



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2009

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Bay Street Players Announces 2008-2009 Dolly Award Winners

(Eustis, FL)... The 2008-2009 Bay Street Players Dolly Award winners were announced during the 34th Annual Dolly Award event, *A Night of Stars*. The 'black-tie requested' event took place Saturday evening August 22, 2009 at the Historic State Theatre.

The Dolly Awards – so named because the first show presented by Bay Street Players was *Hello Dolly*– is fashioned after classic award ceremonies such as Broadway's Tony Awards. The evening celebrated the close of the most successful season in the history of Bay Street Players and it featured highlights and presenters from the 34th Season as well as live entertainment snapshots of what is to come in the 35th Season. In addition to the best actor awards, others were honored for outstanding contributions made during the season.

A new annual award was introduced called the *Julia Nora Vatter Technical Theatre Award*. So named after its first honoree, Julia Vatter. Prior to her recent passing, Ms. Vatter spent half her life immersed in the Bay Street Players youth programs and main stage productions. She made significant contributions to the theatre, especially in the technical production arena. The *Julia Nora Vatter Technical Theatre Award* will honor her memory each year by recognizing an individual who makes a significant impact in the area of technical theatre at Bay Street Players.

Also, a special award was presented to **Evelyn H. Smith** in recognition of her role as fundraising Chair of Phase I of *A Theatre Reborn: The Campaign for the Restoration of the Historic State Theatre*. This campaign began in 2006 to raise the funds needed to renovate the auditorium and other essential improvements. Mrs. Smith was instrumental in generating community support for this important effort, thereby ensuring the theatre reached their capital fundraising goal and the project was successfully implemented.

This *black tie requested* event was immediately followed by a Champagne toast and dessert buffet catered by Olivia's Coffeehouse. Dolly Award Nominees and winners are selected by a private jury that completes ballots throughout the season. The 2008-2009 Dolly Award Winners are:

MUSICAL

ACTRESS

Ashley Willsey as Laurey in *Oklahoma!*

ACTOR

Joel Warren as Curly in *Oklahoma!*

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Whitney Abell as Ado Annie Carnes in *Oklahoma!*

SUPPORTING ACTOR

Rob Mobley as Will Parker in *Oklahoma!*

FEATURED ACTRESS

Deborah J. Carpenter as Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma!*

FEATURED ACTOR

Michael Mormon as Noah "Horse" T. Simmons in *The Full Monty*

(Continued)

FEMALE BIT

Kayln Eury as Gertie Cummings in
Oklahoma!

MALE BIT

Joey Sikkema as Slim in *Oklahoma!*

PLAY – non musical

ACTRESS

Francie Moon as Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*

ACTOR

Michael Mormon as Hoke Colburn in *Driving Miss Daisy*

FEATURED ACTOR

Bill Welter as The Common Man in *A Man for All Seasons*

MALE BIT

Adrian LePeltier as Cardinal Wolsey in *A Man for All Seasons*

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Barbara Blake as Lady Alice More in *A Man for All Seasons*

SUPPORTING ACTOR

Mark Edward Smith as Thomas Cromwell in
A Man for All Seasons

PRODUCTION OF THE YEAR

Driving Miss Daisy

YPT Student of the Year

Julia N. Vatter

Executive Director's Award

Seford Olsen

Volunteer of the Year

William A. Dumas

Artistic Director's Award

Tara Whitman

Youth Volunteer of the Year

Julia N. Vatter

Appreciation Award- Evelyn H. Smith

Campaign Chair, *A Theatre Reborn - Phase I*
The Campaign for the Restoration of the
Historic State Theatre

Julia Nora Technical Theatre Award

Julia Nora Vatter

President's Award

Elizabeth Drew Scholl