

2009 Denver Post Ovation Awards

2009 Denver Post Ovation Award nominees. The best of the Denver Center Theatre Company and national tours are included in a separate slideshow at the bottom of this page.

## Ovation Awards: Arvada Center leads with 16 finalists

**36 companies make the nomination cut**

By John Moore  
*Denver Post Theater Critic*

Posted: 12/13/2009 01:00:00 AM MST

Updated: 12/14/2009 10:06:14 AM MST

It was a busy 2009 on the theater scene. Across Colorado, 103 troupes presented more than 400 plays and musicals.

But which of those included the moments we'll most remember? That's what the annual Denver Post Ovation Awards have attempted, since 2001, to sort out.

Today we announce the finalists; at the beginning of next month we'll unveil the winners.

For the second straight year, the Arvada Center leads the way. On the strength of lavish musicals like "Miss Saigon," searing dramas like "The Crucible" and strong children's theater, it placed

Advertisement

16 finalists for Ovation Awards.

Right behind was Curious Theatre, which specializes in presenting plays never before produced in Colorado, with 15. The Colorado Shakespeare Festival was next with 12, and the all-original Buntport Theater had 10.

The finalists were chosen from among the 159 productions by 63 companies seen throughout the year by six Denver Post representatives. In all, 36 companies spanning from Creede to Grand Lake to Colorado Springs received at least one nod.

Curious' "Eurydice," a fantastical twist on the Orpheus myth by Sarah Ruhl, was the most honored play of 2009, with seven finalists, followed by the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "To Kill a Mockingbird" and the Arvada Center's "The Crucible," with five each. Three musicals received four each: The Arvada Center's "Miss Saigon," the handicapped company PHAMALY's "Man of La Mancha" and Carousel Dinner Theatre's first-ever homegrown Colorado staging of "Rent."

The prestigious "theater person of the year" award will be considered among the following:

\*Kathleen M. Brady: The Denver Center Theatre Company's senior company member had perhaps her greatest year, including leads in "Quilters" and "Well."

Maurice Lamee: The Creede Repertory Theatre

artistic director presented a seven-show summer season that included three simultaneous world-premiere musicals.

Christy Montour-Larson: The Metro State theater teacher directed "Rabbit Hole" for Curious and became just the second local director hired to direct at the Denver Center in the past 25 years ("Well").

Jeffrey Nickelson: The founder of Shadow Theatre was cast out by his board of directors, but his sudden death two months later has had profound and continuing reverberations throughout the Colorado theater community. He's the only repeat nominee from 2008.

Steve Wilson: The Mizel Center's executive artistic director marked PHAMALY's 20th season with a challenging "Man of La Mancha," while shepherding ongoing expansion of programming.

The ninth annual list of winners, to be determined by Denver Post theater critic John Moore, will be published Jan. 3. In the meantime, readers are encouraged to [vote for your favorites in many categories that have additional "readers choice" designations.](#)

### The 2009 Denver Post Ovation Award finalists

- Theater person of the year
- Kathleen M. Brady
- Maurice Lamee
- Christy Montour-Larson

Advertisement



Jeffrey Nickelson  
Steve Wilson

### Best year by a company

Buntport Theater  
Colorado Shakespeare Festival  
Creede Repertory Theatre  
Curious Theatre  
TheatreWorks

### Best year by



Curious Theatre's "Eurydice," with Tyee Tilghman and Karen Slack, garnered seven 2009 Ovation Award nominations, the most of any play. Winners will be named Jan. 3. (Michael Enslinger)

### an actor

(Minimum of three roles to be eligible)  
John Arp: Aurora Fox's "The Skin of Our Teeth" (Mr. Antrobus); Creede Rep's "Swiss Family Robinson" (Gus), "The Imaginary Invalid" (Argan)

and "Kimberly Akimbo" (Buddy)  
Scott Beyette: Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Nunsense A-Men" (Sister Mary Leo), "Annie" (Rooster), "Putnam County" (William Barfee) and "Singin' in the Rain" (Don Lockwood)  
Michael Bouchard: Creede Rep's "Swiss Family Robinson" (Ernst), "The Imaginary Invalid" (Dr. Gastreau), "A Wonderful Noise" (Ned), "Boomtown" (Ensemble), "Kimberly Akimbo" (Jeff) and "Grimm Pajamas" (Wilhelm); Arvada Center's "The Second Tosca" (Nathaniel)  
Jim Hunt: Modern Muse's "As You Like It" (Duke Senior); Curious' "Eurydice" (Her Father), Paragon's "Bus Stop" (Dr. Lyman)  
Stephen Weitz: Boulder Ensemble's "Morisot Reclining" (Edouard); Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "Hamlet" (Hamlet) and "Complete Works of Shakespeare" (Ensemble); TheatreWorks' "Our Town" (Stage Manager); Denver Center's "Richard III" (Catesby)

### Best year by an actress

Diana Dresser: Modern Muse's "As You Like It" (Rosalind); Creede Rep's "Swiss Family Robinson" (Lucy), "Boomtown" (Ensemble) and "Kimberly Akimbo" (Pattie); Arvada Center's "The Second Tosca" (Lisa)  
Hannah Duggan: Buntport's "Seal. Stamp. Send. Bang." (Daphne), "The Squabble" (Alfred and others), "Indiana Indiana" (Ruby and others) and "Something Is Rotten" (Janice Haversham).  
Paige Lynn Larson: Miner's Alley's "Enchanted April" (Mrs. Graves) and "A Picasso" (Miss Fisher); And Toto Too's "Heads" (Caroline)  
Jamie Ann Romero: Modern Muse's "As You Like It" (Celia); Denver Children's Theatre's "The

Advertisement



Golden Goose" (Birgit and Meek); Denver Center Theatre Company's "Sunsets & Margaritas" (Bianca); Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "Hamlet" (Ophelia) and "Two Gentlemen of Verona" (Julia)  
Karen Slack: Curious' "Eurydice" (Eurydice) and "Yankee Tavern" (Janet); Denver Children's Theatre's "The Golden Goose" (Christina); Boulder Ensemble's "Morisot Reclining" (Berthe); Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "Much Ado About Nothing" (Beatrice) and "To Kill a Mockingbird" (Mrs. DuBose)

**Best drama**

Arvada Center's "The Crucible"  
Curious' "Eurydice"  
TheatreWorks' "Our Town"  
Aurora Fox's "The Skin of Our Teeth"  
Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "To Kill a Mockingbird"

**Best musical**

PHAMALy's "Man of La Mancha"  
Arvada Center's "Miss Saigon"  
Candlelight Dinner Playhouse's "Phantom"  
Carousel Dinner Theatre's "Rent"  
Shadow Theatre's "Smokey Joe's Café"

**Best comedy**

Aluminous Collective's "Big Love"  
The Avenue's "Die, Mommie, Die!"  
Creede Rep's "The Imaginary Invalid"  
Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "Much Ado About Nothing"

Buntport's "The Squabble"

**Best new work**

Buntport's "Indiana, Indiana," adapted by ensemble from a novel by Laird Hunt  
LIDA Project's "Joseph K," by Martin McGovern  
Boulder Ensemble's "Morisot Reclining," by William C. Kovacsik  
Crossroads' "Slut Energy Theory," by Rene Marie  
Buntport's "The Squabble," by Ensemble

**Best actor, dramatic role**

Jonathan Farwell, Bas Bleu's "I'm Not Rappaport"  
Brian Landis Folkins, Paragon's "Love Song"  
Sam Gregory, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "To Kill a Mockingbird"  
Keith L. Hatten, Shadow's "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"  
Chris Kendall, Miners Alley Playhouse's "A Picasso"

**Best actress, dramatic role**

Rachel Fowler, Curious' "Rabbit Hole"  
Haley Johnson, Miners Alley Playhouse's "Enchanted April"  
C. Kelly Leo, Arvada Center's "The Crucible"  
Carolyn Valentine, Paragon's "Old Times"  
Gina Wencel, Germinal's "The Eccentricities of a Nightingale"

**Best actor, musical role**

Scott Beyette, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Singin'

Advertisement



in the Rain"  
Erik Bryan, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse's  
"Phantom"  
Seth Caikowski, Town Hall Arts Center's  
"Oklahoma"  
Dylan Paul, Rocky Mountain Rep's "All Shook Up"  
David Villella, Arvada Center's "Evita"

Best actress, musical role  
Regan Linton, PHAMALy's "Man of La Mancha"  
Alisa Metcalf-Vaughters, Performance Now's  
"Evita"  
Mildred Ruiz, Curious' "Ameriville"  
Kelly Twedt, Victorian Playhouse's "The  
Fantasticks"  
E.J. Zimmerman, Arvada Center's "Miss Saigon"

Best actor, comic role  
John Arp, Creede Rep's "The Imaginary Invalid"  
Ed Baierlein, Germinal's "The Well of the Saints"  
Geoffrey Kent, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's  
"Much Ado About Nothing"  
Eric Mather, Miners Alley Playhouse's "The  
Visitor"  
Chris Whyde, The Avenue's "Die, Mommie, Die!"

Best actress, comic role  
Rita Broderick, Victorian Playhouse's "Educating  
Rita"  
Gabiella Cavallero, Curious' "26 Miles"  
Pamela Clifton, The Avenue's "That Woman  
Show"  
Sallie Diamond, Germinal's "The Well of the  
Saints"

Judy Phelan-Hill, Vintage's "Kimberly Akimbo"

Best supporting actor, dramatic role  
Ben Bonenfant, TheatreWorks' "Our Town"  
Ben Dicke, Aurora Fox's "The Skin of Our Teeth"  
Jim Hunt, Curious' "Eurydice"  
Mark Pergola, Curious' "Eurydice"  
Warren Sherrill, Paragon's "The Winterling"

Best supporting actress, dramatic role  
Kendra Crain-McGovern, Miners Alley  
Playhouse's "Enchanted April"  
Misha Johnson, Arvada Center's "The Crucible"  
Jamie Ann Romero, Colorado Shakespeare  
Festival's "Hamlet"  
Megan Van De Hey, Aurora Fox's "The Skin of  
Our Teeth"  
Elizabeth Watt, Aluminous Collective's "Big Love"

Best supporting actor, musical role  
Scott Beyette, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "The  
25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"  
Daniel Herron, Arvada Center's "Miss Saigon"  
Josh Kellman, Rocky Mountain Rep's "The Pirates  
of Penzance"  
Kenny Moten, Carousel Dinner Theatre's "Rent"  
Jeffrey Roark, Arvada Center's "Evita"

Best supporting actress, musical role  
Hannah Duggan, Buntport's "Seal. Stamp. Send.  
Bang."  
Margie Lamb, Town Hall's "Bat Boy"

Advertisement



Alison Luff, Theatre Aspen's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Ciarra Teasley, Shadow's "Smokey Joe's Café"  
Shaina Wexler, Performance Now's "Fiddler on the Roof"

Best supporting actor, comedic role

Nicholas Barth, Aluminous Collective's "Big Love"

Michael Kane, TheatreWorks' "The Lying Kind"

Wayne Kennedy, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Bob Moore, Miners Alley Playhouse's "Over the River and Through the Woods"

Thaddeus Valdez, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's "Lend Me a Tenor"

Best supporting actress, comedic role

Joan Bruemmer, Aluminous Collective's "Big Love"

Anne F. Butler, Creede Rep's "The Imaginary Invalid"

Hannah Duggan, Buntport's "The Squabble"

Julia Perrotta, The Avenue's "Die, Mommie, Die!"

Jane Shirley, The Avenue's "Santa's Big Red Sack"

Best solo performance

Steven Burge, Aurora Fox's "Fully Committed"

Rebecca Buric, Manitou Art Theatre's "Signature"

Rene Marie, Crossroads' "Slut Energy Theory"

Thaddeus Phillips, Lucidity Suitcase

Intercontinental's "Microworld(s)"

Mare Trevathan, Lake Dillon Theatre Company's "The Good Body"

Best ensemble

Curious' "Ameriville"

Curious' "Eurydice"

Arvada Center's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

Carousel Dinner Theatre's "Rent"

Aurora Fox's "The Skin of Our Teeth"

Best younger actor

(Must not yet be 18 on opening night)

Jimmy Bruenger, Artful Dodger, Town Hall's "Oliver"

Olivia Hill, Annie, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Annie"

Tyler Palmer, Travis Younger, Denver Center Theatre Company's "A Raisin in the Sun"

Ellie Schwartz, Betty Paris, Arvada Center's "The Crucible"

Ellie Schwartz, Scout, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "To Kill a Mockingbird"

Best director of a play

John Arp, Miners Alley Playhouse's "The Visitor"

Ed Baierlein, Germinal's "The Eccentricities of a Nightingale"

Brian Freeland, LIDA Project's "Joseph K"

Christy Montour-Larson, Curious' "Rabbit Hole"

Jane Page, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "To Kill a Mockingbird"

Best director of a musical

Advertisement



Steven Cogswell, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse's "Phantom"

Rod Lansberry, Arvada Center's "Miss Saigon"

Kurt Terrio, Carousel Dinner Theatre's "Rent"

Robert Wells, Town Hall Arts Center's

"Oklahoma"

Steve Wilson, PHAMALy's "Man of La Mancha"

#### Best scenic design

Susan Crabtree, Bas Bleu's "I'm Not Rappaport"

Ensemble, Buntport's "The Squabble"

Brian Freeland, LIDA Project's "Joseph K"

David Lafont, Paragon's "Love Song"

Brian Mallgrave, Arvada Center's "The Crucible"

#### Best costumes

Chris Campbell, Arvada Center's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

Linda Morken, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Singin' in the Rain"

Jane Nelson-Rud, Heritage Square's "That Was Loud, This Is Now"

Jesus Perez, Rocky Mountain Rep's "The Pirates of Penzance"

Reyna Von Vett, 1883 Entertainment's "Leadville or Bust" and "Black Box Burlesque"

#### Best lighting

Eric Meyer, LIDA Project's "Rain of Terror"

Stephen D. Mazzeno, PHAMALy's "The Man of La Mancha"

Jonathan Scott-McKean, Performance Now's "Fiddler on the Roof"

Shannon McKinney, Curious' "Eurydice"

Karalyn Star Pytel, Victorian Playhouse's "The Fantasticks"

#### Best sound

Kevin Dunayer, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "To Kill a Mockingbird"

Brian Freeland, Curious' "Eurydice"

Wayne Kennedy, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Singin' in the Rain"

Tatiana Mallarino, Lucidity Suitcase

Intercontinental's "Microworld(s)"

John Rivera, Modern Muse's "The Woman in Black"

#### Best choreography

Garrett Ammon, Curious' "Eurydice"

Anita Boland, Magic Moments' "This Just In"

Annie Dwyer, Heritage Square's "That Was Loud, This Is Now"

Kelly Kates, Town Hall Arts Center's "Oklahoma"

Jennifer Kemp and Jeff Duke, Rocky Mountain Rep's "All Shook Up"

#### Best children's production

Denver Children's Theatre's "Golden Goose"

Arvada Center's "Honk"

Buntport's "Trunks"

#### Best children's actor

Seth Caikowski, Arvada Center's "Honk"

Amanda Earls, Arvada Center's "Just So" and "Honk"

Advertisement



Mitch Slevic, Buntport's "Trunks"

## Best of the Denver Center Theatre Company

**2009 Denver Post Ovation Award nominees, best of the Denver Center Theatre Company and national tours. Photos of the best from our other local theater companies are included in a separate slideshow at the top of this page.**

### Best production

"A Prayer for Owen Meany"  
"A Raisin in the Sun"  
"The Voyage Inheritance"

### Best year by an actor

Sam Gregory: "Dusty and the Big Bad World" (Nathan), "A Prayer for Owen Meany" (Rector), "The Voyage Inheritance" (Edward) and "A Christmas Carol" (Bob Cratchit)  
John Hutton: "Richard III" (Duke of Buckingham), "A Prayer for Owen Meany" (Reverend Merrill), "The Voyage Inheritance" (Major Booth) and "Absurd Person Singular" (Ronald)  
Randy Moore: "Richard III" (Mayor and others), "A Prayer for Owen Meany" (Randy) and "The Voyage Inheritance" (Peacy)

### Best year by an actress

Kathleen M. Brady: "Richard III" (Duchess of York), "A Prayer for Owen Meany" (cook), "Quilters" (Sarah), "The Voyage Inheritance" (Mrs. Voyagey) and "Well" (Ann)  
Jeanne Paulsen: "Richard III" (Queen Margaret), "A Prayer for Owen Meany" (Mrs. Wheelwright), "The Voyage Inheritance" (Honor) and "Absurd Person Singular" (Marion)

### Best actor in a play

Sam Gregory, "The Voyage Inheritance"  
Russell Hornsby, "A Raisin in the Sun"  
Michael Wartella, "A Prayer for Owen Meany"

### Best actress in a play

Charlotte Booker, "Dusty and the Big Bad World"  
Kathleen M. Brady, "Quilters"  
Marlene Warfield, "A Raisin in the Sun"

### Best supporting actor

Mike Hartman, "A Raisin in the Sun"  
John Hutton, "Absurd Person Singular"  
Michael Winters, "The Voyage Inheritance"

### Best supporting actress

Dana Acheson, "The Voyage Inheritance"  
Kathleen M. Brady, "Well"  
Kim Staunton, "A Raisin in the Sun"

### Best director

Israel Hicks, "A Raisin in the Sun"

Advertisement



Christy Montour-Larson, "Well"  
Bruce K. Sevy, "A Prayer for Owen Meany"

Best scenic design  
David M. Barber, "Richard III"  
William Bloodgood, "A Prayer for Owen Meany"  
Sara Ryung Clement, "Sunsets and Margaritas"

### A note on the Denver Center Theatre Company

The Denver Post always considers the Denver Center Theatre Company as a separate entity for the Ovation Awards, honoring our Tony-winning regional theater company in nine categories. The Post believes it is better to honor the "best of the Denver Center," which operates at about a \$10 million annual budget, separately from our other local companies, some with budgets of just a few hundred dollars.

### Best of the national touring productions

Best production  
"August: Osage County"  
"The Color Purple"  
"The Phantom of the Opera"  
"Spring Awakening"

Best actor  
John Cudia, Phantom, "The Phantom of the Opera"  
Chazz Palminteri, himself, "A Bronx Tale"

Anthony Rapp, Mark, "Rent"

Best actress  
Phyre Hawkins, Celie, "The Color Purple"  
Trista Moldovan, Christine, "The Phantom of the Opera"  
Estelle Parsons, Violet, "August: Osage County"

Best supporting actor  
Justin Johnston, Angel, "Rent"  
Paul Vincent O'Connor, Charlie, "August: Osage County"  
Taylor Trensch, Moritz, "Spring Awakening"

Best supporting actress  
Anika Ellis, Shug, "The Color Purple"  
Felicia P. Fields, Sofia, "The Color Purple"  
Libby George, Mattie Fae, "August: Osage County"

### A note on the 2009 Denver Post Ovation Awards

Nominations were culled from the 164 productions observed by six Denver Post representatives in 2009. The winners were determined by theater critic John Moore. Shows must have opened between Dec. 10, 2008, and Dec. 6, 2009, and not have been previously staged by the same company within six years.

**Online: Vote for your favorites!**

Advertisement



You can vote for additional "readers choice" designees in many categories by [clicking right here](#).

Advertisement