

BAY STREET PLAYERS  
PRESS RELEASE

Bay Street Players' Young People's Theatre Alumnus Takes Home Drama Desk Award

When Eustis High School graduate and Bay Street Players Young People's Theatre alumnus Adam Mathias told his parents, local residents Sam and Ellen Green, that his play *See Rock City and Other Destinations*, had been nominated for the prestigious Drama Desk Award, he warned them not to get too excited as his chances for winning were remote. But on the night of May 23, the night of the awards ceremony, the Greens received a text that left them reeling! Says Ellen Green, "Adam's text to me was, 'Mom, I won best book of a musical! I'm in shock!' I still have that in my phone! It was one of the most exciting moments of my life!" Winning in the category of Outstanding Book of a Musical, Mathias' play had competed in a field which included the highly popular and critically-acclaimed Book of Mormon.

Mathias' theatrical career began locally when he was seven years old and he played an orphan in *Oliver* as a member of the Bay Street Players Young People's Theatre. Bay Street Players co-founder Deborah Carpenter was Adam's instructor in the YPT, and remembers him, "being in *Oliver*, and being at the front of the line of boys." As a high school senior, he wrote two shows that the students performed at Bay Street. He later went on to attend theatre school at DePaul University, and Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, for his graduate degree in the Musical Theatre Writing Program. Mathias' award-winning script, set to a pop-rock musical score, takes us to tourist destinations around the country, acquainting us with an odd assortment of characters all searching for their special destiny. *See Rock City* was produced off-Broadway by the Transport Group at the Duke Theatre on 42nd Street in 2010. It is now available for licensing from Samuel French, Inc. *See Rock City* has also been the recipient of the 2007 Jerry Bock Award and the 2008 Richard Rogers Award. The Drama Desk Awards Ceremony will air several times this month on the Ovation Channel. Check listings for times.

The Bay Street Players are honored to claim Adam as one of their own, and cheer him on to further success in the future!