

# Brickenden Awards roll out red carpet for London community theatre

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Belle, played by Alicia D'Ariano, can't hide her feelings as she moves away from the swaggering Ben Kennes, who plays Gaston in the London Community Players production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. D'Ariano is nominated for Outstanding Female Actor – Lead Role and the play is up for multiple awards at the Brickendens Monday night at Wolf Performance Hall. (Mike Hensen/The London Free Press)

The votes are in, the ballots are counted and now it's time for the fun at London's annual

## celebration of local community theatre, the Brickenden Awards.

Several hundred London theatre enthusiasts are expected at Wolf Performance Hall Monday where the awards for everything from musical, drama and comedy, actors, youth productions, and all things technical in 2018 will be presented.

More than 80 local theatre productions were eligible for the awards.

“It’s always a lot of fun,” said Brickenden chair Patsy Morgan, noting there will be a red carpet this year and a Brickenden backdrop for photos.

“This is an event where all the theatre companies in the city can come together and celebrate. All the companies are so busy during the year putting on shows, they never see each other. This is their chance to get together, reconnect and celebrate.”

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The awards were the brainchild of the late Chris Doty, a highly regarded London historian, documentary filmmaker and theatre enthusiast, and Jeff Culbert, an award-winning professional actor and director, to recognize the best work of the year.

The awards are named after the late local actress, director and playwright, Catharine Brickenden.

This year's host for the awards will be theatre enthusiast and critic Keith Tomasek, who has taught at Western University and is an award-winning short film maker.

Morgan urged the general public to attend. "You can come and mingle with all the theatre people and see if your favorite show wins," she said.

"It's just a great night and there's a wonderful after-party planned for at TAP Centre for Creativity (203 Dundas St.) that I expect will be packed."

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## If you go

**What:** The 2018 Brickenden Awards

**When:** Monday, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Wolf Performance Hall, 251 Dundas St. with after-party at TAP Centre for Creativity, 201 Dundas St.

**Tickets:** \$10, available in advance at [brickenden.org](http://brickenden.org) (<https://www.brickenden.org/>) or at the door.

## 2018 Brickenden Award nominees:

Outstanding Drama:

Albertine in Five Times (London Community Players)

Lunar Landing (Theatre Nemesis)

Point of Honour (Arbitrary Angle Theatre Company)

The December Man (L'homme de decembre) (London Community Players)

This Above All (London Community Players)

**Outstanding Comedy:**

A Creetin Christmas! (Banished by the King Productions)

Harvest (London Community Players)

HIR (Calithumpian Theatre Company)

Old Fart (Theatre Praxis)

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth (London Community Players)

**Outstanding Musical:**

Beauty and the Beast (London Community Players)

Dogfight (Allswell Productions)

Hello Dolly! (Musical Theatre Productions)

Next to Normal (Calithumpian Theatre Company)

The Light in the Piazza (Musical Theatre Productions)

**Outstanding Director:**

Ceris Thomas (Beauty and the Beast)

Hailey Hill (Dogfight)

John Gerry (HIR)

Julia Webb (Point of Honour)

Stephen Mitchell (The December Man (L'homme de decembre))

**Outstanding Male Actor – Lead Role:**

Colton Abel (Beast, Beauty and the Beast)

Mbayo Bona (CB, Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead)

Patrick Avery-Kenny (Bernstein, Dogfight)

Stephen Ingram (Eddie Birdlace, Dogfight)

Todd Baubie (Lawren Harris, This Above All)

**Outstanding Female Actor – Lead Role:**

Alicia D'Ariano (Belle, Beauty and the Beast)

Bronwyn Powell (Dolly Levi, Hello Dolly!)

Catharine Sullivan (Prudence Heward, This Above All)

Kate Deman (Rose Fenny, Dogfight)

Mary Jane Walzak (Charlotte, Harvest)

**Outstanding Female Actor – Supporting Role:**

Bronwyn Powell (Signora Nacarelli, The Light in the Piazza)

Danie Dixon (Maureen Johnson, Rent)

Deana Sigut (Thelma playing Macbeth, The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth)

Jesslyn Hodgson (Marcy, Dogfight)

Melissa Metler (Mrs Potts, Beauty and the Beast)

**Outstanding Male Actor – Supporting Role:**

Ben Kennes (Gaston, Beauty and the Beast)

Justin Eddy (Angel Dumott Schunard, Rent)

Matt Butler (Lumiere, Beauty and the Beast)

Sean Brennan (Cogsworth, Beauty and the Beast)

Zoe Bernard (Max, HIR)

**Outstanding Lighting Design:**

Andrew Bragg (Dogfight)

John Knight (Next to Normal)

Karen Crichton (Hello Dolly!)

Mark Mooney (Beauty and the Beast)

Stephen Mitchell (The Light in the Piazza)

**Outstanding Sound Design:**

Andrea Stewart (Hello Dolly!)

Andrew Rethazi (The Light in the Piazza)

Lisa Desgroseilliers (Beauty and the Beast)

Lisa Desgroseilliers (HIR)

Paul Venesoen (The December Man (L'homme de decembre))

**Outstanding Set Design:**

Joe Recchia (Hello Dolly!)

Kathleen Sykora and Julia Webb (Point of Honour)

Kerry Bishop (Beauty and the Beast)

Laura Sepulveda (The Light in the Piazza)

Stephen Mitchell (HIR)

**Outstanding Costume Design:**

Anne Humberstone, Annette Kavelaars-Burrows, Debra Chantler,  
Mary Jane Walzak, Tania Harvey & Whitney Bolam (Beauty and the  
Beast)

Becky Lenko & Kim McCuaig (Hello Dolly!)

Elona Thielen (Dogfight)

Kristina Baron-Woods (The Light in the Piazza)

Marg Bildy (This Above All)

**Outstanding Makeup:**

Candice Burgo (Beauty and the Beast)

Dawn Gosney (Hello Dolly!)

Demra Paul-Green (It's All Holly Jolly)

Eva Jacomien (Dogfight)

Heather Heywood (The Light in the Piazza)

**Outstanding Youth Drama:**

A Midsummer Night's Dream (London Central secondary school)

Almost, Maine (Original Kids Theatre Company)

It's a Wonderful Life – A Live Radio Play (Original Kids Theatre  
Company)

Peter and the Starcatcher (A.B. Lucas secondary school)

The Laramie Project (South secondary school)

**Outstanding Youth Musical:**

A Christmas Story – The Musical (Original Kids Theatre Company)

Big Fish (Original Kids Theatre Company)

Fame (Saunders Musical Theatre)

Heathers (High School Edition) (Original Kids Theatre Company)

The Theory of Relativity (Original Kids Theatre Company)

**Outstanding Youth Actor – Female:**

Olivia Farquhar (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

**Outstanding Youth Actor – Male**

Devon Dixon (Big Fish)

**Outstanding Original Script:**

Finding Fox (Len Cuthbert)

Lunar Landing (Jason Rip)

Point of Honour (John Krisak)

Recovery Show (Clara Madrenas)

This Above All (Diane Vandenhoven)

**People's Choice:**

A Creetin Christmas! (Banished by the King Productions)

Beauty and the Beast (London Community Players)

Dogfight (Allswell Productions)

HIR (Calithumpian Theatre Company)

Short of 30: A Musical (Fridge Door Live Theatre Company)

And the winners are ...

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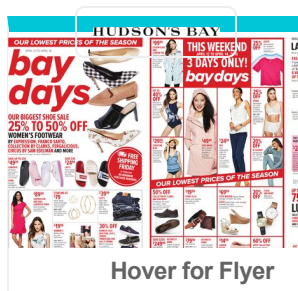
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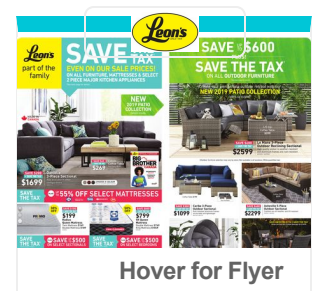
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