

Race for Jeff - Goodman's 'Salesman' among award nominations

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The lengthy list of Joseph Jefferson awards nominations, announced Tuesday, is a potent reminder of the exceptional abundance of the 1998-99 Chicago theater season.

Consider just a single category_best production of a play. Among the five nominees are the Goodman Theatre revival of Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," which moved to Broadway and won a handful of Tony awards. Also cited are two productions by Court Theatre_its staging of "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," which more than equaled the quality of the off-Broadway original, and a revival of Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes," which made the 1939 play seem wholly new.

Shakespeare Repertory's Jeff-nominated "Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2," an ambitious double bill, brings to mind why the company has been able to build a new home on Navy Pier. Mary Zimmerman's enchanting long-running hit for Lookingglass Theatre, "Metamorphoses," proved that classic literature could be boffo box office. And Frank Galati's luminous Steppenwolf Theatre revival of "Morning Star," a 1940s play about immigrant life by Sylvia Regan (still alive and vibrant at 91), broke hearts all around.

And that is just one of 26 categories judged by the Jeff Committee, which honors outstanding achievements in productions operating under Actors' Equity union contracts.

The musicals category is equally diverse, with nominations for everything from "Floyd Collins" and "Houdini" to "Crazy for You," "The Wizard of Oz" and "The Mandrake: A Renaissance Musical."

Five writers were cited for their new work, including Claudia Allen ("Winter"), Rebecca Gilman ("Spinning Into Butter"), Tom Mula ("Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol"), John Musial ("The Great Fire") and David Rush ("The Prophet of Bishop Hill"). And new adaptations also formed a remarkably diverse and highly literate group_from Yasen Peyankov and Peter Christensen's rich translation of Chekhov's "Ivanov," to Lawrence E. DiStasi and Heidi Stillman's highly imaginative telling of the taltaloCalvin novel, The Baron in the Trees.

The Jeff Awards ceremony will be Monday, Nov. 8, at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage. Choreographer Marc Robin, once again a multiple Jeff nominee this year, will direct. The festivities are open to the public. For tickets and information, phone (773) 929-9087.

Following is a complete list of the Jeff nominees:

Production, play: "Death of a Salesman," Goodman Theatre; "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Court Theatre; "Henry IV, Part 1-2," Shakespeare Repertory; "The Little Foxes," Court Theatre; "Metamorphoses," Lookingglass Theatre Company; "Morning Star," Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

Production, musical: "Crazy for You," Drury Lane Oakbrook;

"Floyd Collins," Goodman Theatre; "Houdini," Marriott Theatre; "La Cage Aux Folles," Drury Lane Theatre Evergreen Park; "The Mandrake: A Renaissance Musical," greasy joan & co.; "The Wizard of Oz," Marriott Theatre.

New work: Claudia Allen, "Winter," Victory Gardens Theater; Rebecca Gilman, "Spinning Into Butter," Goodman Studio Theatre; Tom Mula, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol," Goodman Theatre; John Musial, "The Great Fire," Lookingglass Theatre Company; David Rush, "The Prophet of Bishop Hill," Chicago Dramatists.

New adaptation: Lawrence E. DiStasi and Heidi Stillman, "The Baron in the Trees," Lookingglass; Yassen Peyankov and Peter Christensen, "Ivanov," European Repertory Company; Christopher Tiffany and Andrew Hansen, "The Mandrake: A Renaissance Musical"; Mary Zimmerman, "Metamorphoses."

Production, revue: "All Night Strut," Drury Lane Theatre Evergreen Park; "Jerry's Girls," Drury Lane Theatre Evergreen Park; "The Revelation Will Not Be Televised," The Second City e.t.c.

Director, play: Randall Arney, "The Beauty Queen of Leenane," Steppenwolf; Robert Falls, "Death of a Salesman"; Barbara Gaines, "Henry IV, Parts 1-2"; Frank Galati, "Morning Star"; Gary Griffin, "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde"; Charles Newell, "The Little Foxes"; Mary Zimmerman, "Metamorphoses."

Director, musical: Ray Frewen, "Crazy for You"; Ray Frewen and Gary Griffin, "Shenandoah," Drury Lane Oakbrook; Tina Landau, "Floyd Collins"; Dominic Missimi, "The Wizard of Oz"; Marc Robin, "La Cage Aux Folles"; Kevin Theis, "The Mandrake: A Renaissance Musical."

Director, revue: Jeff Richmond, "The Revelation Will Not Be Televised"; Marc Robin, "All Night Strut"; Marc Robin, "Jerry's Girls."

Principal actress, play: Mary Beth Fisher, "Spinning Into Butter"; Laurie Metcalf, "The Beauty Queen of Leenane"; Hollis Resnik, "The Little Foxes"; Barbara Robertson, "La Bete," Court Theatre; Carmen Roman, "Master Class," Northlight Theatre; Mary Ann Thebus, "Remembrance," Famous Door Theatre.

Principal actress, musical: Kate Baldwin, "Finian's Rainbow," Marriott; Lisa Datz, "Violet," Apple Tree; Susan Moniz, "Peggy Sue Got Married," Marriott; Tammy Mader, "Singin' in the Rain," Drury Lane Oakbrook; Kathy Voytko, "Crazy for You."

Principal actor, play: Brian Dennehy, "Death of a Salesman"; Timothy Gregory, "Much Ado About Nothing," Shakespeare Rep; Mark L. Montgomery, "In the Belly of the Beast," The Journeymen; Tom Mula, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol"; Daniel J. Travanti, "Old Wicked Songs," Apple Tree; Greg Vinkler, "Henry IV, Parts 1-2."

Principal actor, musical: Roger Anderson, "La Cage Aux Folles"; Romain Fruge, "Floyd Collins"; James Harms, "La Cage Aux Folles"; Andrew J. Lupp, "Crazy for You"; Bernie Yvon, "Houdini."

Supporting actress, play: Elizabeth Franz, "Death of a Salesman"; Jenny Bacon, "Morning Star"; Laura T. Fisher, "Remembrance"; Linda Kimbrough, "Mere Mortals," Organic Theater Company; Tammy L. Meneghini, "The Prophet of Bishop Hill."

Supporting actress, musical: Cory Goodrich, "Shenandoah"; Kim Huber, "Floyd Collins"; Tammy Mader, "West Side Story," Drury Lane Theatre; Peggy Roeder, "The Wizard of Oz"; Ann Whitney, "Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up," Marriott.

Supporting actor, play: Robert Breuler, "Ivanov"; Christopher Fitzgerald, "The Beauty Queen of Leenane"; Zach Grenier, "ART," Royal George; Yassen Peyankov, "Morning Star"; Rick Snyder, "The Beauty Queen of Leenane."

Supporting actor, musical: Guy Adkins, "Floyd Collins"; Ian Brennan, "Finian's Rainbow"; Paul Slade Smith, "Peggy Sue Got Married"; Jonathan Weir, "Violet"; James Zager, "Singin' in the Rain."

Actress, revue: E. Faye Butler, "Jerry's Girls"; Sue Maxman, "The Revelation Will Not Be Televised"; Hollis Resnik, "Songs for a New World," Apple Tree; Kathy Santen, "Jerry's Girls"; Valerie Tekosky, "Elvis Presley Was a Black Man," Black Ensemble Theater.

Actor, revue: John Steven Crowley, "Elvis Presley Was a Black Man"; Tony Duwon, "Elvis Presley Was a Black Man"; Ali Farahnakian, "The Revelation Will Not Be Televised"; Martin Garcia, "The Revelation Will Not Be Televised"; Andre Garner, "Songs for a New

World"; Greg Walter, "The Irish . . . and How They Got That Way," Mercury Theatre.

Ensemble: "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been. . .?," Next Theatre; "East Texas Hot Links," Onyx Theatre Ensemble; "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde"; "Jitney," Goodman Theatre; "Metamorphoses"; "Morning Star."

Scenic design: John Culbert, "The Little Foxes"; John Dalton, "The Great Fire"; Santo Loquasto, "Morning Star"; Stephanie Nelson, "The Cut," A Red Orchid Theatre; Dan Ostling, "Metamorphoses."

Costume design: Jeff Hendry, "Jerry's Girls"; Virgil Johnson, "Henry IV, Parts 1-2"; Nancy Missimi, "The Wizard of Oz"; Caryn Weglarz, "La Cage Aux Folles"; Nan Zabriskie, "Much Ado About Nothing."

Lighting design: John Culbert, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol"; T.J. Gerckens, "Metamorphoses"; Christine Solger-Binder, "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde"; Diane Ferry Williams, "The Wizard of Oz"; Scott Zielinski, "Floyd Collins."

Sound design: Joseph Fosco, "The Cut"; Chris J. Johnson & the Ensemble, "Therese Raquin," greasy joan & co.; Lindsay Jones, "Old Wicked Songs"; Ray Nardelli, "The Great Fire"; Dan Moses Schrier, "Floyd Collins."

Choreography: Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi, "The Baron in the Trees"; Marc Robin, "Crazy for You"; Marc Robin, "La Cage aux Folles"; Marc Robin, "Singin' in the Rain"; Marc Robin, "West Side Story."

Original music: Joe Cerqua, "The Cripple of Inishmaan," Northlight; Alaric Jans, "Henry IV, Parts 1-2"; Michael Kirkpatrick and Richard Woodbury, "The Beauty Queen of Leenane"; Henry Marsh, "Much Ado About Nothing"; Larry Schanker, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol"; Willy Schwarz, "Metamorphoses."

Musical direction: Amy J. Abler, "Crazy for You"; Amy J. Abler, "Shenandoah"; Terry James, "All Night Strut"; Thomas Murray, "Songs for a New World"; Kathy Van Zwoil, "The Mandrake: A Renaissance Musical."

Non-resident, production: "Cabaret," Shubert Theatre; "Ragtime," Oriental Theatre/Ford Center for the Performing Arts; "Titanic," Civic Opera House; "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

Principal actress, non-resident: Donna Bullock, "Ragtime"; LaChanze, "Ragtime"; Natalie Toro, "Evita," Chicago Theatre.

Principal actor, non-resident: Hinton Battle, "Ragtime"; Norbert Leo Butz, "Cabaret"; Raul Esparza, "Evita"; Peter Kevoian, "Ragtime."

Supporting actress, non-resident: Barbara Andres, "Cabaret"; Kristin Chenoweth, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"; Mary Gutzi, "Ragtime"; Natasha Rennalls, "Fame."

Supporting actor, non-resident: Roger Bart, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"; Marcus Chait, "Titanic"; John Frenzer, "Ragtime"; Dick Latessa, "Cabaret"; B.D. Wong, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Caption: Elizabeth Franz and Brian Dennehy are among the Joseph Jefferson nominees for supporting actress and principal actor, respectively, for "Death of a Salesman" at the Goodman Theatre. Lookingglass Theatre's "Metamorphoses" is nominated for Jeff awards in seven categories.

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