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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**33rd ANNUAL SHELLIE AWARD
 WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT
 LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

WALNUT CREEK – THE 33rd ANNUAL SHELLIE AWARDS gala celebration honoring outstanding achievement in the performing arts in Central Contra Costa County was held Saturday, January 14th at 7:30pm at the Leshar 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 three 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, 2010 and August 31, 2011. The 13 regional companies participating were: Butterfield 8 Theatre Company, Center REPeritory Company, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Diablo Actors Ensemble, Diablo Theatre Company, Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre, Hapgood Theatre Company, Onstage 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	Victoria Morgan for <i>Hairspray</i> By Contra Costa Musical Theatre	Lynda DiVito for <i>Boeing-Boeing</i> By Center REPeritory Company
Actor	John Blytt For <i>Scrooge, the Musical</i> by Town Hall Theatre Company	Alex Moggridge for <i>Boeing-Boeing</i> by Center REPeritory Company
Supporting Actress	Erica Richardson for <i>Hairspray</i> by Contra Costa Musical Theatre	Heidi Abbott for <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> By Town Hall Theatre Company
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Supporting Actor	Noel Anthony for <i>She Loves Me</i> by Center REPeritory Company	Eric Inman for <i>King O' the Moon</i> by Willows Theatre Company
Scenic Designer	Eric Sinkkonen for <i>Blues in the Night</i> by Center REPeritory Company	Kim A. Tolman for <i>Dracula</i> by Center REPeritory Company
Costumer	Victoria Livingston-Hall for <i>She Loves Me</i> by Center REPeritory Company	Hope Birdwell for <i>Driving Miss Daisy</i> by Diablo Actors Ensemble
Lighting Designer	Danny Maher for <i>Chicago</i> by Willows Theatre Company	Chris Guptill for <i>Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i> by Town Hall Theatre Company
Director	Daren A. C. Carollo for <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i> by Diablo Theatre Company	Scott Fryer for <i>Driving Miss Daisy</i> by Diablo Actors Ensemble
Choreographer	Jennifer Perry for <i>Hairspray</i> by Contra Costa Musical Theatre	
Music Director	Brandon Adams for <i>She Loves Me</i> by Center REPeritory Company	
Production	<i>Hairspray</i> By Contra Costa Musical Theatre	<i>Boeing-Boeing</i> by Center REPeritory Company

Also Shellies for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts were awarded to **Scott Strain** by Contra Costa Musical Theatre, **Mark D'Angelo** by Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre; **Rob Seitelman** by Hapgood Theatre Company; **C. C. Cardin** by Onstage Theatre; **Don & Sharon Ritchey** by Role Players Ensemble Theatre, and **Betsy Streeter** 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 Bob Simmons from Walnut Creek, Mayor Candace Andersen from Danville, Mayor John Hanecak from Pleasant Hill, Mayor Ron Leone from Concord, Mayor Rob Schroder from Martinez, and Scott MacCormac 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 34th Annual Shellie Awards was announced to be Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 7:30pm with tickets going on sale on November 6, 2012.