



Arts: June 5, 2009

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## Superlatives

### *The 2008-2009 Austin Critics Table Awards*

By Robert Faires

On Monday, June 1, the Austin Critics Table handed out its annual awards for outstanding achievements in the Austin arts in a ceremony at the Cap City Comedy Club. This year's ceremony, the 17th such presented by this informal association of local arts writers, began with the induction of Bonnie Cullum, Mary Margaret Farabee, Daniel Johnson, Alexandra Nadal and Eugene Slavin, Sylvia Orozco, and Damian Priour into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame.

In the awards themselves, this was not a year for sweeps. The most honored work was the Mary Moody Northen Theatre production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, which won four awards. Twelve other productions or works received two awards each. Overall, 46 productions, exhibitions, or works were honored in 37 categories.

Critics participating in this year's awards, covering the period from May 1, 2008, to May 3, 2009, were the *Austin American-Statesman's* Michael Barnes (arts), Clare Croft (dance), Erin Keever (visual arts), David Mead (music), Joey Seiler (theatre), and Jeanne Claire van Ryzin (arts); ... *might be good's* Claire Ruud and Kate Watson (visual arts); and the *Chronicle's* Elizabeth Cobbe (theatre), Rachel Koper (visual arts), Jonelle Seitz (dance), Avimaan Syam (theatre), and Robert Faires (arts). Obligatory ethical note: Critics refrained from nominating themselves or members of their families for any awards and refrained from voting in any category in which the critic or a family member was nominated.

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## THEATRE

### Production, Drama

*Cyrano de Bergerac*, Mary Moody Northen Theatre

### Production, Comedy

*Age of Arousal*, Austin Playhouse

## **Production, Musical**

*The Last 5 Years*, Penfold Theatre Company/

Austin Playhouse

## **Direction**

Michelle Polgar, *Cyrano de Bergerac*

Dustin Wills, *Ophelia*

## **Acting in a Leading Role**

Annika Johansson, *The Last 5 Years*

David Long, *Cyrano de Bergerac*

Tom Truss, *The Idiot*

Jennifer Underwood, *The Casket of Passing Fancy/ The Beauty Queen of Leenane*

## **Acting in a Supporting Role**

Verity Branco, *A Midsummer Night's Dream/*

*An Ideal Husband*

Shavanna Calder, *Caroline, or Change*

Jenny Gravenstein, *Age of Arousal*

Marc Pouhé, *The Three Sisters/ Cyrano de Bergerac/The Grapes of Wrath*

## **Ensemble Performance**

*The Red Balloon*, Tongue and Groove Theatre

## **David Mark Cohen New Play Award**

*Dug Up*, Cyndi Williams

## **None of the Above**

*The Casket of Passing Fancy*, Rubber Repertory

## **Music Direction**

Jeff Helmer, *Queenie Pie*

## **Movement**

Jennifer Sherburn and David Yeakle, *The Red Balloon*

## **Touring Show, Theatre**

*Elaine Stritch at Liberty*, Austin Cabaret Theatre

*Spectacular*, Forced Entertainment, Fusebox Festival

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## **DESIGN**

### **Scenic Design**

Kevin Beltz, *Still Life With Iris*

### **Costume Design**

Michael Hite, *Queenie Pie*

Ariana Schwartz, *Still Life With Iris*

### **Lighting Design**

Lih-Hwa Yu, *The Shape of White*

### **Sound Design**

Buzz Moran, *Hamilton Township*

### **Video Design**

Duncan Alexander, *The Color of Dissonance*

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## **VISUAL ART**

### **Museum Exhibition**

"Reimagining Space: The Park Place Gallery Group

in 1960s New York," Blanton Museum of Art,

curator: Linda Dalrymple Henderson

### **Solo Gallery Exhibition**

"Lee Baxter Davis," Texas Biennial at Pump Project

### **Group Gallery Exhibition**

"Photography in the Abstract," Lora Reynolds

Gallery, curator: Maureen Mahony

### **Independent or Public Project**

*12:19 Library*, Fusebox Festival

### **Work of Art**

*Let Me Entertain You*, Jill Pangallo,

Texas Biennial 2009

### **Artist**

Sterling Allen

### **Touring Show, Art**

"Birth of the Cool," Blanton Museum of Art

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## **DANCE**

### **Dance Concert**

*Skate! A Night at the Rink*, Forklift Danceworks

### **Short Work**

"Crandall Canyon Mine," Big Range Austin dance festival

### **Choreographer**

Sharon Marroquin, "Garden"/"Crandall Canyon

Mine"/"Desprendimiento"

## **Dancer**

Paul Michael Bloodgood, "Episodes"/*Hamlet*

Ashley Lynn, "Episodes"/*Hamlet*/"Left Unsaid"

## **Touring Show, Dance**

*Grub*, tEEth, Fusebox Festival

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## **SPECIAL CITATIONS**

### **John Bustin Award for Conspicuous Versatility**

Michael McKelvey

### **W.H. "Deacon" Crain Award for Outstanding Student Work**

Mark Scheibmeir, UT Department of Theatre & Dance

### **Old Wine in New Wineskins (or Margarita Glass) Award**

Lyova Rosanoff, Steve Saugey, and Shaun Wainwright-Branigan for their Austintatious libretto to *The Bat*

### **New Kid on the Block Award**

Co-Lab

### **Body of Work Award**

Viola by Choice

### **"A Gore-us Line" Award**

Henri Mazza and the Alamo Drafthouse, Shawn Sides and the Rude Mechanicals, Indiana Adams and Flash Mob Austin, for Thrill the World Austin

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## **CLASSICAL MUSIC**

### **Symphonic Performance**

Beethoven: *Symphony No. 9*, UT Symphony

Orchestra with UT Chamber Singers, Concert  
Chorale, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, and  
Choral Arts Society

Welcher: *Symphony No. 5*, Austin Symphony

### **Chamber Performance**

Golden Hornet Project Presents: Tosca String  
Quartet, Tosca String Quartet

### **Choral Concert**

Verdi: *Messa da Requiem*, Conspirare Symphonic  
Choir, Texas State University Choirs,  
Victoria Bach Festival Chorus

### **Opera**

*Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Austin Lyric Opera

### **Original Composition/Score**

*Between Steel and Stardust (Songs of Texas  
Women)*, Graham Reynolds and Carrie Fountain  
*Symphony No. 5*, Dan Welcher

### **Singer**

Elizabeth Pétilot, Viola by Choice  
Emily Pulley, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*

### **Instrumentalist**

Anton Nel, Anton Nel in Recital  
Michelle Schumann, Gershwin: *Rhapsody in Blue*

### **Touring Classical**

## Onix Ensemble, UT Performing Arts Center

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