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NYMF '09 Awards for Excellence

Oct 29th, 2009
by [Patrick Lee](#).



Last year I agreed with nearly all of the choices for NYMF Excellence Awards; just about every award squared with my juror ballot. [This year](#) the two are a little less synchronous. There's nothing strange about that – the distilled opinion of a group will of course only very rarely mirror the opinion of any one person, and although I came within striking distance I didn't see every single show at the festival this time.

After a hearty congratulations to the winners in all categories, I'd like to make note of some of the work that was on my ballot that wasn't cited by the group. Jurors are asked to list 3 weighted choices in most categories and 10 individual performances and musicals; I'll keep it simple and just list my Top 5 who neither won nor received an

honorable mention.

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

Every single performer in *Fat Camp* was on fire.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE

6 of the performers on my ballot didn't make it through to the group tally, but I'd most like to single out **Alex Wyse** who was laugh out loud funny in *The Last Smoker In America*, and **Dale Soules** who brought appropriate notes of needed gravity to *The Toymaker*.

EXCELLENCE IN WRITING: MUSIC

This was a staggeringly tough category this year. There are at least half a dozen new composers I'll be looking out for thanks to this year's NYMF, but I want to shout out here to Joe Drymala's score for *Street Lights* which credibly theatricalized old-school hip-hop.

OUTSTANDING NEW MUSICAL

The top choice on my ballot was **F@#king Up Everything**, recognized by the group with awards for Book, Lyrics, Ensemble Performance and Individual Performance (the terrific Noah Weisberg)

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• About Me

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I'm a member of the [Outer Critics Circle](#), and of the [Independent Theater Bloggers Association](#). I'm also a regular contributor to [Theatermania](#), a GLAAD Media Award juror, and co-writer of the [Showdown](#) blog. More than anything I'm a huge life-long theatre fan who sees about 200 shows a year.
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Brighton Beach Memoirs, Memphis, After Miss Julie, Wishful Drinking, Seeing Stars, Hamlet, Oleanna, Gay Bride of Frankenstein, Max Understood, Kiss of The Spider Woman, A Steady Rain, Superior Donuts, Circle Mirror Transformation, MilkMilkLemonade, Powerhouse
- [August 2009](#)
The Crow Mill, Dancing With Abandon, all over, Population 8, Willy Nilly, May-December with The Nose And Clammy, Two On The Aisle Three In A Van, Harold Pinter Pair, Gutter Star, Remission, How Now Dow Jones, Look After You, Dolls, Citizen Ruth, Adventures of Alvin Sputnik, The Boys Upstairs, Viral, Burn The Floor, Wildflower
- [June 2009](#)
Archbishop Supreme Tartuffe, Paved Paradise Redux, The Wiz, Stunning, Someone In Florida Loves Me, Twelfth Night, The Amish Project, Things Of Dry Hours, Coraline, Next Fall
- [May 2009](#)
Make Me, Pure Confidence, 10 Things To Do Before I Die, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, The Philanthropist, The Temperamentals, The Norman Conquests, The Dishwashers, The Merchant Of Venice, Joe Turner's Come And Gone, Waiting For Godot, The Gingerbread House
- [April 2009](#)
Desire Under The Elms, Pretty Theft, The Singing Forest, Why Torture Is Wrong (And The People Who Love Them), Exit Cuckoo, Mary Stuart, Blithe Spirit, reasons to be pretty, Chasing Manet, The Toxic Avenger Musical, Rock Of Ages, Hair
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Happiness, Impressionism, Henri Gabler, West Side Story, Zooman And The Sign, God Of Carnage, Incident At Vichy, Thirst: A Spell For Christabell, Our Town, 33 Variations, A Little Night Music, Christine Jorgensen Reveals, Distracted, The Savannah Disputation
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Kaspar Hauser, The Winter's Tale, That Pretty Pretty or The Rape Play, Telephone, The Book of Lambert, Shipwrecked!: An Entertainment, Uncle Vanya, Ruined, The American Plan, Flyovers, The Third Story, Sixty Miles To Silver Lake
- [January 2009](#)
Terre Haute, Cornbury: The Queen's Governor, Aristocrats, Leaves Of Glass, The Cherry Orchard, A Little Night Music, Archictecting, Shrek, Die Roten Punkte: Super Musikant, Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas



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