

MEDIA RELEASE

2009 APACA Drover Awards Nominees are announced.

The nominations have been collated, the expert panel has met and the finalists for the 2009 Australian Performing Arts Centres' Association Drover Awards have been determined.

Winners of the awards listed below as well as the Special Panel Award and Touring Legend will be announced at the APACA Drover Awards as part of the Annual APACA Conference in Port Macquarie on Wednesday 16 September 2009.

The Awards will be hosted by the inimitable Rod Quantock.

Some previous winners include Bell Shakespeare Company, Jacki Weaver and The Australian Ballet.

APACA Executive Officer, Rick Heath said, "the Drover Awards are a fantastic celebration of the sheer hard work involved in touring around this vast country. This year's nominees have made a great contribution to the cultural development of the communities they work in and are very deserving of the recognition the awards bring."

The Drover Awards were instigated in 2003 by APACA to reward excellence in performing arts touring and celebrate the massive contribution of Australia's best performing arts touring companies, individuals and venues.

APACA is the national peak body representing performing arts centres from all over Australia. The Association is dedicated to the advocacy, professional development and support of its membership, whilst contributing to the development of the performing arts throughout Australia.

The Finalists

Touring Design

This recognises innovation and quality in production design for touring. This includes sets, costumes, lighting and sound. These elements have excellent artistic standards yet accommodate the need of different size venues, technical capabilities, OH&S requirements and level of support required by the venue.

Finalists:

- The Arrival – Spare Parts Puppet Theatre
- Deeply Offensive and Utterly Untrue – Version 1.0
- Emily Loves to Bounce – Patch Theatre Company
- The Seed – Company B

Outstanding Touring Production Crew

This recognises the hard work performed by touring crews who always are the first to arrive at a venue and the last to leave. It rewards a commitment to customer service, excellent communication and a high level of skill, expertise and knowledge. It also recognises the harmony and team effort required for touring crews.

Finalists:

- Emily Loves to Bounce – Patch Theatre Company
- Threshold – Cosentino Entertainment
- The Gathering – Taik Oz
- True Stories – Bangarra Dance Theatre

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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Excellent Audience Response

This award recognises the production that garnered an exceptional response from audiences. It is not dependent on box office success however this may play a factor. It acknowledges a significant impact a performance has made whether as a result of exceptional creative and artistic quality, the subject matter of the production, additional activities surrounding the performance, or more simply, pure entertainment value.

Finalists:

- Emily Loves to Bounce – Patch Theatre Company
- Deep Blue – Creative Media Warehouse
- Peace Train, The Cat Stevens Story – Peace Train Entertainment
- The Seed – Company B

Tour of the Year

This award recognises both the production company with an outstanding commitment to touring and the tour coordinator delivering exceptional touring services. It rewards the commitment to form strong partnerships and to work collaboratively to develop audiences and enrich the cultural lives of all Australians. The Tour of the Year is awarded for overall excellence in touring, recognising the quality of the production, the marketing campaign and the people making it happen.

Finalists:

- Emily Loves to Bounce – Patch Theatre Co. / Tour Coordination - Country Arts SA
- The Gathering – Taik Oz / Tour Coordination - Arts On Tour NSW
- The Arrival – Spare Parts Puppet Theatre / Tour Coordination - Country Arts WA
- The Club – Hit Productions / Tour Coordination – Hit Productions

Best Presenter

The Drover Award for best presenter recognises the achievements of an outstanding presenting organisation/performing arts centre and is awarded to the presenter who works with the producer to provide consistently outstanding production, marketing and management services. In addition, this presenter will have achieved exceptional success in audience development and community engagement.

Finalists:

- The Princess Theatre – Launceston TAS
- Colac Otway Performing Arts Centre – VIC
- The Capital – Bendigo's Performing Arts Centre – VIC

Outstanding Production Services by a Presenter

Voted by Producers and Tour Coordinators, this award acknowledges the presenting organisation that provides excellent technical service and support including a well-maintained and equipped venue and exceptional technical staff.

Finalists:

- Canberra Theatre Centre – Canberra ACT
- Orange Civic Theatre – Orange NSW
- Theatre Royal – Hobart TAS

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