

■ 'Master Harold and the Boys', 'Annie' and 'The Producers' scoop lion's share of honours at 20th anniversary

Bay talent shines at Showtime awards

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THE Nelson Mandela Bay 2010 productions of *Master Harold and the Boys*, *Annie* and *The Producers* scooped the lion's share of the Showtime Awards, which were presented in the city last night on the occasion of the annual event's 20th anniversary.

Nominees and guests crowded into the Savoy Theatre after the staging of the revue *Hit the Headlines!* to hear the Pemads production of *Annie* being named show of the year and Athol Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys* – staged by the Rother-Swain Drama Studio – being honoured as best play among the amateur award winners. Among the professional awards, *Shirley Valentine* was named show of the year, with its sole performer, Niqui Cloete-Barass, receiving best-actress honours and Mark Richardson taking best actor for *Annie*.

Robin Williams was named best director in the professional awards for *High School Musical*. Among the amateur acting honours, Gift Buqa in *Master Harold* was named best actor in a play, with Leslie Speyers taking best actor in a musical for *The Producers*.

joint winners of the best actress in a play award for *Blithe Spirit*, with Samantha Engler taking the musical equivalent for *Showtime 2010*.

Named as best supporting actor in a play and musical respectively were Phambili Ngcayisa for *Master Harold* and Greg Everard for *The Producers*. The best supporting actress awards for a play and musical went to Ranique Hendricks in *Sorrows and Rejoicings* and Dominique Beylveid in *Annie* respectively.

A special award went to Cape Town actress Laura Bosman – flown in at short notice in *Annie* emergency

The awards for best debut were made to Georgia Rose Flax for *Blithe Spirit* (play) and Lesley Barnard for *Annie* (musical).

Leslie Speyers was also honoured for best comedy performance (*The Producers*), while best cameo in a musical went to Phillipa Francis (*Annie*).

The best amateur director awards – open and play – went to Greg Everard (*Annie*) and Sharon Rother (*Master Harold*) respectively.

The individual technical excellence award went to Ann Yates for costuming *Back to Broadway* – for which she also received an achievement in theatre award – while the group technical excellence award was made to Pemads for the set and effects of *Blithe Spirit*.

Theatre veterans who were inducted into The Herald Norderburg Hall of Fame were Greg



TOP HONOURS . . . Gift Buqa (centre) and Phambili Ngcayisa (right) were named best actor and best supporting actor in a play for *Master Harold*. Sharon Rother the best director of a play honours at the Showtime awards. Cameron Robertson, honoured last week, was the third member of the cast

achievement award was also made to Cape Town actress Laura Bosman, who was flown to Port Elizabeth at short notice to step into the role of Miss

emergency when Lesley Barnard fell ill.

Last week the two alternating Annies in the Pemads production of the Broadway hit –

Memerty – were jointly named best juniors in adult theatre while Cameron Robertson as Hallie in *Master Harold* and Kaylan Sabbadin as Sharnav in

named best seniors.

● Two performances of *Hit the Headlines!* have been designated "family nights", with all seats priced at R50 and these