



CONTACT: Gail Pfeifer
 Leshner Center for the Arts
 925-295-1401
pfeifer@lesherartscenter.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**31st ANNUAL SHELLIE AWARD
 WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT
 LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

WALNUT CREEK – THE 31st ANNUAL SHELLIE AWARDS gala celebration honoring outstanding achievement in the performing arts in Central Contra Costa County was held Saturday, January 16th at 7:30pm at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

The black-tie event featured production numbers from each of the nominated musicals along with scenes from each of the nominated plays. Ken Bergmann conducted the Shellie Awards Orchestra and the MC's for the evening were Jeff Collister, Jerry Motta, Kerri Shawn, and Michael White. Throughout the evening the audience was entertained with live and "remote" video broadcasts from backstage and other areas throughout the Center.

Shellie Awards innovator, Scott Denison, says "The Shellie Awards were founded thirty one years ago in order to recognize outstanding achievement in the performing arts in Central Contra Costa. This is an evening to honor the nominees, as well as the winners."

Patterned after Broadway's Tony awards, this year's Shellie Awards honored over 120 individuals and their work in musical and non-musical theatrical productions, which took place between September 1, 2008 and August 31, 2009. The 13 regional companies participating were: Butterfield 8 Theatre Company, Center REPeritory Company, Contra Costa Christian Theatre, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Diablo Actors Ensemble, Diablo Theatre Company, Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre, Onstage Repertory Theatre, Pittsburg Community Theatre, Role Players Ensemble Theatre, Town Hall Theatre Company, The Vagabond Players, and Willows Theatre Company.

The custom designed porcelain Shellie statuettes were awarded to:

CATEGORY	MUSICAL	PLAY
Actress	Mindy Lym for <i>Evita</i> By Contra Costa Musical Theatre	Lorri Holt for <i>Doubt</i> By Center REPeritory Company
Actor	Marcus Klinger For <i>The Producers</i> by Diablo Theatre Company	Joel Roster for <i>Someone Who'll Watch Over Me</i> by Diablo Actors Ensemble
Supporting Actress	Amy Nielson for <i>42nd Street</i> by Contra Costa Musical Theatre and Lin Hypes <i>The Sound of Music</i> Vagabond Players	Janice Anderson for <i>Helen's Most Favorite Day</i> By Onstage Theatre
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Supporting Actor	Clinton Derricks-Carroll for <i>Ain't Misbehavin'</i> by Center REPeritory Company and Ryan Drummond For <i>The Producers</i> By Diablo Theatre Company	Will Southard for <i>Maids & Matrons</i> by Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre
Scenic Designer	Tom Mastousek for <i>The Spitfire Grill</i> by Contra Costa Christian Theatre	Kelly Tighe for <i>Enchanted April</i> by Center REPeritory Company
Costumer	Victoria Hall for <i>Cabaret</i> by Center REPeritory Company	Betty Brown for <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by Pittsburg Community Theatre
Lighting Designer	John Earls for <i>42nd Street</i> by Contra Costa Musical Theatre	David Cuthbert for <i>Enchanted April</i> by Center REPeritory Company
Director	Robert Barry Fleming for <i>Ain't Misbehavin'</i> by Center REPeritory Company	Richard Elliott for <i>On Golden Pond</i> by Willows Theatre Company
Choreographer	Renee DeWeese for <i>42nd Street</i> by Contra Costa Musical Theatre	
Music Director	Mark Hanson for <i>The Producers</i> by Diablo Theatre Company	
Production	<i>The Producers</i> by Diablo Theatre Company	<i>2 Pianos 4 Hands</i> by Center REPeritory Company

Also Shellies for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts were awarded to **Michele Lewandowski** by Contra Costa Christian Theatre, **Dustin Riggs** by Contra Costa Musical Theatre; **Helen Means** by Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre; **Ron and Christy Dallimonti** by Onstage Theatre; **Wendy Cooper** by Role Players Ensemble, and **Amy Goodheart** by Town Hall Theatre Company.

Guest presenters for the evening included the presidents and artistic directors from each of the participating theatres along with, Contra Costa Supervisor Mary Piepho, Mayor Sue Rainey from Walnut Creek, Mayor Guy Bjerke from Concord, Mayor Mike Doyle from Danville, Mayor Rob Schroder from Martinez, Mayor Karen Mitchoff from Pleasant Hill, Mayor Brandt Andersson from Lafayette, Gary Fisher from Chevron and Scott MacCormac, Kevin Sanchez and Peggy White from the Diablo Regional Arts Association.

All proceeds from ticket sales will go towards the continued support of the Shellie Awards program and the participating performing arts companies. This year's Shellie Awards were also underwritten by generous donations from the Diablo Regional Arts Association and the City of Walnut Creek.

As the festivities concluded in the lobby with a champagne and dessert reception honoring the nominees and award winners, the date for the 32nd Annual Shellie Awards was announced to be Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 7:30pm with tickets going on sale on November 1, 2010.