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Article Published: Sunday, December 19, 2004
 theater

38 groups to vie for awards

3 companies snare 11 nominations each

By [John Moore](#)

[Denver Post Theater Critic](#)

The Arvada Center, Boulder's Dinner Theatre and Curious Theatre Company each have earned 11 nominations for the fourth annual Denver Post Ovation Awards.

The Ovations honor the best work in the state among the 142 theater productions reviewed or seen by Denver Post critics in 2004. This year, a record 38 companies received at least one nomination, with honorees from as far away as Creede, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs. Three companies in Fort Collins - Bas Bleu, OpenStage and the Carousel Dinner Theatre - combined for 13 nominations. The Buntport Theatre pulled eight nods and the Country Dinner Playhouse seven.



Bas Bleu Theatre Company

"Angels in America," with Wendy Ishii and Todd Coulter, was an epic co-production by Fort Collins' Bas Bleu and OpenStage.

The Arvada Center had a comeback year, scoring big with "The Women," "Jekyll and

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Bas Bleu, BDT, TheatreWorks (Colorado Springs) and Germinal Stage Denver - the only other company nominated for a third straight year.

The most nominated play of the year is The Avenue's "Metamorphoses." It earned seven nods and ends the year as the state's longest-running show (it closes Jan. 2). Among comedies, the Arvada Center's "The Women" earned six nods (including a double for costume and set designer Joseph J. Egan), and the Bug's "Waiting for Godot" earned five.

Among musicals, 2004 was the first year companies could mount their own productions of "Cats," and BDT's resulted in five nominations, Carousel's in four.

The "theater person of the year" Ovation Award will be considered between Germinal founder Ed Baierlein; prolific scenic designer Michael R. Duran; retiring Denver Center Theatre Company artistic director Donovan Marley; Curious artistic director Chip Walton; actor-directors Billie McBride and Mare Trevathan Philpott; and actors Gary Culig, Emily Paton Davies, Elgin Kelley, Jamie Horton, Deborah Persoff, Karen Slack, Stephen Pearce and Marcus Waterman.

A new category has been added honoring the best younger actor in an adult production.

The Ovations also honor the best of the DCTC in 11 separate categories, as well as the best of the national tours. DCTC plays nominated for best production are "Blithe Spirit," "John Brown's Body," "The Merchant of Venice," "The Misanthrope" and "Visiting Mr. Green."

The winners will be published Dec. 26.

Hyde" and "The 1940s Radio Hour." BDT is aiming for its second straight best musical nod, this time for "Cats." And Curious is vying for its third consecutive "best year by a company" award, this time against

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2004 DENVER POST OVATION AWARD NOMINEES

Nominees are culled from 142 productions reviewed or observed by Denver Post critics. Winners will be selected by theater critic John Moore and published Dec. 26:

THEATER PERSON OF THE YEAR

Ed Baierlein: Director/Adapter/Actor, Germinal Stage Denver's "Circe"; director, "84 Charing Cross Road," "The Triumph of Love," "No Man's Land" and "Hearts to God."

Michael R. Duran: Designed and built 15 sets for six companies, including The Avenue's "Metamorphoses" and Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"; playwright of Everyman's "Ghostlight"

Cory Gilstrap: Puppet designer for Arvada Center's "Big, Friendly Giant," Walden's "Nautilus: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" and Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

Donovan Marley: 21st and final season as Denver Center Theatre Company artistic director

Billie McBride: Actor, Arvada Center's "The Women," The Avenue's "The Vagina Monologues"; director, Nomad's "The Fourth Wall," Theatre Group's "Stop Kiss"; various festivals

Mare Trevathan Philpott: Director, the Bug's "Waiting for Godot"; actor, Bas Bleu's "Old Times" and Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

Chip Walton: Curious artistic director launched regional premieres of "Bright Ideas," "Yellowman," "The Tricky Part," "Trumbo: Red, White and Blacklisted" and "The Long Christmas Ride Home."

BEST YEAR BY AN ACTOR

(the following also are eligible for theater person of the year award above):

Gary Culig: Buntport's "Kafka on Ice"; the Bug's "Waiting for Godot" and "The SantaLand Diaries"; children's theater

Emily Paton Davies: Paragon's "Death and the Maiden" and "Saints & Hysterics"; Theatre Group's "Boy Gets Girl," Everyman's "Ghostlight"

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Elgin Kelley: Curious' "Bright Ideas," The Avenue's "Metamorphoses," Theatre Group's "Stop Kiss"

Jamie Horton: DCTC's "John Brown's Body"; "Blithe Spirit" and "The Misanthrope"; Curious' "Trumbo: Red, White and Blacklisted"

Deborah Persoff: Arvada Center's "The Women," Everyman's "Rose," Firehouse's "The Ride Down Mount Morgan"

Karen Slack: The Avenue's "The Vagina Monologues," Theatre Group's "Painted Bread," Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home," children's theater

Stephen Pearce: Germinal Stage Denver's "No Man's Land," The Avenue's "Metamorphoses," Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

Marcus Waterman: Curious' "Trumbo, Red, White and Blacklisted," Modern Muse's "The Chancellor's Tale," and "Country Dinner Playhouse's "Fiddler on the Roof," "South Pacific" and "Gypsy."

BEST YEAR BY A COMPANY:

Bas Bleu (Fort Collins)

Boulder's Dinner Theatre

Curious Theatre Company

Germinal Stage Denver

TheatreWorks (Colorado Springs)

BEST DRAMA:

The Avenue's "Metamorphoses"

Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

Curious' "The Tricky Part"

Shadow's "Blood Knot"

TheatreWorks' "A Streetcar Named Desire"

BEST MUSICAL:

Arvada's Center's "The 1940s Radio Hour"

Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Cats"

Country Dinner Playhouse's "Gypsy"

Evergreen Players' "The Secret Garden" PHAMALy's
"Guys and Dolls"

BEST COMEDY:

Aurora Fox's "Lend Me a Tenor"

The Bug's "Waiting for Godot"

Buntport's "Kafka on Ice"

Buntport's "Magnets on the Fridge"

Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "The Comedy of
Errors"

BEST NEW WORK

Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art's "Big Pharma"

Buntport's "Kafka on Ice"

El Centro Su Teatro's "La Guerra Eterna/The Eternal
War"

LIDA Project's "Bingo Boyz: Columbine"

Miners Alley Playhouse's "I Never Promised You a
Rose Garden"

BEST REMOUNT

(Defined as any production brought back by the
same company, director and principal cast within the
past six years:)

The Bug's "The SantaLand Diaries"

Buntport's "2 in 1"

Denver Center Attractions' "Always ... Patsy Cline"

Theatre Group's "Painted Bread"

Theatre Group's "Stop Kiss"

BEST ENSEMBLE:

Arvada Center's "The 1940s Radio Hour"

Arvada Center's "The Women"

The Avenue's "Metamorphoses"

Boulder Dinner Theatre's "Cabaret"

Buntport's "Magnets on the Fridge"

Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

Heritage Square Music Hall's "Born to Be Loud"

Theatre Café's "Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well & Living in Paris!"

BEST ACTOR, DRAMA:

Timothy Englert, Denver Repertory's "Buried Child"

Gene Gillette, TheatreWorks' "A Streetcar Named Desire"

Jeffrey Nickelson, Shadow's "The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated Colored Minstrel Show"

Michael Stricker, Paragon's "Look Back in Anger"

Jamie Wollrab, Mighty Mojo's "Nocturne"

BEST ACTRESS, DRAMA:

Jane Fromme, TheatreWorks' "A Streetcar Named Desire"

Laura Norman, Bas Bleu/OpenStage's "Angels in America"

Trina O'Neill, Tir Na Nog's "Molly Sweeney"

Karalyn Pytel, Miners Alley Playhouse's "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden"

Kim Staunton, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "Antony and Cleopatra"

BEST ACTOR, MUSICAL:

Leonard Barrett, PHAMALY's "Guys & Dolls"

Chris Boeckx, Town Hall Arts Center's "Honk!"

John Scott Clough, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Cabaret"

Scott Foster, Country Dinner Playhouse's "Anything Goes"

Nicholas Sugar, Theatre Group's "Bat Boy"

BEST ACTRESS, MUSICAL:

Kate Fisher, Arvada Center's "Jekyll and Hyde"

Beth Flynn, New Denver Civic's "Menopause, the Musical"

Ethelyn Friend, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art's "Someone Else's Dream"

Sheryl Renee, Aurora Fox's "Hi-Hat Hattie"

Lucy Roucis, PHAMALy's "Guys and Dolls"

BEST ACTOR, COMEDY:

Brett Aune, the Bug's "Waiting for Godot"

Brian Colonna, Buntport's "Magnets on the Fridge"

Gary Culig, Buntport's "Kafka on Ice"

Tupper Cullum, Aurora Fox's "Mercy of a Storm"

Geoffrey Kent, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "The Comedy of Errors"

BEST ACTRESS, COMEDY:

Rhonda Lee Brown, Nomad's "The Fourth Wall"

Deborah Curtis, Nomad's "Alarms & Excursions"

Hannah Duggan, Buntport's "Magnets on the Fridge"

Penny Dwyer, Arvada Center's "The Women"

Erin Rollman, Buntport's "Magnets on the Fridge"

SUPPORTING ACTOR, DRAMA:

John Arp, The Avenue's "Metamorphoses"

Leonard Barrett, Bas Bleu/OpenStage's "Angels in America"

William Hahn, The Avenue's "Metamorphoses"

Stephen Pearce, Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

Kennedy Reilly-Pugh, TheatreWorks' "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS, DRAMA:

Kendra Crain-McGovern, Firehouse's "The Ride Down Mount Morgan"

Denise B. Freestone, Bas Bleu/OpenStage's "Angels in America"

Stephanie Jones, OpenStage's "The Winters Tale"

Elgin Kelley, The Avenue's "Metamorphoses"

Paige L. Larson, Miners Alley Playhouse's "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden"

SUPPORTING ACTOR, MUSICAL:

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

Cole Emarine, Carousel Dinner Theatre's "Cats"

Wayne Kennedy, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Cabaret"

Jeffrey Roark, Country Dinner Playhouse's "South Pacific"

Chris Whyde, Theatre Group's "Bat Boy"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS, MUSICAL:

Julie Ann Cadwell, New Denver Civic's "Menopause the Musical"

Janice Lorraine, New Denver Civic's "Cookin' at the Cookery"

Shannan Steele, Arvada Center's "The 1940s Radio Hour"

Nancy Sullivan, Country Dinner Playhouse's "Gypsy"

Kimberly Tedder, Carousel Dinner Theatre's "Cats"

SUPPORTING ACTOR, COMEDY:

Kevin Hart, the Bug's "Waiting for Godot"

John Jurcheck, Hunger Artists' "The Wall of Water"

Bill Kuhlke, Creede Rep's "The Cripple of Inishmaan"

Eric Mather, Rattlebrain's "It's Hickenlooper's World, We Just Live in It"

Ryan Spickard, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "The Comedy of Errors"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS, COMEDY:

Catherine di Bella, Arvada Center's "The Women"

Ethelyn Friend, Curious' "Bright Ideas"

Jessica Jackson, Creede Rep's "The Cripple of Inishmaan"

Sue Leiser, Theatre Group's "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife"

Erica Sarzin-Borillo, Germinal's "The Triumph of Love"

BEST YOUNGER ACTOR:

Jamie Billings, Evergreen Players' "The Secret Garden"

Claire Carson, Arvada Center's "The Women"

Matt Gottlieb, Evergreen Players' "The Secret Garden"

Brityn Martin, Country Dinner Playhouse's "Gypsy"

Max Posner, LIDA Project's "Bingo Boyz: Columbine"

BEST DIRECTOR:

Stephen Bertles, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Cats"

Jeremy Cole, the Avenue's "Metamorphoses"

Jeffrey Nickelson, Shadow's "Blood Knot"

Mare Trevathan Philpott, the Bug's "Waiting for Godot"

Chip Walton, Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY:

Michael J. Duran, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat"

Michael E. Gold, Country Dinner Playhouse's "Anything Goes"

Troy Rintalla, Country Dinner Playhouse's "Gypsy"

Debbie Stark and Cindy Bray, PHAMALy's "Guys and Dolls"

Scott Wright, Carousel Dinner Theatre's "Cats"

BEST SET DESIGN:

Michael R. Duran, Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

Joseph J. Egan, Arvada Center's "The Women"

Melissa Schrank, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Cats"

Matthew Swerdzewski, Mighty Mojo's "Nocturne"

Lori Worthman, Write Angle Productions' "Colorado Quickies"

BEST COSTUMES:

Michelle Baldwin, LIDA Project's "Iphigenia"

Joseph J. Egan, Arvada Center's "The Women"

Judy Ernst, Carousel Dinner Theatre's "Cats"

Jane Nelson-Rud, Heritage Square Music Hall's "Born to Be Loud"

Rebecca Spafford, OpenStage's "The Winter's Tale"

BEST SOUND:

Scott Anderson and Jesus Marquez, Curious' Long Christmas Ride Home"

Brian Freeland, LIDA Project's "Iphigenia"

Evan Mueller, Mighty Mojo's "Nocturne"

Matt Petraglia, Buntport's "McGuinn and Murry"

Russ Schissler, Nomad's "Alarms & Excursions"

BEST LIGHTING:

Dick Devin, Curious' "The Long Christmas Ride Home"

Anna R. Kaltenbach, the Bug's "Waiting for Godot"

Cletus Karamon, Boulder's Dinner Theatre's "Cats"

Stephen D. Mazzeno, PHAMALy's "Guys and Dolls"

Jacob Welch, Bas Bleu/OpenStage's "Angels in America"

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

"Angels in America": The two-part co-production with OpenStage & Co. directed by Laura Jones and Terry Dodd launched Bas Bleu's new theater space.

The pool: John Ashton, Michael R. Duran and Ben Wofford built the 1,800-gallon pool for The Avenue's "Metamorphoses."

"The Tricky Part": Curious brought Denver native Martin Moran's play about sexual abuse back to its roots direct from off-Broadway.

Firehouse Theatre Company: Reopened in the John Hand Theatre after the murder of its founder.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change": The longest-running production in Colorado history closed after more than four years.

"Menopause the Musical": Love it or not, it has been seen by 71,000 at the New Denver Civic Theatre.

North High School: Jose Mercado brought "The Zoot Suit Riots" to the Buell Theatre

Playwrights Showcase of the Western Region: The first and largest of its kind in this area debuted at the Arvada Center

Best of Denver Center Theatre Company

BEST PRODUCTION:

"Blithe Spirit"

"John Brown's Body"

"The Merchant of Venice"

"The Misanthrope"

"Visiting Mr. Green"

BEST ACTOR:

Ben Hammer, "Visiting Mr. Green"

Jamie Horton, "The Misanthrope"

John Hutton, "The Merchant of Venice"

Mark Rubald, "John Brown's Body"

Aaron Serotsky, "Visiting Mr. Green"

BEST ACTRESS:

Kathleen M. Brady, "Blithe Spirit"

Ruth Eglsaer, "The Misanthrope"

Annette Helde, "Boston Marriage"

January LaVoy, "The Merchant of Venice"

Robin Moseley, "Boston Marriage"

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Jamie Horton, "John Brown's Body"

Mike Hartman, "Dirty Story"

Steven Cole Hughes, "The Misanthrope"

Bill Christ, "The Misanthrope"

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Jacqueline Antaramian, "Blithe Spirit"

Jacqueline Antaramian, "John Brown's Body"

Mary Dolson, "The Merchant of Venice"

Robynn Rodriguez, "The Misanthrope"

BEST SET:

Michael Brown, "A Streetcar Named Desire"

Michael Brown, "Dirty Story"

Michael Brown, "The Merchant of Venice"

Andrew V. Yelusich, "John Brown's Body"

Vicki Smith, "The Misanthrope"

BEST COSTUMES:

Kevin Copenhaver, "Dirty Story"

Kevin Copenhaver, "Boston Marriage"

Andrew V. Yelusich, "John Brown's Body"

Andrew V. Yelusich, "The Misanthrope"

Winners also will be named Dec. 26 for best makeup, children's production and children's theater actor, as well as best of the Denver Center Attractions' national tours and other DCTC categories.

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