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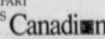
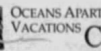


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SHOWCASE THEATRE

Actress and TV host Veena Sood and actor Dan Tullis Jr. hosted nominations for the Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance's 14th annual Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards.



Staff photo by David Clark

Showboat big in Jessie nods

There's No Business Like Show Business, warbled the Vancouver Actors' Chorus at the Ford Centre as actress and TV host Veena Sood and actor Dan Tullis Jr. announced the nominations for the Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance's 14th annual Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards.

Can't imagine a more fitting ditty in a year that sees a commercial giant such as Livent's massive musical, Showboat, pitted against tiny Equity co-ops such as Rare Planet's The Madman and the Nun.

"It took more than 24 hours of deliberation to come up with the nominations," said committee chairman Ed Astley. "And we couldn't really address the situation until Livent joined the VPTA, which it did in December. Commercial theatre is here. Jeff Hyslop's Feet First and Unforgettable would also have been eligible if they had joined the VPTA. Next year, there will be two committees — one for large venues, one for small. The cutoff will be 200 seats."

Showboat, Vigil, The Wines of Tuscany, The Orphan Muses and The Crucible are the leading contenders for Jessies, with Showboat receiving eight nominations, including four for outstanding performance in a musical plus choreography, design and musical direction.

The Arts Club/Bellry co-production of Morris Panych's play, Vigil, got seven nominations; The

Wines of Tuscany (Playwrights Theatre Centre/Wild Excursions), The Orphan Muses (Touchstone) and The Crucible (Vancouver Playhouse) each received five. Arts Club productions got 12 nominations in all. Vancouver Playhouse received 10.

Best actress in a lead role nominees are Kelli Fox, Sheila Moore, Wendy Noel, Laara Sadiq and Deborah Williams; best actor nominees are Lyle Victor Albert, Scott Bellis, Randy Hughson, Gerard

Plunkett and Alan Williams. Best actress in a musical nominees are Anita Berry, Erla Faye Forsyth, Valarie Pettiford, Linda Quibell and Wendy Van Riesen; best actor in a musical nominees are George Grizzard, David Mackay, Chancz Perry, Alvin Sanders and Keith Savage.

Outstanding ensemble nominations went to the casts of Breeding Doubts, Twelfth Night, Wet Dreams, When We Were Singing and Wines of Tuscany. Nominated for special achievement awards are Diane Brown, Kirsten Robek, Marsha Sibthorpe, Denis Simpson, Allan Zinyk, Ruby Slippers and Public Dreams, Tamahnous Core, Vancouver TheatreSports League and the OutWest Performance Society.

The 1996 Jessie awards, hosted by Jackson Davies, will be held at the Ford Centre on June 17, followed by dancing and entertainment in The Moat at the Public Library. For tickets and information, contact VPTA at 879-2999.



RENEE DORUYTER On Stage