

13th December 2017

The nominations are in - get ready for the Paulies 2017

It's that time of year again to announce the shortlist for the Paulies, the awards that don't exist in physical form, but are an extra round of applause for the best community theatre I saw this year! Ill health and a family crisis meant I saw slightly less this year than I intended, (hence the very short list for musical theatre), but awards are only given for work I saw.

BEST PLAY

Grow Up Grandad. (Headgate Productions)

Miss Julie. (Colchester Theatre Group).

The Crucible. (Paper Lantern)

The Graduate. (Paper Lantern)

The History Boys. (Mad Hatter)

BEST DIRECTOR (PLAY)

Rosie Beattie and Sally Broatch for The Crucible.

Sally Broatch for The Graduate.

Will Mugford for The History Boys.

Anthony Roberts for Miss Julie.

Steve Wooldridge for Grow Up Grandad.

BEST MUSICAL.

Betty Blue Eyes. (Mad Hatter)

Sunday in the Park with George. (Platform)

Urinetown (Gallery Players)

BEST DIRECTOR OF A MUSICAL

Wade Ablitt for Betty Blue Eyes.

Helen Clarke for Urinetown.

Andrew Hodgson for Sunday in the Park with George.

BEST ACTOR

Phil Cory for Grow Up Grandad.

Liam Paul Gregory for The Crucible.

Tom Mayhew for The Graduate.

Nathan Rigg for The History Boys.

Jackson Wright for Miss Julie.

BEST ACTRESS

Rosie Beattie for The Graduate and The Crucible.

Jackie Grant for A Kind of Alaska (Headgate Theatre)

Charlotte Harknett for Miss Julie.

Eleanor Kent-Dyson for Grow Up Grandad.

Charlotte Still for For Services Rendered. (Platform)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Darren Beattie for The Graduate and The Crucible.

Michael Cook for For Services Rendered and The Crucible.

Thomas Haigh for Far From the Madding Crowd. (Gallery Players)

Ben Maytham for Far From the Madding Crowd. (Gallery Players)

Will Parrick for For Services Rendered.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Kel Ashton for The Crucible.

Sara Green for For Services Rendered.

Jenni Horn for Far From the Madding Crowd.

Molly Scurrrell for The Graduate.

Rebecca Wieland for Miss Julie.

BEST MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Wade Ablitt for Urinetown

Giulia Cipriani for Jekyll and Hyde. (Colchester Operatic Society)

Adam Duarte Dias for Sunday in the Park with George.

Helen McCraw for Sunday in the Park with George.

Nathan Rigg and Ella Darcy-Jones for Betty Blue Eyes.

20th December 2017

And the Paulie goes to...it's the winners of the Paulies 2017!

PAULIES 2017- THE WINNERS!

So, here it is. I certainly don't make it easy for myself, but here are my picks of the very best of amateur theatre this year. As always, the point of the Paulies is to celebrate the strength of community theatre, and if you took part in any way in making productions happen this year, then thank you! We punch above our theatrical weight in this region, so well done all of you, you are ALL winners! And step forward for one final bow...

BEST PLAY.

The Crucible. (Paper Lantern) A production that threw new light on a classic play with a filmic approach to theatre. Don't miss it at The Headgate in February.

BEST DIRECTOR. (PLAY).

Sally Broatch for The Crucible and The Graduate. Forging a new, confident style of directing, both productions were outstanding in originality.

BEST MUSICAL

Sunday in the Park with George. A masterpiece of a masterpiece from the always excellent Platform Musicals and Plays.

BEST DIRECTOR OF A MUSICAL.

Andrew Hodgson for Sunday in the Park with George, a supreme understanding of the work and the score.

BEST ACTRESS

Rosie Beattie for The Graduate and The Crucible, which she also co-directed. One performance funny and heartbreaking, the other intense and moving.

BEST ACTOR.

Liam Paul Gregory for The Crucible. In almost a clean sweep for one production, his excellent performance was gripping.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR.

Thomas Haigh for Far From the Madding Crowd, (Gallery Players). An excellent portrayal of unrequited love.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS.

Jenni Horn for Far From the Madding Crowd. In a production of fine performances, she stood out in a wonderfully humorous role.

BEST MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE.

Adam Duarte Dias for Sunday in the Park with George. A mature, excellent and commanding performance.

So, there you have it. I also go outside of the region to see other community theatre, so my special award this year is for Harlow Theatre Company's exemplary production of Pinter's The Homecoming, superbly directed by Jane Bowen-Mills. Better than a professional production I saw.

As for 2018, I would like to see community theatre take risks with more contemporary work, but I am already looking forward to some great productions. Merry Christmas everyone, theatre makers and audience alike.