



For Release: Monday, May 3, 2010 at 10:30 AM (ET)

**55th ANNUAL DRAMA DESK AWARDS NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED
AT NY FRIARS CLUB BY BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL AND CADY HUFFMAN**

**AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED ON MAY 23 AT GALA CEREMONY
HOSTED BY PATTI LUPONE**

New York, May 3, 2010—Nominations for the **55th Annual Drama Desk Awards** were announced this morning at the New York Friars Club by former Drama Desk Award winners **Brian Stokes Mitchell** and **Cady Huffman**. They were joined for the announcement by **William Wolf**, Drama Desk President, **Barbara Siegel**, Chairperson of the Drama Desk Nominating Committee, **Robert R. Blume**, Executive Producer of the Drama Desk Awards ceremony, and **Randie Levine-Miller**, Director of Special Events for the Drama Desk.

In keeping with the Drama Desk's unique mission, the nominators considered shows that opened on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway during the 2009/2010 season in the same competitive categories. Final deliberations took place at **The Travel Inn** in New York City. The **55th Annual Drama Desk Awards** will be held **Sunday, May 23, 2010** in the LaGuardia Concert Hall at Lincoln Center. The awards show will be webcast live for the eighth year in a row by **TheaterMania.com**.

Drama Desk nominees will receive their official Nomination Certificates at a cocktail reception on **Thursday, May 6, 3:30 – 5:45 PM** at **Churrascaria Plataforma**, New York's authentic Brazilian Steak House, 346 West 49th Street (between 8th and 9th Avenues).

The **2009/2010 Nominating Committee** for the **Drama Desk Awards** includes: **Barbara Siegel** (Chairperson) *TalkinBroadway.com, TheaterMania.com*; **Christopher Byrne**, *Gay City News*; **Patrick Christiano**, *TheaterLife.com, Dan's Papers*; **David Kaufman**, *freelance and author*; **Gerard Raymond**, *Back Stage, The Advocate*; **Richard Ridge**, *Broadway Beat TV*; and **Paulanne Simmons**, *CurtainUp.com, NY Theatre-wire.com*.

Robert R. Blume is Executive Producer of the **55th Annual Drama Desk Awards Ceremony** and **Blume Media Group Ltd** is the presenting company along with **TheaterMania.com**. **Lauren Class Schneider** is Producer and **Jeff Kalpak** is Director of the Awards ceremony. For the production, the Associate Producers are **Joseph Callari**, **Corine Dana Cohen**, **Ellis Nassour**, **Michael Rubenstein** and **Les Schecter**, who is also Director of Publicity and Promotions. **Felicia M. Lopes** is the General Manager; **Ellis Nassour** is Press Liaison and **Randie Levine-Miller** is Special Events Director for the Drama Desk organization.

-more-

55th Annual Drama Desk Nominations Announcement

Page 2

The VIP post-show party after the Drama Desk Awards ceremony on **Sunday, May 23**, will take place at Brian and Carrie Packin's plush, new upscale **48 Lounge** on the street level of the McGraw Hill Building, 1221 Avenue of Americas, entrance on 48th Street, starting at 11:15 PM. The party will feature cuisine by the legendary **Blue Ribbon Caterers**.

The general pre-show reception at the LaGuardia Concert Hall on Sunday, May 23, will be hosted by '**Mind The Art Entertainment**,' a New York City based Collaborative Arts & Entertainment Company whose mission is to promote, enhance, workshop and produce new work and talent in the arts.

Additional sponsors of the **55th Annual Drama Desk Awards** include: **The New York Times, Variety, VideoActive Productions, Alpha Graphics, Tony's Di Napoli, Federico Salon, Hit Show Club, Sound Associates, Callari Engravers, Software Pronto Inc. and ForTalent.com**. The contributors include **The Smart Family Foundation, Richard I. Kandel, The Piacentile Family Foundation, Ted Snowdon, Jamie deRoy & friends, Ira Pittelman Productions and Randall Stempler**.

ABOUT THE DRAMA DESK

The **Drama Desk** was founded in 1949 to explore key issues in the theater and to bring together critics and writers in an organization to support the ongoing development of theater in New York. The organization began presenting its awards in 1955, and it is the only critics organization to honor achievement in the theater with competition between Broadway, Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway productions in the same categories.

The organization hosts panels throughout the year, to which the public is invited, to promote understanding and appreciation of the professional theater. In addition to honoring creative artists and stage productions in multiple categories, the **Drama Desk** annually presents scholarships to two worthy seniors in the Drama Department of the LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts who are planning careers in the theater.

The **Drama Desk Awards** invites personal sketches from this year's nominated performers and creative talent for its **Art*Kive** program, started 10 years ago by **Art*Kive** creator **Sarah Galvin**. This annual program—unique to the Drama Desk Awards—invites the nominees to render a sketch that is relevant to the role or stage production that helped them achieve their nomination. The sketches will be displayed at the awards ceremony.

To find out more about the organization and this year's awards show, visit <http://www.dramadesk.com>.

The Board of Directors of the Drama Desk for the 2009-2010 theater season consisted of **William Wolf**, President; **Leslie (Hoban) Blake**, Vice President; **Charles Wright**, Treasurer and 2nd Vice President; **Richard Ridge**, Secretary, **Randy Gener, Isa Goldberg, Susan Haskins, John Istel, David Kaufman, Ellis Nassour** and **Sam Norkin**.

#####

Press Contact: Les Schecter/Matthew P. Donoghue (LS Communications)
Tel: 917/854-32860 E-mail: lester.schecter@gmail.com

DRAMA DESK NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009/2010 SEASON

The following awards were voted by the nominating committee and will be presented by the Drama Desk at its awards ceremony:

Outstanding Ensemble Performances

This year the nominators chose to bestow special ensemble awards for acting to the casts of two shows. Therefore, individual cast members for these shows were not eligible for acting awards in the competitive categories.

- *Circle Mirror Transformation*
- *The Temperamentals*

Special Awards:

Each year, the Drama Desk votes special awards to recognize excellence and significant contributions to the theater. For 2009/2010, these awards are:

- To the cast, creative team and producers of Horton Foote's epic *The Orphan's Home Cycle*: We salute the breadth of vision, which inspired the exceptional direction, performances, sets, lighting, costumes, music and sound that made it the theatrical event of this season.
- To Jerry Herman for enchanting and dazzling audiences with his exuberant music and heartfelt lyrics for more than half a century.
- To Godlight Theatre Company for consistent originality and excellence in dramatizing modern literature, and especially for the vibrant theatricality of its innovative productions.
- To Ma-Yi Theater Company for more than two decades of excellence and for nurturing Asian-American voices in stylistically varied and engaging theater.

The following are the nominations for the competitive categories. Winners will be selected by the voting membership of the Drama Desk:

Outstanding Play:

Alan Ayckbourn, *My Wonderful Day*
Annie Baker, *Circle Mirror Transformation*
Lucinda Coxon, *Happy Now?*
John Logan, *Red*
Geoffrey Nauffts, *Next Fall*
Bruce Norris, *Clybourne Park*

Outstanding Musical:

American Idiot
Everyday Rapture
Memphis
The Addams Family
The Scottsboro Boys
Yank!

Outstanding Revival of a Play:

A View from the Bridge
Brighton Beach Memoirs
Fences
Hamlet
So Help Me God!
The Boys in the Band

Outstanding Revival of a Musical:

A Little Night Music
Finian's Rainbow
La Cage Aux Folles
Promises, Promises
Ragtime

Outstanding Actor in a Play:

Bill Heck, *The Orphans' Home Cycle*
Jude Law, *Hamlet*
Alfred Molina, *Red*
Eddie Redmayne, *Red*
Liev Schreiber, *A View from the Bridge*
John Douglas Thompson, *The Emperor Jones*
Christopher Walken, *A Behanding in Spokane*

Outstanding Actress in a Play:

Ayesha Antoine, *My Wonderful Day*
Melissa Errico, *Candida*
Anne Hathaway, *Twelfth Night*
Kristen Johnston, *So Help Me God!*
Laura Linney, *Time Stands Still*
Jan Maxwell, *The Royal Family*

Outstanding Actor in a Musical:

Brandon Victor Dixon, *The Scottsboro Boys*
Douglas Hodge, *La Cage Aux Folles*
Cheyenne Jackson, *Finian's Rainbow*
Chad Kimball, *Memphis*
Nathan Lane, *The Addams Family*
Bobby Steggert, *Yank!*

Outstanding Actress in a Musical:

Kate Baldwin, *Finian's Rainbow*
Montego Glover, *Memphis*
Jayne Houdyshell, *Coraline*
Christiane Noll, *Ragtime*
Sherie Rene Scott, *Everyday Rapture*
Catherine Zeta-Jones, *A Little Night Music*

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play:

Chris Chalk, *Fences*
Sean Dugan, *Next Fall*
Santino Fontana, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*
Adam James, *The Pride*
Hamish Linklater, *Twelfth Night*
Nick Westrate, *The Boys in the Band*

Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play:

Victoria Clark, *When the Rain Stops Falling*
Viola Davis, *Fences*
Xanthe Elbrick, *Candida*
Mary Beth Hurt, *When the Rain Stops Falling*
Scarlett Johansson, *A View from the Bridge*
Andrea Riseborough, *The Pride*

Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical:

Kevin Chamberlin, *The Addams Family*
Robin De Jesus, *La Cage Aux Folles*
Jeffry Denman, *Yank!*
Christopher Fitzgerald, *Finian's Rainbow*
Jeremy Morse, *Bloodsong of Love*
Bobby Steggert, *Ragtime*

Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical:

Carolee Carmello, *The Addams Family*
Carrie Cimma, *Lizzie Borden*
Katie Finneran, *Promises, Promises*
Angela Lansbury, *A Little Night Music*
Kenita Miller, *Langston in Harlem*
Terri White, *Finian's Rainbow*

Outstanding Director of a Play:

Jonathan Bank, *So Help Me God!*
Jack Cummings III, *The Boys in the Band*
Sam Gold, *Circle Mirror Transformation*
Michael Grandage, *Hamlet*
Michael Grandage, *Red*
Ethan Hawke, *A Lie of the Mind*

Outstanding Director of a Musical:

Warren Carlyle, *Finian's Rainbow*
Marcia Milgrom Dodge, *Ragtime*
Igor Goldin, *Yank!*
Terry Johnson, *La Cage Aux Folles*
Michael Mayer, *American Idiot*
Susan Stroman, *The Scottsboro Boys*

Outstanding Choreography:

Warren Carlyle, *Finian's Rainbow*
Marcia Milgrom Dodge, *Ragtime*
Lynne Page, *La Cage Aux Folles*
Susan Stroman, *The Scottsboro Boys*
Twyla Tharp, *Come Fly Away*
Sergio Trujillo, *Memphis*

Outstanding Music:

David Bryan, *Memphis*
Michael Friedman, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*
Joe Iconis, *Bloodsong of Love*
John Kander & Fred Ebb, *The Scottsboro Boys*
Andrew Lippa, *The Addams Family*
Joseph Zelnik, *Yank!*

Outstanding Lyrics:

Rick Crom, *Newsical The Musical*
Kevin Del Aguila, *Click, Clack, Moo*
John Kander & Fred Ebb, *The Scottsboro Boys*
Dillie Keane and Adèle Anderson, *Fascinating Aïda Absolutely Miraculous!*
Andrew Lippa, *The Addams Family*
David Zelnik, *Yank!*

Outstanding Book of a Musical:

Joe DiPietro, *Memphis*
Joe Iconis, *Bloodsong of Love*
Dick Scanlan & Sherie Rene Scott, *Everyday Rapture*
David Thompson, *The Scottsboro Boys*
Alex Timbers, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*
David Zelnik, *Yank!*

Outstanding Orchestrations:

William David Brohn, *Ragtime*
Larry Hochman, *The Scottsboro Boys*
Tom Kitt, *American Idiot*
Tom Kitt, *Everyday Rapture*
John Oddo, *All About Me*
Daryl Waters & David Bryan, *Memphis*

Outstanding Musical Revue:

Fascinating Aïda Absolutely Miraculous!
Million Dollar Quartet
Newsical The Musical
Simon Green: Traveling Light
Sondheim on Sondheim

Outstanding Music in a Play:

Adam Cochran, *A Play on War*
Adam Cork, *Red*
Gaines, *A Lie of the Mind*
Philip Glass, *The Bacchae*
Hem, *Twelfth Night*
Branford Marsalis, *Fences*

Outstanding Set Design:

Sandra Goldmark, *The Boys in the Band*
Phelim McDermott, Julian Crouch & Basil Twist, *The Addams Family*
Derek McLane, *Ragtime*
Christopher Oram, *Red*
Jay Rohloff, *Underground*
Karen Tennent, *Hansel and Gretel*

Outstanding Costume Design:

Antonia Ford-Roberts & Bob Flanagan, *The Emperor Jones*
Santo Loquasto, *Ragtime*
Clint Ramos, *So Help Me God!*
Bobby Frederick Tilley II, *Lizzie Borden*
Matthew Wright, *La Cage Aux Folles*
David Zinn, *In the Next Room or the vibrator play*

Outstanding Lighting Design:

Neil Austin, *Hamlet*
Neil Austin, *Red*
Christian M. DeAngelis, *Lizzie Borden*
Maruti Evans, *John Ball's In the Heat of the Night*
Natasha Katz, *The Addams Family*
Dane Laffrey, *The Boys in the Band*

Outstanding Sound Design in a Musical:

Acme Sound Partners, *Ragtime*
Jonathan Deans, *La Cage Aux Folles*
Ashley Hanson, Kurt Eric Fischer & Brian Ronan, *Everyday Rapture*
Peter Hylenski, *The Scottsboro Boys*
Scott Lehrer, *Finian's Rainbow*
Brian Ronan, *Promises, Promises*

Outstanding Sound Design in a Play:

Dan Bianchi & Wes Shippee, *Frankenstein*

Dale Bigall, *Underground*

Adam Cork, *Enron*

Šă â• æ Áŕ } ^• Áă á Áăŕ ^• Áŕ & Ò | @ } ^ ^ Ê *Top Secret: The Battle for the Pentagon Papers*

Fitz Patton, *When the Rain Stops Falling*

Elizabeth Rhodes, *John Ball's In the Heat of the Night*

Outstanding Solo Performance:

Theodore Bikel, *Sholom Aleichem: Laughter Through Tears*

Jim Brochu, *Zero Hour*

Colman Domingo, *A Boy and his Soul*

Carrie Fisher, *Wishful Drinking*

Judith Ivey, *The Lady With All the Answers*

Anna Deavere Smith, *Let Me Down Easy*

Unique Theatrical Experience:

Charles L. Mee's Fêtes de la Nuit

Hansel and Gretel

John Tartaglia's Imaginocean

Love, Loss, and What I Wore

Stuffed and Unstrung

The Provenance of Beauty

NOTE:

The nominating committee made the following decisions related to the scope of technical award nominations: Basil Twist's puppetry was included in the nomination for Outstanding Set Design for ***The Addams Family***. Bob Flanagan's puppet and mask design were included in the Outstanding Costume Design nomination for ***The Emperor Jones***.

Fela! was considered last season in its off-Broadway premiere and received four nominations— Outstanding Musical; Sahr Ngaujah as Outstanding Actor in a Musical; Bill T. Jones for Outstanding Choreography and Aaron Johnson and Antibalas were nominated for Outstanding Orchestration. Under Drama Desk rules, only new elements in a transfer can be considered.

PRODUCTIONS WITH MULTIPLE NOMINATIONS

<i>Ragtime</i>	9
<i>The Scottsboro Boys</i>	9
<i>Finians' Rainbow</i>	8
<i>The Addams Family</i>	8
<i>La Cage Aux Folles</i>	7
<i>Memphis</i>	7
<i>Red</i>	7
<i>Yank!</i>	7
<i>Everyday Rapture</i>	5
<i>The Boys in the Band</i>	5
<i>Fences</i>	4
<i>Hamlet</i>	4
<i>So Help Me God!</i>	4
<i>A Little Night Music</i>	3
<i>A View from the Bridge</i>	3
<i>American Idiot</i>	3
<i>Bloodsong of Love</i>	3
<i>Lizzie Borden</i>	3
<i>Promises, Promises</i>	3
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	3
<i>When the Rain Stops Falling</i>	3
<i>A Lie of the Mind</i>	2
<i>Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson</i>	2
<i>Brighton Beach Memoirs</i>	2
<i>Candida</i>	2
<i>Circle Mirror Transformation</i>	2
<i>Fascinating Aïda Absolutely Miraculous!</i>	2
<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	2
<i>John Ball's In the Heat of the Night</i>	2
<i>My Wonderful Day</i>	2
<i>Newsical The Musical</i>	2
<i>Next Fall</i>	2
<i>The Emperor Jones</i>	2
<i>The Pride</i>	2
<i>Underground</i>	2