

HENRY AWARDS INFORMATION AND EXPLANATION SHEET

To all the new members in the theatre, I have enclosed an information sheet to help explain about the awards.

HISTORY:

The theatre had award nights back in the 70s, but after a few years, they stopped. The Henry Awards re-commenced in 1987 (celebrating the 1986 season), after Leanne Caton and Brian Savage put their heads together, and came up with the rules and categories; and while each year has been different, the nights have been great successes.

DRESS:

Remember, dress is strictly formal. This is because we want to make the night to be an occasion. There has been some confusion in the past, and some members, their partners or friends, have arrived casually dressed. So please make an effort. If you're not sure what to wear, ask someone who has been. For those men who don't have a suit – pants, tie and jacket is suitable.

CATEGORIES:

Categories change from year to year, play to play, for various reasons; depending on whether or not we do 1 and/or 2/3 Act Plays; whether we have male and female newcomers; and whether we have male and female lead roles, etc.

There is only one category that we nominate for, this is the supporting roles – male and female or they might be combined.

Apart from the lead role/s, all other speaking roles are considered “supporting”, and the Director will also select who was an “extra”. Because there are so many supporting roles, the top nominations received in the supporting category, make it through to be voted for on the awards night. The number is determined on how many plays we did in the year.

Anyone in a supporting role is eligible to be nominated. Nominations are called for in the award package that was sent to you. Only financial members over the age of 16 can nominate and vote. Voting will be explained on the night.

Remember – there is a difference between voting (done on the night for all categories), and nominating (done prior to the night for supporting roles only).

Although it sounds complicated, it is really quite simple, and we have found this system works effectively and fairly. If you still don't understand, ask Leanne Caton for clarification.

Newcomers to the theatre who have performed in a speaking role, are automatically put on the voting form in the newcomer category. If we have a newcomer who has performed in two plays in the one year, their first performance is the one that is voted on.

Below is a list of categories in order of presentation, that we normally have. Some years this list can change slightly:

1. President's Award – chosen by the current President;
2. Committee Award – chosen by the current committee;
3. Performing Arts Lessons – chosen by Nicole Madden;
4. Robin Lewsey Memorial Award for Set Design – nominees submitted by director;
5. Best Costume Design – nominees submitted by director;
6. Best Lighting Design – nominees submitted by director;
7. Best Sound Design – nominees submitted by director;
8. Best Female Newcomer – all newcomers during the year are eligible;
9. Best Male Newcomer – all newcomers during the year are eligible;
10. Best Actress in a Supporting Role – top nominations received go through;
11. Best Actor in a Supporting Role – top nominations received go through;
12. Best Actress in a Leading Role – nominated by director of play;
13. Best Actor in a Leading Role – nominated by director of play;
14. Best Director; and
15. Most Popular Play.

All of the above are voted for and presented on the night, with the exception of the President and Committee Award. At the last committee meeting before the awards night, the committee discuss and vote a member who they think should be recognised by their hard work and dedication during the year.

The President's Award is given to someone who is considered by the President to have performed outstanding work and contribution to the theatre during the year.

DECISION ON LEAD ROLES:

Every play normally has a lead role/s, and because many of us think differently about what a lead role should be, the decision is left up to the director of that play to submit their lead role/s.

If a director cannot make a decision (it hasn't happened yet), then the decision would go to the committee.

THE FIRST STEP:

You will be sent all relevant paperwork in the awards package. Please read it carefully. The awards package contains a covering letter, nomination form, list of cast, and booking form with menu.

All you have to do is decide who to nominate as supporting actors. This is one of the most important and hardest decision to make. Important because it will determine who we all vote for on the night, and the hardest because there are so many good supporting actors.

The nomination form will be signed by me to ensure that it is legitimate, i.e., that you are a current financial member over the age of 16. These will be sent to the committee by the due date and opened at the committee meeting before the Henry Awards night.

ON THE NIGHT:

Doors open at 6pm, and the first thing to do is vote. This has to be done straight away so the votes can be counted in time before presentations get underway. Dinner is served at 7pm. Presentations will start when dinner is completed and votes have been counted.

On your arrival, you will be given a voting form by Leanne Caton and your name ticketed off. You will be also asked how many plays you saw at the theatre during the year. This will determine how much your vote is worth. If you only saw one play, you cannot vote in a category that has more than one play, i.e., the play you saw. However, if the category only has actors from the play you did see, then you can vote in that category only. Complete your forms privately and return to the box provided. Do not discuss or give them to anyone.

The theatre members who will be counting the votes will have dinner first (and their partner), so they have time to count votes. This is done by randomly selected members. Every voting form is checked by two members, and these members never count a category in which they are in or a family member is in. The results are given to the MC for presentation in a sealed envelope.

After all these instructions, there is only one thing left to tell you – come along and have a good time. Enjoy the Henry's for what they were intended: a reason to pat ourselves on the back, get dress up and have a ball.

Regards,

Leanne Caton.
Henry Organiser
Vice President.