



BizEurtle Bulletin

BizeTurtle=Keeping Bize in Turtle Time

Nestled in over in the corner of The Tower Plaza Center, 37 Route 35 in Eatontown sits [The Eatontown Playhouse](#)

A tiny place, known only to a handful of individuals

For almost a year now, BizeTurtle has been proudly posting the wonderful plays performed at Eatontown Playhouse It is with great honor to receive this news and pass it on to all my subscribers

Dear Members and Friends Of The Eatontown Playhouse,

I want to share with all of you the exciting news from last nights New Jersey ACT Perry Awards. For those of you who don't know what ACT stands for, it's the Association of Community Theatre. It's a volunteer non-profit organization that recognizes excellence in community theatre throughout the state of New Jersey. We have been members for 10 years and have been very fortunate to be nominated every year for acting, producing, directing, costumes, props, stage management, original productions, best production of musicals and straight plays, lights, sound and set design throughout all the 10 years. We've also been lucky enough to have won some of these awards throughout these 10 years.

Last night at the 35th Annual Perry Awards, our little theatre was bestowed with the highest award it could ever receive. We were awarded the 2008 Perry Award for The Most Outstanding Community Theatre in the entire state. The criteria for this award from all theatres; they must make a difference in their community, to the community theatre world and to people involved in their theatre. Mike and I want to thank those people, from our theatre, who submitted letters expressing their feelings as to why we should receive this award. There were at least 6 or 7 other theatres that had been submitted to the Executive Board of Directors of NJACT, who then vote to decide which theatre was deserving of this award. This year, they chose us. Here is what the Board said when they handed us the award:

"We look at our criteria every year and all submissions and every year we, as a board are always divided. However this year this theatre's letter was so beautifully written and fit exactly why we have this award every year.

This theatre was established in 1996; performing in restaurants, banquet halls, even a mall (anywhere that would take them). They would donate a percentage of the ticket sales to them, so they can fund for other cultural programs.

They now have their own home mounting 10-12 shows a year.

They have entertained the community with their Main Stage Productions and the Children's Series.

Going into their second decade they have grown to start a summer camp program for children focussing on teaching them everything on stage and backstage with the end of the camp performing their own production that they will write, produce, direct and act.

The Children's Entertainment Series gives kids a chance to actually produce, direct and design their own productions.

They have also brought works to their stage such as Christopher Durang, David Mamet and Arthur Miller and also have let new play writers hosting their stage readings and have housed original full productions.

They have hosted benefits and raised money for Breast Cancer Research, Red Cross, Amnesty International, Big Brothers and Sisters, special needs children, 9/11 victims and habitat for humanity.

This past year they have decided to become a non-profit 501c and out of that became "Performance With Passion Players."

Whether for a hobby or a career, this theatre has clearly provided a great foundation for many people.

I myself have worked with this theatre as a director and have known them for over 10 years. They have always been supportive of the NJACT awards and have always been there to help us in all capacities.

On behalf of the board of directors of NJACT - I am proud (this was said by Amy Levine who directed Lion In Winter for us last year) to present this years Community Theatre Award to Over The Rainbow Productions."

At this point, I was crying and in a state of shock. Then, the band played Somewhere Over The Rainbow and Mike and I went up to receive our award. We were so proud and believe it or not I was speechless for the first time in my life. After picking my jaw up off the floor and after I thanked the board, I thanked my entire theatre family (which means all of you), for their undying support, love and hard work. This award and speech I have just e-mailed to all of you will be hanging very proudly in our theatre lobby.

As to the other exciting news - we also walked away with 3 awards last night, which are as follows:

Givanna Robbins - for Outstanding Youth Actor in "Anne Frank And Me."

Brandon Zoppi and Tony Millilo tied for Best Male Ensemble Actor in "Stage Door." What are the odds that a tie would happen for 2 people in the same play. I don't think that has ever happened before in the history of NJACT.

We also received 3 other nominations, which as far as I'm concerned are winners and they are:

Lucy McGrath - for Outstanding Youth Actor in "Anne Frank And Me."

Nancy Nuccio and Myself - For Best Costumes In A Play for "Stage Door."

Natalie Markevich - Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play for "Stage Door."

To all of you, congratulations, you will always be my winners.

I hope all of you are as excited as Mike and I over our success last night.

Love,

Deb

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Lynn Humphrey
Administrator

