*

Christy Edney – *Biloxi Blues, Othello*

Elisheba Ittoop – *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Goodnight Moon, Treasure Island*

Glenn T. Griffin – *Rope*

James Cartee – *Uncle Vanya, Trainspotting*

Jay Thomas – *Evie's Waltz, Welcome to the Monkey House, The Elephant Man*

Jon Lindsay/Barney Baggett – *ThomThom*

Marty Gregory/Christy Edney – *Othello*

Van Coble, Jr. – *Treasure Island, Scrooge!*

Van Coble, Jr. and Peter Smeal – *Incorruptible*

Best Prop Designer

Aly Perez – *Much Ado About Nothing*

Buddy Hanson – *Welcome to the Monkey House*

Carrie Cranford – *Black Pearl Sings, End Days, Five Course Love, The 39 Steps, Becky's New Car*

James Cartee – *Uncle Vanya*

Jessica Burroughs – *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Kristian Wedolowski and Glenn T. Griffin – *Reefer Madness*

Peter Smeal – *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, Treasure Island, Goodnight Moon, Aladdin, Incorruptible, Scrooge!*

Rebecca Brown and Amanda Liles – *Trainspotting*

Best Lighting Designer

Andrew Fisher – *Incorruptible*

Ashley Hawkins – *ThomThom*

Chris Socha – *Our Lady of 121st Street, Evie's Waltz*

Chris Timmons – *Biloxi Blues*

David Fillmore, Jr. – *Treasure Island, Aladdin, Scrooge!*

Emily Eudy – *Rope, Reefer Madness*

Eric Winkenwerder – *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Goodnight Moon*

Gary Sivak – *Into the Woods*

Hallie Gray – *End Days, Five Course Love, The 39 Steps, Becky's New Car*

Michael R. Simmons – *Steambath, The Elephant Man*

Michael R. Simmons, Melinda J. Johnson and Dave Thompson – *The Day They Shot John Lennon*

Trista Rothe Bremer – *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Best Special Effects

Amanda Liles and Rebecca Brown – *Reservoir Dogs* (Makeup and Blood Effects)

Andrew Gibbon – *Aladdin* (Magic Carpet), *Scrooge!* (Marley's Visitation)

Barbi VanSchaick – *Scrooge!* (Make-up and Wigs)

Dot and Maria Marciano – *Welcome to the Monkey House* (Masks)

James Dracy – *Treasure Island* (Peg Leg for Long John Silver)

James Vita – *Turn of the Screw* (Video Projections)

Jay Thomas – *The Elephant Man, The Day They Shot John Lennon* (Visual Effects)

Jeff Weeks and Robert Lee Simmons – *Evie's Waltz* (Exploding Props and Set Pieces)

Kara Wooten – *Reservoir Dogs, Othello* (Fight Direction)

Peter Smeal – *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* (Digging Machine Designs)

Tim Ross – *Treasure Island* (Fight Choreography)

Van Coble, Jr. – *Goodnight Moon* (Clock face and Moon Video)

Tech of the Year

Bob Croghan, Christy Edney, Hallie Gray, James Duke, Jamey Varnadore, Jay Thomas, Peter Smeal, Robert Lee Simmons, Van Coble, Jr.

Best Supporting Actor, Musical

Andy Faulkenberry – *Bye Bye Birdie* (Albert Peterson), *My Fair Lady* (Freddy Eynsford-Hill)

Beau Stroupe – *Grey Gardens* (J.V. "Major" Bouvier), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Adolpho)

Billy Ensley – *Grey Gardens* (Gould)

James Dracy – *Scrooge!* (Ghosts of Christmas Present and Yet to Come)

Kristian Wedolowski – *Evita* (Ché Guevara)

Patrick Ratchford – *Violet* (Preacher, Earl)

Steven Martin – *Evita* (Juan Perón), *Reefer Madness* (Jack Stone)

Tom Ollis – *Reefer Madness* (Lecturer)

Best Supporting Actress, Musical

Cassandra Howley Wood – *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Pickles)

Chase Law – *Annie* (Miss Hannigan)

Gloria King – *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mae Peterson)

Jalila A. Bowie – *Aladdin* (Genie)

Leslie Ann Giles – *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* (Mary Ann the Shovel)

Olivia Edge – *Into the Woods* (Witch)

Polly Adkins – *Grey Gardens* (Big Edie Bouvier Beale)

Susan Roberts Knowlson – *Scrooge!* (Ghost of Christmas Past)

Best Supporting Actor, Comedy

Colby Davis – *Biloxi Blues* (Arnold Epstein)

Jeremy Shane – *ThomThom* (Savage Red)

Jerry Colbert – *Becky's New Car* (Walter Flood)

Jim Esposito – *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Victor), *Uncle Vanya* (Professor Serebryakov), *Steambath* (Old Timer)

Joe Copley – *Incorruptible* (Brother Martin)

Joshua Ozro Lucero – *End Days* (Nelson Steinberg)

Robert Haulbrook – *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Gail), *ThomThom* (Arthur)

Sidney Horton – *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Rooftop)

Best Supporting Actress, Comedy

Amy Van Looy – *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (Mrs. Yarby, Vampire Jenny, Sheila, Dr. Cone)

Annette Saunders – *Uncle Vanya* (Yelena Serebryakov)

Barbi VanSchaick – *ThomThom* (Kate)

Carmen Thwaites – *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Norca)

Glynnis O'Donoghue – *Incorruptible* (Marie)

Meagan Douglas – *End Days* (Rachel Stein)

Paula Baldwin – *Barefoot in the Park* (Mrs. Ethel Banks)

Sheila Snow Proctor – *The Dixie Swim Club* (Vernadette Sims)

Best Supporting Actor, Drama

Adam Ewer – *Othello* (Cassio)

Bill McNeff – *Fast Trip to Omaha* (Eddie), *The Day They Shot John Lennon* (Morris)

Charles LaBorde – *The Elephant Man* (Ross, Bishop How)

Christopher Donoghue – *Macbeth* (Macduff)

Isaac Josephthal – *Treasure Island* (Jim Hawkins)

Jermaine Nakia Lee – *Tribe* (Uncle Jackie)

Justin Younts – *Rope* (Charles Granillo), *The Lion in Winter* (King Philip)

Tom Ollis – *Reservoir Dogs* (Mr. Blonde)

Best Supporting Actress, Drama

Amanda Nicastro – *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stella Kowalski)

Christine Dougan – *Othello* (Emilia)

Cynthia Farbman Harris – *The Elephant Man* (Mrs. Kendal)

Divina Cook – *Fast Trip to Omaha* (Connie)

Keely Williams – *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie)

Leshea Stukes – *Tribe* (Angela)

Mimi Harkness – *Trainspotting* (Laura, June, Lassie, Mark's Mother, Canadian, Foreman)

Whitney Drury – *Rope* (Leila Arden)

Best Male Cameo

Buddy Hanson – *Welcome to the Monkey House* (Diana Moon Glampers)

Chad Calvert – *Treasure Island* (Billy Bones), *Scrooge!* (Fezziwig)

Dennis Delamar – *Scrooge!* (Jacob Marley)

James Dracy – *Treasure Island* (Blind Pew/Israel Hands)

James K. Flynn – *Barefoot in the Park* (Telephone Repair Man)

Jon Parker Douglas – *Treasure Island* (Ben Gunn)

Kristian Wedolowski – *Reefer Madness* (Jesus, Bacchus)

Mark Sutton – *Goodnight Moon* (Clock, Cat, Moon)

Matthew Keffer – *Goodnight Moon* (Cow, Bear, Tooth Fairy)

Michael Sharpe – *End Days* (Jesus/Steven Hawking)

Nick Asa – *The Comedy of Errors* (Maid Nell)

Peter Smeal – *The Comedy of Errors* (Aegeon), *Othello* (Brabantio)

Best Female Cameo

Amy Wada – *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Woman, Matron, Neighbor), *Welcome to the Monkey House* (Angel Waitress, Dancer, Billy's Gang)

Anne Lambert – *Into the Woods* (Granny/Giantess)

Annette Saunders – *Macbeth* (Lady Macduff)

Carmen Coulter – *Violet* (Gospel Soloist, Music Hall Singer, Mabel)

Corlis Hayes – *The Comedy of Errors* (Dr. Pinch)

Glynnis O'Donoghue – *Othello* (Bianca)

Heather Bartlett – *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Eunice Hubbell)

Joanna Gerdy – *The Credeaux Canvas* (Tess), *Incorruptible* (Peasant Woman)

Julie Janorschke Gawle – *Incorruptible* (Abbess Agatha)

Kecia Roberts – *Tribe* (Alesha)

McKenzie Wilson – *Scrooge!* (Isabel)

Newcomer of the Year

Abigale Corrigan – *The Day They Shot John Lennon* (Sally)

Adam Ewer – *The Comedy of Errors* (Antipholus of Syracuse), *Othello* (Cassio)

Berry Newkirk – *Reservoir Dogs* (Mr. Orange), *ThomThom* (Thom), *Rope* (Wyndham Brandon)

Brittany Patterson – *Reservoir Dogs* (Waitress, Jenny Nash)

Carmen Thwaites – *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Norca)

Chip Bradley – *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* (Chip)

Christine Dougan – *Othello* (Emilia)

Hannah Gundersheim – *Annie* (Little Orphan Annie)

Isaac Josephthal – *Treasure Island* (Jim Hawkins)

Joshua Ozro Lucero – *End Days* (Nelson Steinberg)

Justin Younts – *Rope* (Charles Granillo), *The Lion in Winter* (King Philip)

Keely Williams – *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie)

Robert N. Isaac – *The Piano Lesson* (Lymon), *Home* (Ceeplus)

Zannah Kimbrel – *Uncle Vanya* (Sonya)

Best Original Show

Fast Trip to Omaha by Don Cook – DC2 Productions

Heaven on Wheels by Tally Sessions and Peter Holland – Actor's Theatre of Charlotte & Once Upon a Blue Ridge Production Company

Mum's the Word by Matt Cospers – Machine Theatre

The Reluctant Lovers by Rachel Jeffries and Christian Hamilton – The Warehouse

ThomThom by Matt Cospers – Machine Theatre

Best Musical

Annie – Theatre Charlotte

Evita – Queen City Theatre Company

Five Course Love – Actor's Theatre of Charlotte

Grey Gardens – Queen City Theatre Company

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change – CPCC Theatre

Reefer Madness – Queen City Theatre Company

Scrooge! – Children's Theatre of Charlotte

The Drowsy Chaperone – CPCC Summer Theatre

Best Comedy

Becky's New Car – Actor's Theatre of Charlotte

Biloxi Blues – Theatre Charlotte

End Days – Actor's Theatre of Charlotte

Incorruptible – Collaborative Arts

Our Lady of 121st Street – Carolina Actors Studio Theatre

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing – Children's Theatre of Charlotte

The 39 Steps – Actor's Theatre of Charlotte

Uncle Vanya – Citizens of the Universe

Best Drama

Black Pearl Sings – Actor's Theatre of Charlotte

Othello – Collaborative Arts

Rope – Queen City Theatre Company

Steel Magnolias – Theatre Charlotte

The Elephant Man – CAST

The Road to Mecca – The Warehouse

Trainspotting – Citizens of the Universe

Treasure Island – Children's Theatre

Theater Event of the Year

Create-Participate! 2010 @ Theatre Charlotte

Epic Sketch – Sketch Theatre Acting Company

Heaven on Wheels – Actor's Theatre of Charlotte & Once Upon a Blue Ridge Production Company

Mum's the Word – Machine Theatre

Rolling World Premiere of End Days – Actor's Theatre of Charlotte

The Birth Fifth Anniversary Celebration – Starving Artist Productions @ CAST

ThomThom – Machine Theatre

Wee by PlayPlay Theatre @ Spirit Square

Theatreperson of the Year

Alyson Lowe, Billy Ensley, Biniam Tekola, Charles LaBorde, Dave Blamy, Divina Cook, Donna Scott, Elise Wilkinson, Glenn T. Griffin, James Cartee, James Dracy, Karina Roberts-Caporino, Kristian Wedolowski, Mark Sutton, Matt Cospers, Michael Harris, Peter Smeal, Polly Adkins, Quentin Talley, Robert Lee Simmons, Sheila Snow Proctor, Shon Wilson