



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### AWARDS BANQUET WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL 2017 OZONE DRAMA FESTIVAL IN SALMON ARM

The 2017 Theatre BC Okanagan Zone Drama Festival wrapped up with the Awards Banquet Saturday night in Salmon Arm.

Festival Co-chairs Joyce Henderson and Bea Kirkwood-Hackett reported that the Festival was successful beyond expectations – attendance at the seven performances averaged 81% of capacity, including three sold out shows. More than 200 people came to Salmon Arm from Princeton, Oliver, Kelowna, Vernon and Armstrong to participate in the Festival.

One of the highlights of the Festival from the participants perspective was the “Coffee Critiques” conducted the morning after each performance by Festival Adjudicator James Fagan Tait. The sessions, open to Festival audiences, were full of positive energy as Tait explored details of each production with the directors, actors, designers and stage managers who presented the plays.

Festival winners, as chosen by James Fagan Tait, and announced at the Awards Banquet, are as follows:

Best Production - The Okanagan Zone Allum Cup, sponsored by Theatre BC Okanagan Zone  
Age of Arousal, Fred Skeleton Theatre Company

Best Runner Up Production - sponsored by the Stacer Team  
Since You Left Us, South Okanagan Amateur Players

Best Director - Asparagus Community Theatre Award  
Rob Mason-Brown, Age of Arousal, Fred Skeleton Theatre Company

Best Actor - Shuswap Theatre Award  
George Young, Half Life, Asparagus Community Theatre

Best Actress - Fred Skeleton Theatre Award  
Janet Anderson, Age of Arousal, Fred Skeleton Theatre Company

Best Supporting Actor - South Okanagan Amateur Players Award  
Rob Mason-Brown, Age of Arousal, Fred Skeleton Theatre Company

Best Supporting Actress - Sarah McLean Award, sponsored by Joyce Elderton  
Destiny MacWatters, Sisters, Powerhouse Theatrical Society

Best Set Design - Theatre Kelowna Society Award  
Bruce Turnbull, Half Life, Asparagus Community Theatre

Best Lighting Design - Maureen Ruscheinsky, Sutton Group Lakefront Realty  
Vanessa J. Lomas, Age of Arousal, Fred Skeleton Theatre Company

Best Sound Design - Barbara Keith Award  
Trevor Leigh, Since You Left Us, South Okanagan Amateur Players

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Best Costume Design - Penticton Chamber Theatre Award

Anne Ramey & Kerri Younie, RAFT: a rock opera, Theatre Kelowna Society

Best Props - Theatre Kelowna Society Award

Allen Bensmiller, Half Life, Asparagus Community Theatre

Best Set Décor - Powerhouse Theatrical Society Award

Bill Haidei, Rob Mason-Brown, Jenn Mills, Eric Dennis, Brad Hull, Age of Arousal, Fred Skeleton Theatre Company

Best Ensemble - Bumbershoot Theatre Award

Cast of Sisters, Powerhouse Theatrical Society

Best Newcomer - Wilson Riley Award, sponsored by Dick Clements

Valerie Heathman, Since You Left Us, South Okanagan Amateur Players

Adjudicator's Merit Awards

For courageous minimalism, Possible Worlds, Crimson Tine Theatre

Best musical direction, Randall Robinson, RAFT: a rock opera, Theatre Kelowna Society

Best solo performance, Kaitlan Hunter, Jewel, Shuswap Theatre

Best original score, Goran Sukunda, Age of Arousal, Fred Skeleton Theatre Company

Best musical ensemble, RAFT: a rock opera, Theatre Kelowna Society

Best Backstage Cooperation - Summerland Singers & Players Award

South Okanagan Amateur Players

Ozzie Award - Sponsored by Theatre BC Okanagan Zone

Deb Nicholson, Theatre Kelowna Society

Kim MacMillan made a presentation to James Bolwby in recognition of his life long service to Shuswap Theatre, Okanagan Zone and Theatre BC.

Fred Skeleton Theatre Company's production of Age of Arousal will represent the Okanagan Zone at the opening of Theatre BC Mainstage in Vernon on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mainstage runs at the Vernon Performing Arts Centre until July 7<sup>th</sup>.

The 2017 OZone Festival was sponsored by the City of Salmon Arm, Community Foundations of Canada-Canada 150, Shuswap Community Foundation, Salmon Arm Savings & Credit Union, Askew's Foods, Prestige Hotel and Shuswap Park Mall.

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