



Vol. 5, Special Edition

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## SPECIAL AWARDS ISSUE

**BMI WORKSHOP CELEBRATES RECORD SEASON FOR TONY, OUTER CRITICS CIRCLE, DRAMA DESK, LORTEL, KLEBAN, RODGERS, BOCK, MAC AWARDS—AND MORE!**

**BMI-Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop honored by Broadway Theatre Institute**

**Awards for NINE and AVENUE Q**

On Monday, September 15, **The BMI-Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop** received the **Broadway Theatre Institute Award for Excellence in Theatre Arts Education**. The ceremony took place at the **Players Club**, 16 Gramercy Park South in New York City. Composer-lyricist **Maury Yeston**, who led the Advanced Workshop from Fall 1982 through Spring 2003, accepted the award from Workshop members **Robert Lopez** and **Jeff Marx** (creators and songwriters of the current hit musical *Avenue Q*).

The current production of *Nine*, music and lyrics by **Maury Yeston**, received **four 2003**

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**Tony Awards**, including **Best Revival of a Musical**—an honor also bestowed it by the **Drama Desk** and **Outer Critics Circle Awards**. Yeston, a previous Tony winner (*Titanic* and *Nine*) and Tony nominee (*Grand Hotel*) is also a multiple **Grammy Award** nominee (*Nine* and *Titanic*).

*Avenue Q*, conceived and with a score by **Robert Lopez** and **Jeff Marx**, recently moved from the **Vineyard Theatre** off-Broadway to Broadway's **John Golden Theatre**. The show received **two Lucille Lortel Awards** including **Best Musical**; **five Drama Desk Nominations** including **Best Musical**, **Best Book** and **Best Music**; an **Outer Critics Circle Nomination** for **Best Off-Broadway Musical**; and a **Drama League** nomination for **Distinguished Musical**. Lopez and Marx were previously honored with the **BMI Foundation Harrington Award** and among the winners of the **2000 Kleban Foundation award for excellence in theatre lyrics**.

**Blumenkrantz  
Tony Nominated**

Workshop member **Jeff Blumenkrantz** was among *Urban Cowboy's* **Best Score Tony nominees** for his contributions to that show. The Composer-lyricist, a prominent New York actor, is also a **BMI Foundation Harrington Award Winner**.

**Hall Wins 2003 Best Song  
Mac Award**

Newly appointed Moderator of the Second Year, **Carol Hall**, is the winner of the **2003 MAC Award** for Best Song of the Year, "I Dream in Technicolor." Hall is a previous recipient of two **Drama Desk Awards** (music and lyrics for *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*), a **Most Performed Country Song Award** ("Hard Candy Christmas" from *Whorehouse*) and two **Gold Record** albums.

The **2002 MAC Award** for Best Song of the Year went to alumni Workshop members **Marcy Heisler** and **Zina Goldrich** for "Welcome the Rain."

**2003 Bock Award to  
Oler And Hubbard**

Composer **Kim Oler** and lyricist **Alison Hubbard**—previous winners of the BMI Foundation Harrington Award—are now also recipients of the **2003 Jerry Bock Award** for their musical *The Enchanted Cottage*. Winners of this award are personally and annually selected by the Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning BMI composer for which it is named. Bock's renowned scores are: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Fiorello*, *Tenderloin*, *She Loves Me*, *The Apple Tree* and *The Rothschilds*.

The **2002 Bock Award** went to workshop members **Frank Evans** (lyricist and member of the Workshop Steering Committee) and **Ben Schaechter** (composer) for *Dinner at Eight*, recently staged at **London's Theatre Royal, Drury Lane**.

**DiLallo wins 2003 Kleban and  
Rodgers Awards  
Wood and Gerle garner 2nd  
Rodgers Award,  
Spencer and Witkin receive  
Rodgers and Gilman**

Established by the late Composer-lyricist **Edward Kleban**, the **Kleban Foundation** was set up

to give substantial financial awards to lyricists and librettists. Kleban, a workshop member and first generation Committee member following the death of Lehman Engel, was lyricist of *A Chorus Line* and composer-lyricist of *A Class Act*, the posthumously created biographical musical about his life.

Workshop alumna **Susan DiLallo** is the winner of the **2003 Kleban Award**, as librettist for *Once Upon a Time in New Jersey*, a musical comedy set in 1956 Hoboken (DiLallo is also the show's lyricist). The show, written in collaboration with alumnus workshop Composer **Stephen Weiner**, was also awarded a **2003 Richard Rodgers Development Award**.

Workshop lyricist-librettist **Maryrose Wood** and her participating collaborator, composer **Andrew Gerle**, who won a **2002 Richard Rodgers Developmental Award** for *The Tutor*, are recipients of the **2003 Richard Rodgers Production Award** for further development of the same work. The studio workshop production, funded by the award, was recently presented at the **York Theater**.

Composer-lyricist **David Spencer** of the Workshop Steering Committee, and a **2000 Kle-**

**ban** co-winner for lyrics and Librettist Workshop alumnus **Stephen Witkin** received **2002's other Richard Rodgers Development Award** for *The Fabulist*, an epic fantasy-fable of Aesop—coincidentally based on a novel by yet one more workshop alumnus from the Lehman Engel years, **John Vornholt**. Lyrics for *The Fabulist* helped make Spencer another **2000 Kleban Award** winner. Spencer also received a **Gilman and Gonzalez-Falla Commendation Grant** (his second) for his work on the score (he received his first in 1996 for the **Theatreworks/USA** version of *The Phantom of the Opera*.) The G-GF Foundation is extending its support into 2003, generously funding further development of *The Fabulist*.

A previous Rodgers Award Winner from the Workshop is alumnus **Douglas Cohen** for *The Gig*. Previous Kleban winners from the Workshop include **Patrick Cook, Glenn Slater, Brian Crawley, Michael John La Chiusa** and **Michael Korie**.

**OPAL and WAR BRIDES Win Connecticut Spirit Awards**

Northeastern Connecticut's

**Spirit Awards** were given to *Opal* (**Best Show of The Year**), by Workshop Alumnus **Robert Lindsey Nassif**; and to *War Brides* (**Best New Musical**) by Workshop members **Frank Evans** (lyricist), **Ron Sproat** (librettist) and **Christopher Berg** (composer). **Shawn Hartley** (lyricist) and **Jihwan Kim** (composer), both in the Advanced Workshop were nominated for Best New Musical for *Cupid and Psyche*, which recently opened at Off-Broadway's **John Houseman Studio Theater**.

*War Brides* was also named **Best of the Year** by the *Norwich Bulletin*.

**Beth Blatt Wins the Georgia Bogardus Holof Lyricist Award**

**Georgia Holoff** was a long-standing member of the Workshop, whose career included a stint in residence at the **O'Neill Theatre Center's Music Theatre Conference** for the development of *Fahrenheit 451* with her collaborators librettist **Ray Bradbury** and composer **David Mettee**. After her death, husband **Robert Holof**, in loving memory, endowed a fund to present an annual award to a lyricist likewise in residence at the

**O'Neill** each summer.

This year's award was presented to Workshop member **Beth Blatt**, while she was working at the O'Neill with workshop composer **Jenny Giering** and Pulitzer Prize winning librettist **Marsha Norman** on their new musical *Caraboo*.

The first Hloff Award, granted in 2001, went to **Maryrose Wood** (see Rodgers Award section, above).

**OVER FORTY YEARS OF HONORS FOR WORKSHOP WRITERS**

The BMI-Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop has been receiving kudos since its inception. A partial list includes:

- **Ed Kleban**, who received the Pulitzer Prize, Tony Award and Olivier Award for *A Chorus Line*. Kleban, posthumously, as composer-lyricist, and **Linda Kline**, as co-librettist, were Tony nominees for *A Class Act*. In addition, Kleban received an Oscar nomination for the film version of *A Chorus Line*.
- Composer **Alan Menken** and Lyricist-Librettist **Howard Ashman**, whose *Little Shop of Horrors* (cur-

rently in revival at Broadway's Virginia Theater), received the **Drama Critics and Drama Desk Awards for Best Musical**; the **Outer Critics Award for Best Musical and Best Score**, London's **Evening Standard Award for Best Musical** and a **Grammy Nomination for Best Cast Album**. Ashman and Menken also received Tony nominations for for *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Menken has received **five Academy Awards, four Golden Globes and four Grammy Awards**.

- **Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty**, winners of the **Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle** awards for *Ragtime*, as well as **two Grammy Nominations** for *Songs from Ragtime* (the pre-Broadway "concept album" derived from the initial Toronto engagement) and the subsequent **Original Broadway Cast Recording**. They also received **two Oscar and two Golden Globe nominations** for their work on the animated film *Anastasia*. For *Once On This Island* they were awarded London's **1995 Olivier Award for Best Musical** and received **Tony**

**nominations for Best Score and Best Book.**

- Workshop veteran **Judd Woldin**, who composed the score for *Raisin*, which won the **Best Musical Tony**.
- Lyricist **Richard Engquist** and composer **Raphael Crystal**, whose *Kuni-Leml* won the **Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical**.
- **Gerard Alessandrini**, winner of **four Drama Desk Awards, two Lortel Awards, an Outer Critics Circle Award** and a **Lifetime Drama League Award** for *Forbidden Broadway*, which is in its now playing its **20th Anniversary Edition**.
- Composer and Co-lyricist **Mark Hollman** whose *Urinetown* won a **Tony for Best Score, an Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics** and an **Obie Award**.
- Composer **Jeanine Tesori**, whose *Thoroughly Modern Millie* won a **Tony Award for Best Musical**.
- Composer-lyricist **Clark Gesner**, whose *You're a*

*Good Man, Charlie Brown* received multiple nominations for various awards, winning, for its initial production, two **Drama Desk Awards** and an **Outer Critics Circle Award**.

Additional Honors:

**Gilman and Gonzalez-Falla Theatre Foundation Awards** have been awarded to Workshop Writers **Michael John LaChuisa, Andrew Lippa, Douglas Cohen, Jeanine Tesori and David Spencer**.

Workshop Tony Nominees include **Ellen Fitzhugh** for *Grind*, **Susan Birkenhead** for *Jelly's Last Jam*, **Gary William Friedman** for *The Me Nobody Knows*, and **Michael John LaChuisa** for *Marie Christine* and *The Wild Party*.

**The Jonathan Larson Foundation** has variously provided support and development grants to Workshop members **Paul Scott Goodman, Jenny Giering, Beth Blatt, John Mercurio, Michael Korie and Yvonne Adrian**.

**BROADWAY THEATRE INSTITUTE  
AWARDS CEREMONY  
at  
The Players**

**This year's recipients:**

**For Excellence in  
Theatre History Preservation:  
The Players**

**For Excellence in  
Theatre Arts Education :  
The BMI-Lehman Engel  
Musical Theatre Workshop**

**For Distinguished Service  
to the Theatre:  
Materials for the Arts**

**For Lifetime Achievement:  
John Willis, Editor of *Theatre World***

**Special Award:  
St. Malachy's/The Actors' Chapel  
on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Master of Ceremonies:  
Gerard Alessandrini**

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