

EAT MORE ART! VEGAS
Valley Theatre Awards 2017/18
Adjudication Handbook



***There is no theatre without a community, and
there is no community without the Theatre!***

“**The Earth without ART is just ‘Eh’**” is a common meme that floats around the internet, but it’s so true! Why is that? Some say Theatre gives them chance to escape from their problems, while others feel that certain plays and stories offer insight to help solve them. *I love the theatre, because long ago, it gave me a place to feel like I belonged to something bigger than myself*; it inspired my sense of adventure and invention, and most of all, it helped me to appreciate the mystery of life, and the beauty in the people around me.

The minute we’re born, we start to wonder: “I’m scared- what’s happening to me? What is that thing over there? I’m cold and hungry- what do I do?!” Our reassurance comes from the first performance of our parents and loved ones. We have no words in common, but we have their smiles and soft voices to reassure us, and suddenly discover that we are not alone. From that moment on, we seek a reflection of ourselves in others as a way to make sense of things, and the conversation we began with the universe continues for the rest of our lives. When a community wants to exchange ideas, share in celebrations, and process emotions we come together at a theatre. It is a special way to communicate through interaction with others, in a shared time and space. *For the theatre artist, the audience is everything, because without you, it isn’t an act of theatre in the first place.*

Your voice matters. **Valley Theatre Awards Adjudicators** are discerning audience members. You are public servants for both the potential audience, and the artists alike. You protect the communication loop between the theatre and the community from being broken. Artists need the feedback to understand if their choices are working, and their skills are improving. Your friends and neighbors need encouragement, or they might miss something wonderful that may provide a few smiles, a welcome distraction, a chance to breathe, or a reason to think. Every performance is a once in a lifetime opportunity, because it can never be exactly repeated.

There are scores of people who dedicate their years of training, hours of creation, and extensive (though hard to come by) resources to one moment in time, and all for you in that seat. We can’t bottle those moments, but we can acknowledge the sacrifice and skill that made them possible, and we can celebrate and encourage our local artists to keep creating for us, even when the struggles are tough. **In a time where we are troubled by differences, the Theatre is a critical tool to building something in common** in the place where we live. By attending the theatre, and bringing your friends, you become part of a solution and it makes our shared home a better place. There really is no way to thank people who do that enough, but I am truly grateful all the same.

EAT MORE ART!

- Sarah O’Connell

Executive Director - sarah@eatmoreartvegas.com

Margo Jones, an influential American stage director and producer best known for launching the American regional theater movement 70 years ago, wrote, *“I want our age to be a golden age... I want to be a part of a civilization which is constantly being enriched. I like living in the age of the airplane and television, and I want to live in an age when there is great theatre everywhere.”*

Now you, too, can play an essential role in opening up new opportunities to develop productive arts and educational alliances across Southern Nevada. As adjudicators and participating theatre companies, you are critical players in building connections with future audiences, donors, young artists and the communities we serve. You can drive meaningful and authentic conversations about how we as a field can better serve and represent our communities.

Eat More Art! Vegas and **The Valley Theatre Awards** increase awareness of the local Las Vegas theatre scene, and recognize excellence through an annual theatre awards show – as do so many communities across the country, such as: the Helen Hayes Awards (Washington, D.C.), the Jeff Awards (Chicago), the Ovation Awards (Los Angeles), the Barrymore Awards (Philadelphia) and many others. Every one of these events affirm the overall quality of the theatre in their communities and is a public testament and invitation to audiences who may only be peripherally engaged with the theatre.

You help immeasurably by simply sharing your love of the theatre with others! You let everyone know about the work and who created it. You tell people why they should consider attending – and it has truly made a difference. You drive these two organizations to help art and artists thrive.

We welcome you to the table and invite you to enjoy the buffet of theatre arts programming to be presented during the 2017-2018 Season. Just remember: Commitment is key to our success! Your presence, professionalism, proactive communication, and conscientiousness are what makes **Eat More Art! Vegas**, and the **Vegas Valley Theatre Awards**, work!

Bon Appetit!

- Ralph Stalter, Jr.

Volunteer Adjudication Coordinator - rstalter@eatmoreartvegas.com

OFFICIAL RULES: LAS VEGAS VALLEY THEATRE AWARDS

I. SEASON

- The locally produced season runs from June 1 – May 31 of each year.
- The Valley Awards Ceremony is ordinarily held in July.

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

For initial consideration

- A theatre organization that wishes to have a production judged must have been in existence for one year prior to being granted eligibility and have presented at least one full production during that year.

- Each production during that one year period must have had a minimum of 4 performances and all requirements set forth below must have been met.

- Appeals to the eligibility process will be considered on a case by case basis, but not guaranteed.

- An eligible theatre that wishes to have a production judged must submit the adjudication request form to the Valley Awards one month before the opening performance of that production is to take place.

- A theater seeking initial Valley eligibility must submit the adjudication request form to the Valley Awards one month before the opening performance of that production is to take place.

- College level co-productions, in partnership with participating eligible independent local companies, may be considered for eligibility on a case-by-case basis. All partners in such co-productions must substantiate their individual artistic contributions to the production.

Additional eligibility requirements

1. The Valley Awards only considers theatre organizations incorporated in the State of Nevada.
2. The Committee will only consider productions presented within the incorporated city boundaries of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson.
3. The Valley Awards does not consider theatres with ties – either financial or artistic – to any religious, social service, or educational institution (below the college level).
4. The Valley Awards does not judge puppet theatre, performance art, children's theatre, student or youth theatre, foreign language theatre, mime theatre, unscripted or improvised productions, or staged readings.
5. The Valley Awards do not judge evenings of multiple plays unless all artistic components, with the exception of actors and authors, are the same for each (i.e., director,

set designer, etc.). With rare exceptions, no performer in such productions will qualify for the Principal Actor/Actress category.

6. Productions must run for a minimum of four performances.

7. A revival of the same work at the same theatre, or by essentially the same company, is not eligible to be judged if the prior production was judged less than seven (7) years earlier.

III. JUDGING PROCEDURE

- A. Three judges are randomly assigned for initial scoring. Valley judges are generally limited to judging one opening per season for any company. Judges are not to judge productions if they have a conflict of interest with that company or any member of the cast or artistic team.

- B. Judges must report their scores by no later than noon the day after they attend the performance.

- C. A show is considered Valley Recommended if the score by two of the three judges, in two of the three "Overall Categories" -- Technical Elements, Acting/Interpretation, Overall Impression/Direction/Experience -- are at least 7 (on a 1-10 scale).

- D. If recommended, the producing theatre and all members of the Valley Adjudicators Team are notified through social media postings. They are not told scores. All adjudicators are then expected to see the production during the course of the run and submit a ballot with their scores for the show. Non-opening night judges are expected to pay for their own tickets.

IV. FINAL BALLOT PROCEDURE

- A. At the end of the season (6/1 to 6/15), scores on the individual production ballots are consolidated. The top 5 score recipients in each category are placed on the final ballot. In some cases, as in the case of a statistical tie, the category may be expanded by the Ballot Committee to include more than 5 nominees on the final ballot.

- B. On the final ballot, members may vote in any given category only when they have seen more than 50% of the nominees in that category.

- C. Voting on the final ballot is to be "weighted voting" in which adjudicators may cast in each category the number of votes equal to the number of productions they have seen in each category, and may distribute those votes at their discretion. Voting on the final ballot takes place by June 30th.

OFFICIAL RULES: Continued

IV. FINAL BALLOT PROCEDURE - continued

D. The final ballots are tabulated, and award recipients determined, after all final ballots are submitted. One recipient is identified per category, except in the case of a tie.

E. The Awards Ceremony is ordinarily held in July.

Categories Available for Adjudication:

- ❖ Production - Play
- ❖ Production - Musical
- ❖ Director - Play
- ❖ Director - Musical
- ❖ Actor in a Principal Role - Play
- ❖ Actor in a Principal Role - Musical
- ❖ Actress in a Principal Role - Play
- ❖ Actress in a Principal Role - Musical
- ❖ Actor in a Supporting Role - Play
- ❖ Actor in a Supporting Role - Musical
- ❖ Actress in a Supporting Role - Play
- ❖ Actress in a Supporting Role - Musical
- ❖ Best Ensemble - Play
- ❖ Best Ensemble - Musical
- ❖ Choreography
- ❖ Scenic Design
- ❖ Lighting Design
- ❖ Costume Design
- ❖ Sound Design

Special End-of-Year Awards

- People's Choice Award for Best Play
- People's Choice Award for Best Musical
- The David Sankuer Award: honors an individual for significant achievement in the promotion of excellence in the highest standards of theatrical production and performance.

How do I rate it? SCORING TABLE
TRULY OUTSTANDING 10
OFF-BROADWAY GREAT 9
SMARTLY DONE 8
PROFESSIONAL SKILL 7
BETTER THAN AVERAGE 6
AVERAGE COMMUNITY THEATRE 5
NEEDS ANOTHER WEEK OF REHEARSAL 4
THEY'RE TRYING 3
THIS IS AWKWARD 2
WHAT WERE THEY THINKING? 1

THE MOST EXPENSIVE, DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN THE BEST EXPERIENCE!

Do they know their lines?

Are they fully invested in their characters?

Does it seem like the Director understood the messages and tone of the play?

Does the set help or hurt the action?

If there are few set pieces, do they maximize the use of space?

Do you feel a connection to the actors, do they seem to have one with each other?

Are you bored or engaged?

Did it seem thoughtful, or careless?

Were the performers comfortable in their character's skin?

Did the risks they took pay off? Did they take any that made it unique?

BALLOT 101

- Confirm your opening night assignment on volunteerlocal.com to arrange your ticket with the coordinator
- Click on the link to fill in the ballot form (be sure to use the same email address every time & click “SUBMIT”)
- Even if show is not announced as recommended yet, fill out a ballot if you saw it
- Submit a ballot no later than 12pm the day after seeing the show
- Can't make your assigned show, or missed it due to an emergency? Contact the coordinator ASAP so that we can arrange to cover you. We understand things come up, but **one “No call/No show” will get you bumped to the bottom of the roster, and two may result in disqualification from casting a Final Ballot**
- You must see at least 5 shows a season to remain in the program
- Make a mistake? These can be corrected, but contact the coordinator first to make

ETHICS ARE EVERYTHING

Eat More Art! Vegas and the Valley Theatre Awards take our reputation, and the treatment of others seriously. Please observe these guidelines to keep the program supportive and positive for everyone involved, especially YOU!

- If you are related to a person involved in the show, a formal member of the show's company, or worked on it yourself, you may not submit a ballot for that production
- Do not miss curtain, and stay the whole time.
- Be a gracious guest, and leave negative energy and comments at the door. ALWAYS thank a company member for their work. Trust and respect is important for all involved. If you have a serious issue that needs addressing, contact the coordinator.
- Be discrete in your role as a judge to avoid any unwanted attention
- ALL SCORES ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Producers & company members may not ask, and judges are expected not to tell. **This protects EVERYONE, and makes it easier to be HONEST with your scores.** No one will ever know as you are not the only ballot. If anyone asks you how you voted, LET US KNOW. We will address it with the Producer. Asking a judge how they scored, or any attempt at influencing them, is grounds for disqualification.

Scheduling your Opening Night Assignment is easy with volunteerlocal.com!

This year we are trying something new for scheduling, and if you wish, you can sign up for rewards! Volunteer Local is a great sight for scheduling sign ups for event. You do not need an account to schedule yourself, only your email address to confirm. **The coordinator will send you a link when a call is emailed to adjudicate an opening night.** Your information is never shared with outside vendors, but there is an app for your smartphone to help you keep track of your commitments if you choose to use it. Our main page is at the link below, where you can double check your sign ups.

<http://eatmoreartvegas.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/>

Earn rewards using Cabot Creamery Co-operative!

Volunteerlocal.com connects to this rewards program, but so do other groups, so this is for more than just Eat More Art! Vegas or The Valley Theatre Awards. Beyond crafting cheese and dairy products, Cabot works to mirror the values of its farmers and recognizes those people from around the country who are improving their local communities. With 62 million people volunteering their time to serve organizations in their communities each year, not only do these organizations receive much needed help and support, but the volunteers also report feeling happier, healthier, and less stressed. Happier individuals living in communities with well-supported organizations enable these communities to thrive.

Cabot's Reward Volunteers Program was created to celebrate people who make communities stronger. Through **Reward Volunteers**, anyone can log the hours they spend volunteering and win prizes for themselves and the organizations they serve. In just 4 years, 3,500 people have logged 406,100 hours volunteering at 4,000 organizations! **Reward Volunteers** connects volunteers with the organizations that need their help as well as other volunteers in their area. Together, the connection between like-minded people and their good acts builds stronger communities for all.

Reward Volunteers can help you to:

- Find volunteer opportunities in your community,
- Log your volunteer hours for up to a week at a time,
- Motivate others to volunteer through social media sharing, and
- Win prizes for you and cash for the organizations you serve.

From family farms working together to make the finest cheese and dairy products to honoring those individuals who donate their time to the organizations they care about most, Cabot Creamery is working to strengthen communities across America. To get started with **Reward Volunteers**, visit <https://rewardvolunteers.coop/> to create an account and start logging your volunteer hours now!