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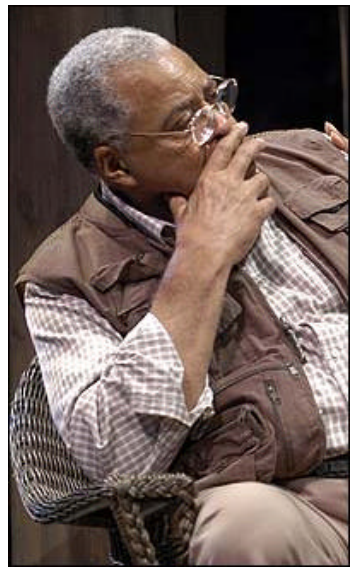
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James Earl Jones, Frank Loesser, Craig Wright, Allegro Among Nominees in 2005 Helen Hayes Awards in D.C.

By *Kenneth Jones*
01 Mar 2005

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James Earl Jones in *On Golden Pond*
photo by Richard Termine

Nominees for the 2005 Helen Hayes Awards, celebrating outstanding work in Washington, D.C.-area theatre were announced Feb. 28. Among the nationally known nominees are James Earl Jones, Leslie Uggams, Lee Roy Reams, Alan Ruck, Dana Ivey and the late composer - lyricist Frank Loesser.

The Helen Hayes Awards recognize both resident work and tours. Winners and the recipients of five special awards will be presented May 9 at the Warner Theatre.

Loesser's posthumous nomination was for Arena Stage's production of *Senor Discretion Himself*, a show Loesser (*Guys and Dolls*) never saw a full staging of in his lifetime. He had abandoned the project.

Loesser (music and lyrics) and modern-day collaborators Culture Clash (book, along with Loesser) were nominated for

Senor Discretion Himself in the category of The Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play or Musical, as were Craig Wright for *Grace* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), **Ian Cohen for *Lenny & Lou*** (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), Craig Wright for his *Winter's Tale* -inspired *Melissa Arctic* (Folger Theatre) and Charles Way for *Merlin and the Cave of Dreams* (Imagination Stage).

Outstanding Resident Play nominees are *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (part of the Kennedy Center's Tennessee Williams retrospective), *Cyrano* (The Shakespeare Theatre), ***Lenny & Lou*** (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), *Mary's Wedding* (Theater Alliance), *Pericles* (The Shakespeare Theatre) and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Folger Theatre).

Outstanding Non-Resident Production nominees are *A Tale of a Tiger* (Rorschach Theatre), *Flow* (The Studio Theatre), *Movin' Out* (The National Theatre), *On Golden Pond* (The Kennedy Center) and *The Producers* (The Kennedy Center).

Outstanding Resident Musical nominees are the revised version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Allegro* (Signature Theatre), William Finn's *Elegies: A Song Cycle* (Signature Theatre), *Godspell* (Toby's Dinner Theatre), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Open Circle Theatre), a revised version of the Vietnam - soldier docu-musical *One Red Flower* (Signature Theatre), *Senor Discretion*

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- Steel Magnolias*
- Saint Joan*
- Moonlight and Magnolias*
- Mamma Mia!*
- Musicals Tonight*

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- All Shook Up*
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- Brooklyn Boy*
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- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*
- Doubt*
- Fiddler*
- La Cage Aux Folles*
- The Pillowman*
- The Glass Menagerie*
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Himself (Arena Stage) and *Tambourines to Glory* (True Colors Theatre Company).

For their work in the Signature world premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's Van Gogh-inspired musical, *The Highest Yellow*, Marc Kudisch and Jason Daniele were nominated for Hayes Awards.

*

The nominees are:

Outstanding Supporting Performer, Non-Resident Production

Fred Applegate *The Producers* The Kennedy Center
Kristine Bendul *Movin' Out* The National Theatre
Craig Bockhorn *On Golden Pond* The Kennedy Center
Harry Bouvy *The Producers* The Kennedy Center
John Ganun *Thoroughly Modern Millie* The Kennedy Center
Charley Izabella King *The Producers* The Kennedy Center
Lee Roy Reams *The Producers* The Kennedy Center

Outstanding Lead Actress, Non-Resident Production

Holly Cruikshank *Movin' Out* The National Theatre
Deb Filler *Filler Up!* MetroStage
Julieta Gros *Movin' Out* The National Theatre
Darcie Roberts *Thoroughly Modern Millie* The Kennedy Center
Leslie Uggams *On Golden Pond* The Kennedy Center

Outstanding Lead Actor, Non-Resident Production

James Earl Jones *On Golden Pond* The Kennedy Center
Will Power *Flow* The Studio Theatre
Alan Ruck *The Producers* The Kennedy Center
Lewis J. Stadlen *The Producers* The Kennedy Center
Ron Todorowski *Movin' Out* The National Theatre

Outstanding Non-Resident Production

A Tale of a Tiger Rorschach Theatre
Flow The Studio Theatre
Movin' Out The National Theatre
On Golden Pond The Kennedy Center
The Producers The Kennedy Center

Outstanding Supporting Actor, Resident Musical

Rick Foucheux *Jesus Christ Superstar* Open Circle Theatre
William Hubbard *Mahalia, a Gospel Musical* MetroStage
David James *Godspell* Toby's Dinner Theatre
Jeffery Peterson *The Who's Tommy* The Studio Theatre Secondstage
Harry A. Winter *Allegro* Signature Theatre

Outstanding Supporting Actress, Resident Musical

Felicia Curry *Godspell* Toby's Dinner Theatre
Ann Duquesnay *Hallelujah, Baby!* Arena Stage and George Street Playhouse
Margo Moorer *Tambourines to Glory* True Colors Theatre Company
Tracy Lynn Olivera *Carousel* Olney Theatre Center for the Arts
Tracy Lynn Olivera *Allegro* Signature Theatre

Outstanding Supporting Actor, Resident Play

John Dow *Boy Gets Girl* Theater Alliance
David Marks *The Cripple of Inishmaan* The Studio Theatre
Richard Pelzman *Pericles* The Shakespeare Theatre
David Sabin *Ivanov* The Studio Theatre
David Toney *Two Trains Running* The African Continuum Theatre Company

Outstanding Supporting Actress, Resident Play

Dana Ivey *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* The Kennedy Center
Valerie Leonard *The Elephant Man* Catalyst Theater Company
Jennifer Mendenhall *Lenny & Lou* Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
Holly Twyford *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* Folger Theatre
Sarah Zimmerman *The Matchmaker* Ford's Theatre

Outstanding Set Design, Resident Play or Musical

Tony Cisek *Mary's Wedding* Theater Alliance

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Daniel Conway *Fences* Round House Theatre
James Kronzer *The Diary of Anne Frank* Round House Theatre
James Noone *Cyrano* The Shakespeare Theatre
Milagros Ponce de León *Boy Gets Girl* Theater Alliance

Outstanding Lighting Design, Resident Play or Musical

Howell Binkley *Cyrano* The Shakespeare Theatre
Dan Covey *Mary's Wedding* Theater Alliance
Dan Covey *Merlin and the Cave of Dreams* Imagination Stage
T.J. Gerckens *Pericles* The Shakespeare Theatre
Tim Mitchell *Henry IV, Part 1* The Shakespeare Theatre
Tim Mitchell *Henry IV, Part 2* The Shakespeare Theatre
Daniel MacLean Wagner *The Diary of Anne Frank* Round House Theatre

Outstanding Costume Design, Resident Play or Musical

Gregg Barnes *Allegro* Signature Theatre
Zack Brown *The Importance of Being Earnest* Arena Stage
Mara Blumenfeld *Pericles* The Shakespeare Theatre
Robert Perdziola *Cyrano* The Shakespeare Theatre
Emilio Sosa *Señor Discretion Himself* Arena Stage
Kate Turner-Walker *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* Folger Theatre

Outstanding Sound Design, Resident Play or Musical

Mark Anduss *Mary's Wedding* Theater Alliance
Martin Desjardins *The Diary of Anne Frank* Round House Theatre
Martin Desjardins *Macbeth* The Shakespeare Theatre
Irakli Kavtsadze and Paata Tsikurishvili *The Master and Margarita* Synetic-Classika Theatre
Ron Oshima *Porcelain* Tsunami Theatre Company

Outstanding Choreography, Resident Play or Musical

David H. Bell *Children of Eden* Ford's Theatre
Ilona Kessell *Cats* Toby's Dinner Theatre
Kelly Parsley *Mary's Wedding* Theater Alliance
Doriana Sanchez *Señor Discretion Himself* Arena Stage
Irina Tsikurishvili *The Crackpots* Synetic Theater
Irina Tsikurishvili *The Master and Margarita* Synetic-Classika Theatre

Outstanding Musical Direction, Resident Play or Musical

Jon Kalbfleisch *Elegies, a Song Cycle* Signature Theatre
Jon Kalbfleisch *Allegro* Signature Theatre
Jon Kalbfleisch *The Highest Yellow* Signature Theatre
William Knowles *Tambourines to Glory* True Colors Theatre Company
Christopher Youstra *Godspell* Toby's Dinner Theatre

Outstanding Lead Actor, Resident Musical

Ron Curameng *Miss Saigon* Toby's Dinner Theatre
Jason Danieleley *The Highest Yellow* Signature Theatre
Will Gartshore *Allegro* Signature Theatre
Marc Kudisch *The Highest Yellow* Signature Theatre
Rob McQuay *Jesus Christ Superstar* Open Circle Theatre
Kevyn Morrow *Tambourines to Glory* True Colors Theatre Company
Stephen F. Schmidt *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* The Kennedy Center

Outstanding Lead Actress, Resident Musical

Suzanne Douglas *Hallelujah, Baby!* Arena Stage and George Street Playhouse
Sherril L. Edelen *Elegies, a Song Cycle* Signature Theatre
Ebony Jo-Ann *Tambourines to Glory* True Colors Theatre Company
Bernardine Mitchell *Mahalia, a Gospel Musical* MetroStage
Elena Shaddow *Señor Discretion Himself* Arena Stage

Outstanding Lead Actor, Resident Play

Doug Brown *Our Lady of 121st Street* Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
Scott Fortier *The Elephant Man* Catalyst Theater Company
George Grizzard *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* The Kennedy Center
Stephen Lang *Beyond Glory* Tribute Productions
Geraint Wyn Davies *Cyrano* The Shakespeare Theatre

Outstanding Lead Actress, Resident Play

Megan Anderson *The Seagull* Rep Stage
Patricia Clarkson *A Streetcar Named Desire* The Kennedy Center

Brigid Cleary *Homebody/Kabul* Theater J and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
Kathleen Coons *Mary's Wedding* Theater Alliance
Gin Hammond *The Syringa Tree* The Studio Theatre
Jennifer Mendenhall *Grace* Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
Laiona Michelle *Yellowman* Arena Stage

Outstanding Director, Resident Musical

Kenny Leon *Tambourines to Glory* True Colors Theatre Company
Toby Orenstein and Rob McQuay *Godspell* Toby's Dinner Theatre
Charles Randolph -Wright *Señor Discretion Himself* Arena Stage
Suzanne Richard *Jesus Christ Superstar* Open Circle Theatre
Eric Schaeffer *Allegro* Signature Theatre
Eric Schaeffer *One Red Flower* Signature Theatre

Outstanding Director, Resident Play

Mike Chamberlin *Porcelain* Tsunami Theatre Company
Michael Kahn *Cyrano* The Shakespeare Theatre
Kirsten Kelly *Boy Gets Girl* Theater Alliance
Aaron Posner *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* Folger Theatre
Jeremy Skidmore *Mary's Wedding* Theater Alliance
Mary Zimmerman *Pericles* The Shakespeare Theatre

The Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play or Musical

Craig Wright *Grace* Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
Ian Cohen *Lenny & Lou* Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
Craig Wright *Melissa Arctic* Folger Theatre
Charles Way *Merlin and the Cave of Dreams* Imagination Stage
Frank Loesser (music and lyrics), Frank Loesser and Culture Clash (book)
Señor Discretion Himself Arena Stage

Outstanding Resident Musical

Allegro Signature Theatre
Elegies: A Song Cycle Signature Theatre
Godspell Toby's Dinner Theatre
Jesus Christ Superstar Open Circle Theatre
One Red Flower Signature Theatre
Señor Discretion Himself Arena Stage
Tambourines to Glory True Colors Theatre Company

Outstanding Resident Play

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof The Kennedy Center
Cyrano The Shakespeare Theatre
Lenny & Lou Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
Mary's Wedding Theater Alliance
Pericles The Shakespeare Theatre
The Two Gentlemen of Verona Folger Theatre

The special award recipients are:

Canadian/Washington Theatre Partnership Award

Jennifer Nelson, artistic director of the African -American Theatre Coalition
Scott Fortier, artistic director of Catalyst Theatre

The KPMG Award for Distinguished Service to the Washington Theatre Community

Dr. Sidney Harman for The Harman Family Foundation gift to fund The Shakespeare Theatre's Harman Center for the Arts.

The Washington Post Award for Innovative Leadership in the Theatre Community

Joy Zinoman, Studio Theatre artistic director, in recognition of the way she transformed 14th Street and created a cultural center for the city

The Helen Hayes Tribute, sponsored by Gilbert and Jaylee Mead

Composer -lyricist Jerry Herman

*

During 2004, 65 theatre companies presented a total of 383 productions in the metropolitan D.C. area. These productions ran for a total of 7,582

performances and played to a total of 2,133,731 audience members. The number of productions maintains Washington's standing as the second most prolific theatre town in the country. Although Washington theatre production is still abundant, in 2004 the number of producing theatres did decrease from 69 to 65, as did the number of productions (422 in 2003); the number of performances (8130 in 2003); and the number of audience members (2,211,969 in 2003). The decrease is small, but can be accounted for by several companies who didn't produce during the last year, according to the Helen Hayes Awards.

The 21st Annual Helen Hayes Awards show will be directed by seven-time Helen Hayes Award nominee, Nick Olcott, and written by five-time Helen Hayes Award nominee, playwright Norman Allen.

For more information, please contact The Helen Hayes Awards at (202) 337-4572 or visit www.helenhayes.org.

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