

# Paul T Davies Column: And The Paulies nominations go to...

**It's that time of the year again, where I give out my awards for the Best Amateur Theatre of the Year.**

I say give out, but The Paulies don't have a physical presence, more my final round of applause for some outstanding work. The rules remain unchanged, I do not nominate anything I have been involved in, and I have seen all productions nominated. It was a longlist that I have had to be quite strong in short listing and it strikes me how much range there was in this year's theatre. So, without further ado, the Nominations for the 2019 Paulies are....

## BEST PLAY

Bug (Headgate Theatre Productions); Emma (Dedham Players); Playhouse Creatures (Headgate Theatre Productions); Pressure (Dedham Players); The Vortex (Paper Lantern)

## BEST DIRECTOR

Sally Broatch for The Vortex; Kelvin Hastings-Smith for Pressure; Kerry King for Playhouse Creatures; Claire Nicholson for Emma; Will Parrick for Bug.

## BEST MUSICAL

A Little Night Music (Platform Musicals); Big Fish (Mad Hatter); Oliver (Colchester Operatic Society); The Addams Family (IODS Theatre); Spring Awakening (Mad Hatter)

## BEST DIRECTOR (MUSICAL)

Wade Ablitt for Big Fish; Sally Broatch for The Addams Family; Andrew Hodgson for A Little Night Music; Will Mugford for Spring Awakening

## BEST ACTOR

Tom Beattie for The Vortex; Michael Cook for Pressure; Joe Eason for Bug; Matthew Hankin for All My Sons. (Colchester Theatre Group); Malcolm Kimmance for All My Sons.

## BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Aaron Bowater for All My Sons; Kevin Hastings-Smith for Emma; Gary Huggins for Pressure; Will Parrick for The Browning Version (Headgate Productions); Joseph Russell for The Browning Version.

## BEST ACTRESS

Rosie Beattie for The Vortex; Laura Hill for The Browning Version; Eleanor Kent-Dyson for Bug; Joanna Peacock, Poppy Borges-Wilby, Charlotte Harknett, Eleanor Kent-Dyson, Charlotte Still for Playhouse Creatures (joint nomination); Danielle Tile for Emma.

## BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Charlotte Curtis for The Vortex; Jenni Horn for Emma; Jessica Miller for Bug; Danielle Tile for Pressure.; Jemma Younger for All My Sons.

## BEST MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE.

Archie Ball for Oliver; Tom Beattie for Big Fish; The pairing of Owen Berry and Charlotte Curtis as Gomez and Morticia Addams; Helen McCraw for The Pajama Game, (Platform); The ensemble singing for Spring Awakening.

Winners to be revealed next week

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19th December 2019

# Paul T Davies Column: And the winners of this year's Paulies are...

**After much deliberation, the panel, (Me), have decided that the 2019 Paulies go to...**

## BEST PLAY

Bug - They promised something not usually seen at the Headgate, and they weren't wrong. Tracey Lett's gripping play took us into the heart and mind of the American underclass and paranoia, and left a lasting impression seared onto the minds of all who saw it.

## BEST DIRECTOR

Kerry King for Playhouse Creatures - The most hotly contested category as all nominated directors did a fantastic job. But for bringing together a terrific ensemble and staging a multi location play so smoothly.

## BEST MUSICAL

The Addams Family - What a total, unmitigated joy this was, brilliantly staged on a superb set and bringing this musical totally to life.

### BEST DIRECTOR (MUSICAL)

Sally Broatch for The Addams Family - A rare director that can move expertly from play to musical, with complete control and inventiveness.

### BEST ACTOR

Joe Eason for Bug. I hadn't seen Joe act before, and this was a triumph. His piercing urgent eyes kept you gripped as the horrors in the play unfolded.

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR.

Aaron Bowater for All My Sons - Came into the play with a tremendous energy and brought the role of George totally to life.

### BEST ACTRESS

Joanna Peacock, Poppy Borges-Wilby, Charlotte Harknett, Eleanor Kent-Dyson, Charlotte Still for Playhouse Creatures. I couldn't separate these ladies so I didn't. They were superb, both individually and as an ensemble.

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Charlotte Curtis for The Vortex - An actress who is astonishingly good in everything she does, it was the underplay of emotions, what she didn't say, that really won this for me. Understated when she needed to be, flamboyant when the script demanded.

### BEST MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE.

Archie Ball for Oliver - Archie was a terrific Oliver, with a beautiful singing voice and stage presence.

### SPECIAL AWARD

The Mercury Theatre/Colchester Operatic co-production of Oliver! - With the technical side being provided by The Mercury, this show gave local amateur performers such a terrific experience, so this has to be the special award of the year. I've no doubt it changed some young lives, and we may never see anything like it again.