



Metropolitan Atlanta Theater Awards ♦ (678) 207-6434

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Join us for the  
2010  
MAT Awards

Sunday,  
Sept 26, 2010

Roswell Cultural  
Arts Center



## **New Year, New Shows, New MAT Classes**

2010 is shaping up to be a very busy year in local theater. The second half of the MAT Awards 2009-2010 season will see 8 auditions, castings, rehearsals, tech weeks, Opening and Closing weekends. That's 2 musicals and 6 plays. Inside you will find the latest MAT Awards Ad for your programs and your own calendar.

And we aren't sitting on our laurels at the MAT Awards plush bar-side offices, either. Arrangements are being finalized now for our very first **MAT Auditions Workshops**. The Workshop Weekend will host several classes covering Cold Readings, Monologues, Musical Auditions and classes specifically for teens... just to name a few. Classes will be taught by local instructors with extensive experience.

In the coming weeks we will bring you more information on how you can get in on these helpful classes, so keep an eye on your inbox for details.

## **Looking Ahead**

### *How to get in on the 2010 – 2011 Season*

Since the MAT Season runs from July 1 – June 30, the new 2010 – 2011 will be here before you know it. If you are a current MAT Member, we are so happy to have you with us for what promises to be another great year. If you are new to the MAT's, there are a few things you want to take care of so you can be sure to have all your ducks in a row by July.

- First of all, be sure to read ALL the participation rules available on the website at [www.matawards.com](http://www.matawards.com) in the "Members Corner" area.
- You will need to complete a MAT Awards application and sign the agreement by June 1, 2010.
  - These forms are available by just sending a request to Russ Ivey at [russ@matawards.com](mailto:russ@matawards.com)
- You will need to submit all entry fees by June 1, 2010
  - Each participating metro-area theater company may submit one musical and one play at a fee of \$50.00 per production. These productions must be submitted on the application no later than the end of the day on June 30, 2010.
  - The production does not have to be cast or staffed by the deadline. However, the dates, times, and location must already be determined and indicated on the application.

**Deadline Date** – There are two deadline dates when submitting an application for participation by any theater company. The main deadline date is June 1st, 2010 (one month before the season begins). All fees, production submissions, and applications must be received by the MAT Board no later than this date. However, if a theater needs an extension, the MAT Board will allow an extension to June 30th, 2010 (one day before the season begins) only if requested by the theater company and if the performances of the Submitted Productions do not fall within July or August 2010.

# USE US

This Newsletter, and indeed the MAT's are nothing without YOU.

So help us help you!

Use us as a free marketing tool!

Send audition notices, show notices, show pictures, needs, requests, or questions to [robin@matawards.com](mailto:robin@matawards.com).

Russ can send audition notices for MAT-reviewed shows out to the MAT Awards mailing list, expanding your marketing reach. And its FREE!

Our newsletter can carry even more notices, including shows that are not MAT reviewed.

We also want to share any pictures from your MAT shows here in the spine of the newsletter. Just send the .jpg or .bmp to [robin@matawards.com](mailto:robin@matawards.com)

## How Do You Pick The Winners, Anyway?

*A Peek Inside by Robin Thornett*

When you tell people that you work with the MAT Awards, the first question they invariably ask (*after "Do you know Jerry Harlow?"*) is "How do you guys pick the winners anyway?" I am often tempted to claim darts, bribery or picking names out of a fishbowl because the truth is a far more complicated answer. So you buy the first pitcher and I'll try to explain:

It all starts when, after the last show of the season, each of the judges submits a secure, private electronic form ranking their top 3 favorites in each of several categories (Musicals have 15 categories and plays have 14).

Then, MAT Awards President Russ Ivey and a witness (this year that person was me) tally these rankings. Each time a candidate is given 1st place rank by a judge, they are given 3 points. 2nd place ranking earns 2 points and 3rd place earns 1 point. The total is then calculated. The top three total points winners make up the nomination panel. Often, nominees will tie for third place, in which case the panel will expand to accommodate those.

Russ then sends out a new, secure, private electronic ballot to each judge with only the nomination panel listed. The judges then cast their vote for their single favorite nominee.

Those final votes are then tallied, but winners are kept under top-secret lock & key (*I'm told it is kept with the list of KFC's 11 herbs and spices*) until they are revealed onstage at the Ceremony.

Well, that didn't take as long as I thought... you gonna eat those fries?

◆ Save the Date! ◆ The 2010 MAT Awards Ceremony ◆  
◆ September 26, 2010 ◆ Roswell Cultural Arts Center ◆



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

*Marian Johnson, Southside Theatre Guild*



**Your Full Name:**

Marian Johnson

**How many MAT nominations have you gotten? 2**

**What for?** *All My Sons* in 2005-2006. This took place at Southside Theatre Guild. I believe that was the first MAT Awards. I won for "Best Directing of a Play" and "Best Overall Performance of a Play". My husband won Best Set Design for *All My Sons*. It was a great set if I do say so myself. It was "hands on" for me helping on construction and decoration.

**What was it like to win?** It was very exciting to win. Russ and I were the presenters and were alternating speeches. Originally Russ was to actually announce the

"set design" winner, but I ended up opening the envelope. I had so hoped that we would win! and we did.

**Did you pre-write your speech? No**  
**What's Your "Day" Job?**

I am a retired music teacher. Taught piano lessons 1980-1989. Actually also a couple of years after my fourth child was born. That would have been 1965-67. Then went back to school - transferred to Ga. State and finished up to get a Bachelor of Music - Music Ed major. Then I taught elementary classroom music in Peachtree City 1972-75. Roger always worked shift work and we decided I did not need to be working full time. I also had four

children between 1959 and 1964 — so I had plenty to do. I am currently the pianist at church and on City Council.

**Family members:?**

Husband: Roger is retired FAA air traffic controller (He's also active at STG). Children: Julia, Joel, Jeff and Jennifer.  
Grandchildren: Zach, Molly, Trey and Johnson

**How long have you been working in local theater?**

Since 1974. My son, Jeff was cast in Pinocchio at STG in the summer of 1974 - been around ever since. Three of the four children were involved as teenagers. I was President for 2 years — Treasurer for 17 years - appear on stage

occasionally - music director or pianist numerous times - director of 13 shows - costumes - help decorate sets - empty a lot of trash cans!

**What has been your favorite show to work on so far?**

*Gee - All My Sons*, but also *Bus Stop* - Loved being in *The Foreigner*.

**If you could give one piece of advice to directors everywhere, what would it be?**

Patience, I guess

**Where do you keep your MAT plaques?**

Have a small bookcase (from childhood) in dining room. It is full of awards from Southside Theatre Guild and MAT and some other memorabilia.

## 2009 – 2010 Season Judges

Musical Panel

Duck Kingsenamongkhol  
Rebecca Coffee  
Kelly Lane  
Tim Link  
Mark Feldman  
Paige Earles  
Judith Beasley  
Carletta Hurt  
Barbara Bruce  
Tammy Kirby  
Lisa Sherouse Riley  
Ross Iddings

Play Panel

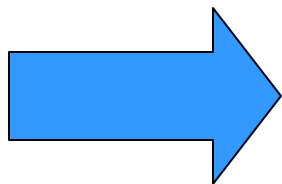
Will Fowlkes  
Carolyn Sheppard Choe  
Karen Cotter  
Jared Wright  
Julie Taliaferro  
Russ Ivey  
Julie Kempson  
Damon Bohan  
Jerry Harlow  
Malcolm Haymes

Original Works Panel

Russ Ivey  
Julie Kempson  
Damon Bohan  
Kay Bohan  
Jerry Harlow  
Stephanie Sartain  
Jared Wright  
Will Fowlkes

**IT'S THE RULES:**

**Do you have the file for this ad to place in your programs?**



**If not, contact Russ Ivey at russ@matawards.com**



You Are Watching A Submitted Production of  
**The Metropolitan Atlanta Theater Awards**  
Now Playing/Coming Soon

*Baby—The Musical*

2/12/10—2/27/10 CenterStage North Theatre [www.centerstagenorth.org](http://www.centerstagenorth.org)

*The Women*

2/18/10—2/21/10 The Henry Players [www.henryplayers.com](http://www.henryplayers.com)

*Doubt*

2/26/10—3/13/10 The Pumphouse Players [www.pumphouseplayers.com](http://www.pumphouseplayers.com)

*Dear Ruth*

3/5/10—3/27/10 ACT1 Theater [www.act1theater.com](http://www.act1theater.com)

*Christina Darling*

4/9/10—5/1/10 The Process Theatre Company [www.theprocesstheatre.org](http://www.theprocesstheatre.org)

*A Rail Tale*

4/30/10—5/23/10 Kudzu Playhouse [www.kudzuplayhouse.org](http://www.kudzuplayhouse.org)

*Forever Plaid*

4/23/10—5/23/10 Kudzu Playhouse [www.kudzuplayhouse.org](http://www.kudzuplayhouse.org)

*Chaim's Love Song*

6/11/10—7/18/10 Kudzu Playhouse [www.kudzuplayhouse.org](http://www.kudzuplayhouse.org)

**Go to [www.matawards.com](http://www.matawards.com) to check out the entire 2010 Season!!**



## Audition Notices:

### Process Theatre:

**Christina Darling** by Topher Payne (World Premiere)

**Audition Dates:** 30 minute slots on Sat Jan 23 at Onstage Atlanta from 12pm-5pm. An Appointment time is required. Callbacks will be on Sunday, January 24th, from 6-8pm.

**The Story:** "Christina Darling" tells the story of Christina Crawford, daughter of Joan Crawford and author of the infamous memoir "Mommie Dearest." Set on the eve of the release of the film version of her book, Christina suffers a stroke. Her grandmother arrives to help her cross over, but Christina rebels. If she's going to survive, she has to face her competing personal histories: the ones created by her mother, a movie studio, herself... and somewhere within, the truth of what actually happened.

**Audition Requirements:** Cold readings from the script

**Castings Needs:** Please note the roles of Joan and Christina Crawford have already been cast.

- Anna LeSueur- Caucasian female, age 50's-60's (Joan Crawford's mother): Midwestern, unsentimental and incredibly savvy.
- Actor 1- Female, Late 20's-Late 40's, plays various roles, primarily: Louella Parsons, Gloria Monty, and Bettina, Joan Crawford's secretary.
- Actor 2- Male, 20's-40's, plays various roles, primarily: William Haines, Harvey Medlinksy, and Christina's attorney.
- Actor 3- Male, 30's-50's, plays various roles, primarily: Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Alfred Steele, and David Koontz.
  - Performers auditioning for Actors 1, 2, and 3: Note that we will be looking for character and physical variety.
  - Also, please note that no character in the play has a Southern accent.

**Performances:** April 16-May 8, 2010. Stipend Paid.

**Contact:** If interested in auditioning please **email** headshot and resume to theprocesstheatrec@yahoo.com, and you will be contacted with a timeslot (if you have conflicts on audition day, please indicate in your e-mail).

### Kudzu Theatre:

**Forever Plaid** by Stuart Ross

**Audition Dates:** Mon, Feb 22 @ 7pm

**The Story:** Four young eager male singers killed in a car crash in the 1950's on the way to their first big concert, are miraculously revived for the posthumous chance to fulfill their dreams and perform the show that never was.

**Audition requirements:** Cold readings from the script. Be prepared to sing 16 bars from the song of your choice in the style of Forever Plaid

- 1st Tenor
- 2nd Tenor
- Baritone
- Bass

**Casting needs:** 4 men –25ish

**Performances:** April 23-May 23, 2010 (Fris and Sats @ 8pm & Suns @ 3pm)

**Contact:** Jeannie Hinds **Phone#** 770-594-1020 **E-mail:** kudzuplayhouse@aol.com **Website:** www.kudzuplayhouse.org

**A Rail Tale** by Candy Spahr

**Audition Date:** Tues, Feb 23 @ 7pm & Wed, Feb 24 @ 7pm

**The Story:** As a new century dawns, eight people, each with their own dreams and uncertainties for the future, board a luxury steam locomotive bound from Boston to Detroit. Mankind's old foes— greed, deceit and suspicion—accompany the travelers. A mystery looms large. Soon all aboard the train are pulled into a web of intrigue. *A Rail Tale* is set during the golden age of railroads, as this growing industrial nation welcomes the 20th century. A two-act period piece, it weaves humor with the social history of the times.

**Audition requirements:** Cold readings from the script

**Casting needs:**

- Helen Kestrel - 40's-50's: Actress of some acclaim; a Diva of her day
- Sally Millen - 20's: Waitress; timid and a little fearful of men
- Colleen McDougal - Early 30's: Irish companion to Miss Kestrel; superstitious
- Emily Ryan - 40's-50's: Passenger; housewife who is beginning to assert herself while facing an empty nest
- Jason Hargrove - 50's-60's: Conductor; commanding yet personable
- Luke Conley - 30's: Steward; alternately charming and threatening
- Patrick McDougal - Late 30's: Irish husband to Colleen; a charming storyteller
- Tom Ryan - 50's: Passenger who loves his wife but despite his bragging to the contrary, has trouble accepting changes, especially from his wife.

**Performances:** April 30-May 23, 2010 (Fris and Sats @ 7pm)

**Contact:** Jeannie Hinds **Phone#** 770-594-1020 **E-mail:** kudzuplayhouse@aol.com **Website:** www.kudzuplayhouse.org

### ACT1 Theater:

**Dear Ruth** by Norman Krasna

**Casting needs:** Looking to fill the role of Albert Cooper – 34 y.o. banker and Ruth's frustrated fiancé.

**Performances:** Already in rehearsals now. Shows March 5 – 27 (Fris & Sats @ 7:30pm, 2 Sundays @ 2:00pm)

**Contact:** Robin Thornett **Phone:** 404-432-2557 **E-mail:** robinthornett@aol.com **Website:** www.act1theater.com

## A Note from Russ:

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to send out a "blurb" regarding our plans for the 2010 MAT Ceremony. As it stands, we are planning to hold the event on Sunday, September 26th, 2010 at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center in Roswell, GA.

The one thing that needs to be noted by everyone is that we are making plans to hold it earlier in the day so that it doesn't run so late into the evening. As the ceremonies have progressed over the years, the length of them tends to run 2 1/2 hours or so. Therefore, our current plans are:

- ◆ Red Carpet Reception starting around 4pm
- ◆ Award Ceremony starting at 5pm
- ◆ Conclusion of the ceremony around 8pm
- ◆ VIP Post Party around 8:30pm till whenever

To sum this up, very simply, we want you all to know that we are holding the event earlier on that date and you will need to plan your calendars around this if you want to attend the event. So, we ask that all theaters involved to PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CALENDARS ARE CLEAR for 9/26/10 so that you and your folks can make it to the MAT Ceremony.

We certainly don't want anyone to be tied up with rehearsals or Sunday matinee performances to prevent them from attending the event, especially if they're a Nominee. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.



*Russ Ivey*

President/Founder  
Metropolitan Atlanta Theater Awards  
russ@matawards.com

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**Just run a**  
**friend**  
**search for**  
**"MAT Awards"**

## Talk to Us...

Our central location is at [www.matawards.com](http://www.matawards.com),  
but if you need to get in touch with any of us  
individually, here are our e-mails:

Russ Ivey, President — [russ@matawards.com](mailto:russ@matawards.com)

Jerry Harlow, Vice-President — [jerry@matawards.com](mailto:jerry@matawards.com)

Robin Thornett, Marketing — [robin@matawards.com](mailto:robin@matawards.com)

