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## **2014 LA STAGE ALLIANCE OVATION AWARDS PRESENTED SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT HISTORIC SAN GABRIEL MISSION PLAYHOUSE**

The 2014 LA STAGE Alliance Ovation Awards, celebrating theatrical excellence and achievement during the past 12 months, were presented on Sunday, November 2 at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse.

**Thirty-five awards were bestowed upon 18 different Southern California theatre companies. The Geffen Playhouse, Skylight Theatre Company, and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts tied with four statues each; La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, The Echo Theater Company, and The Theatre @ Boston Court and Rattlestick Playwrights Theater tied with three awards each.**

**The breakdown is as follows: Geffen Playhouse — three for *The Country House* and one for *Slowgirl*; Skylight Theatre Company — four nods for *The Wrong Man*; Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts — two for *Parfumerie* and two for *Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life*; La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts — two for *Floyd Collins* and one for *Les Misérables*; Echo Theater Company — two for *Backyard* and one for *Firemen*; The Theatre @ Boston Court and Rattlestick Playwrights Theater — three for *Everything You Touch*.**

**Other companies honored were Pacific Resident Theatre, Chance Theater, Fugitive Kind Theater, 3-D Theatricals, Musical Theatre West, IAMA Theatre Company, A Noise Within, Actors Co-op, Actors' Gang, MainStreet Theatre Company, and Center Theatre Group. The Fountain Theatre received the Best Season Award.**

**For a complete list of winners, visit [www.OvationAwards.com](http://www.OvationAwards.com).**

LA STAGE Alliance CEO Terence McFarland commented, "This year marks 25 years of celebrating excellence in Los Angeles theatre. At the ceremony we acknowledged not only those in competitive categories, but all of the artists, craftspeople, technicians, volunteers, ushers, stage managers — all those who ensure that the magic happens on stages throughout the region. We

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welcomed the 2014 recipients into the Ovation family and look forward to celebrating at least 25 more years of achievement in performance, design, and production.”

Additionally, Sarah Lyding, Executive Director of the Biller Family Foundation, presented the Biller BEST (Building Excellence in Small Theatre) Awards, including checks totaling \$75,000 to the following LA theatre companies: intimate — The Blank Theatre (also won in 2013), The Fountain Theatre, Circle X Theatre Company (also won in 2011 and 2012); mid-sized — East West Players (also won in 2013), A Noise Within (also won in 2012), and The Theatre @ Boston Court (also won in 2012 and 2013). Center Theatre Group presented the 2014 Sherwood Award for innovative and adventurous artists to director Sean Cawelti. This award is endowed by the Sherwood family and is accompanied by \$10,000 to further Cawelti’s artistic work.

The ceremony was hosted by **Kate Burton** and **Katie Lowes**, and this year’s presenters included (in alphabetical order) **Max Adler, Bill Ahmanson, Hugo Armstrong, Malcolm Barrett, Alexandra Billings, Debby Boone, Danielle Brazell, Anne Gee Byrd, Deborah S. Craig, Dana Delany, Lorna Duyn, Drew Droege, Lorna Duyn, Todrick Hall, Ameenah Kaplan, Daniel Dae Kim, DJ Kurs, Matthew Lillard, Josefina Lopez, Justina Machado, Gabriel Neustadt, Jenny O’Hara, Peter Paige, Nicole Parker, Jenelle Riley, Freddy Rodriguez, Leon Rossum, Tessa Thompson, and Greg Watanabe.**

Founded in 1989, the LA STAGE Alliance Ovation Awards are the only peer-judged theatre awards in Los Angeles. Voters are Los Angeles theatre professionals who are chosen each year, through an application process, by the Ovation Rules Committee. The list of nominees is determined by a tabulation of scores conducted by Green Hasson Janks. This year’s Ovation Award eligibility period ran from August 26, 2013 through August 31, 2014.

LA STAGE Alliance is dedicated to building awareness, appreciation and support for the performing arts in Greater Los Angeles through community building, collaborative marketing/audience development, professional development to strengthen the sector, and advocacy. Providing access to the performing arts for patrons and access to information and resources for organizations has been the mission of the Alliance for over 35 years. The Alliance connects artists and arts administrators from over 500 groups annually in a six county region with opportunities to engage, inspire, educate and entertain over four million households that interact with the arts in our community. The Alliance engenders a stronger and more connected creative Los Angeles.

The production team for this year’s ceremony was led by executive producer Terence McFarland. His team of producers included (in alphabetical order) Andrew Carlberg, Crystal Diaz, Dani Oliver, and Matt Sweeney. This year’s sponsors were Bakers Man Productions, Dazian, the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation, Deep Eddy Vodka, Actors Equity Association, Goldstar, Green Hasson Janks, Ken Werther Publicity, LA Sound Company, Kinetic Lighting, Inc., and the Los Angeles Times.     # # #