

LA STAGE

OVATION AWARDS

RULEBOOK



LA **STAGE** OVATION AWARDS RULEBOOK

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MISSION

The **OVATION AWARDS** exist to celebrate artistic excellence in theatre production, design and performance in the Greater Los Angeles area.

SEASON

The Ovation Awards season runs from the beginning of September to the end of August each year, and culminates in a black-tie awards ceremony, usually held in mid-November. Specifically, the Ovation Season runs from the Monday after the last Sunday in August through the last Sunday in August.

If a production has performances in two seasons (i.e. opens August 8th and closes September 15th), the producer will need to choose which season to

register the production. Voters will only be able to attend and score for the season selected, and only voters who are approved for the matching season will be allowed to vote on the production.

When the season ends, the Ovation Award results are tabulated and audited, determining the nominees in each category based on all of the scores entered online throughout the season. Nominees are announced in late September.

CATEGORIES

There are 35 categories: 12 categories are divided between the intimate and large theatres competing independently and 23 categories have the intimate and larger theatres competing together. Three of these 23 categories are Ovation Honors, which have no nominees, just a single recipient.

The distinction of which categories are split intimate/large (and which are not) has been in place since the beginning of the Ovation Awards. The philosophy is that financial and physical resources have more of an impact on the overall

production and design categories than they do in the acting/writing/directing categories.

Historically, since artists from both large and intimate houses regularly win in the 'combined' categories, this philosophy is seen to be functioning as intended.

For the purposes of the intimate/large distinction, productions are considered to be in the intimate category if the production venue has 99 seats or fewer.

THE 12 CATEGORIES DIVIDED BETWEEN INTIMATE AND LARGE THEATRES INCLUDE:

BEST PRODUCTION OF A PLAY

INTIMATE THEATRE

BEST PRODUCTION OF A PLAY

LARGE THEATRE

BEST PRODUCTION OF A MUSICAL

INTIMATE THEATRE

BEST PRODUCTION OF A MUSICAL

LARGE THEATRE

SCENIC DESIGN

INTIMATE THEATRE

SCENIC DESIGN

LARGE THEATRE

LIGHTING DESIGN

INTIMATE THEATRE

LIGHTING DESIGN

LARGE THEATRE

COSTUME DESIGN

INTIMATE THEATRE

COSTUME DESIGN

LARGE THEATRE

SOUND DESIGN

INTIMATE THEATRE

SOUND DESIGN

LARGE THEATRE

THE 23 CATEGORIES IN WHICH THE INTIMATE AND LARGE THEATRES COMPETE TOGETHER:

BEST SEASON

PRESENTED PRODUCTION

PLAYWRITING FOR AN ORIGINAL PLAY

BOOK FOR AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL

LYRICS/COMPOSITION FOR AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL

DIRECTION OF A PLAY

DIRECTION OF A MUSICAL

CHOREOGRAPHY

MUSIC DIRECTION

LEAD ACTOR IN A PLAY

LEAD ACTRESS IN A PLAY

FEATURED ACTOR IN A PLAY

FEATURED ACTRESS IN A PLAY

LEAD ACTOR IN A MUSICAL

LEAD ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL

FEATURED ACTOR IN A MUSICAL

FEATURED ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL

ACTING ENSEMBLE OF A PLAY

ACTING ENSEMBLE OF A MUSICAL

VIDEO/PROJECTION DESIGN

OVATION HONORS

In the three Ovation Honors categories, there are no nominees. The top scorer in the category is announced as the 'Ovation Honors Recipient' at the Nominees Announcement and is presented with the award at the Nominees Reception. Voters vote on Ovation Honors categories just like full categories, on the .01 - 10.0 scale.

The Ovation Honors Categories are:

PUPPET DESIGN

MUSIC COMPOSITION FOR A PLAY

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

ORIGINAL WORK

All Ovation Award categories (except for Presented Production) shall be recognized for ‘original’ work only. For the purposes of this rule, ‘original’ means that the creative choices made by the director/designer/etc. must have been made for this particular production.

If it can be determined by the Ovation Rules Committee that the preponderance of an artist’s work on an Ovation-eligible production was actually ‘repeated’ from a prior production (by that artist or another artist, and including but not limited to: the rental of a touring set, the re-creation of a Broadway set, direct copy of a lighting or sound design, complete repetition of written or recorded stage directions or choreography, etc.), the artist will be disqualified from Ovation eligibility for that production.

If a preponderance of elements in a particular production is deemed to be ineligible, the Production itself may be ruled ineligible by the ORC in the appropriate “Best Production” category. Even if the production itself is ruled ineligible, those artists involved with the production whose work is original (e.g. local designers new to the project) may still be eligible for awards consideration.

Actors and Playwrights are not covered by this stipulation. Other Ovation Award rules address eligibility as it relates to performance and writing categories.

Since the 2013/2014 season, producers are asked to provide more information about a production via an online form when they answer ‘YES’ to the question, “Have multiple members of the production team or cast been involved in a previous production of this material OR are there recreated elements/rented packages being used for this production?”

If the producer indicates that the production should be registered as a Presented Production, they do not need to complete the form. If they feel the production has generated enough original work that they should be considered for some or all Ovation Awards categories, they then should complete the form. The Ovation Rules Committee shall rule based on that explanation and determine which elements of the production shall be considered eligible and whether there is sufficient original work for the production itself to be considered eligible in the appropriate category. Producers may appeal and/or ask to speak with a member of the Ovation Rules Committee directly regarding the ruling.

BEST SEASON

The Best Season category recognizes a body of work over the course of an Ovation Awards Season (September – August). The recipient and nominees are determined by calculating an average overall production score from all Ovation-registered productions within a company over the course of a season.

A company must produce and register at least three full productions to be eligible for this award, and they must register (and receive the minimum

number of votes) for all eligible productions they produce over the course of the season. If the company registers fewer than three productions, then it is not eligible for the Best Season award.

Beginning in 2013/2014, Overall Production Scores for Presented Productions will no longer be used in the calculation for Best Season. Organizations will only be eligible for Best Season if they have at least three non-presented productions that fully qualify within an Ovation Season.

ACTING ENSEMBLE

This category includes all cast members, including understudies and replacements, who perform in the initial run of the production that is scored by voters. It does not include dancers, musicians or other performers who are not part of the formal cast.

There is no formal definition of 'Ensemble', as opinions about what constitutes a quality 'ensemble' vary wildly in the theatrical community.

Voters are instructed to score each Ensemble based on their own definition, following the principle of scoring highly in this category casts that they believe should be considered for the Ensemble award.

A cast must include at least three performers (who are not understudies or replacements) to be considered in the Ensemble category.

INDIVIDUAL ACTING CATEGORIES

The designation of whether performers are considered Lead or Featured is left to the sole discretion of the producers at the time of registration.

All performers are eligible as both individuals (Lead/Featured) and as members of the Ensemble — an artist could win as an individual and part of an ensemble for the same performance — so the producer does not need to designate performers relative to the Ensemble category.

When registering for the Ovation Awards, a producer can list as many performers in each category (Lead Actor, Lead Actress, Featured Actor, Featured Actress) as they see fit.

If a performer plays multiple roles in a production, producers must list them on the Ovation Awards ballot only once when registering the show. Producers will credit them with multiple roles (i.e. John/Jacob), instead of listing the artist multiple times on the ballot.

PRODUCTION OF A PLAY/MUSICAL

These are overall production categories. Voters judge the overall achievement of the play or musical and all of its elements. This award is presented to the producers of the production.

The script (original or not) is considered an aspect of the 'overall' production and is included in the voters' assessment.

PRESENTED PRODUCTION

This category includes any registered production that was previously produced at any point in time prior to the current season, in Los Angeles or in any other geographic area. (This uses the definition of 'same production' as found in the No Duplicate Registration rule on page 10.)

Productions which are considered in the Presented Production category are not eligible in individual artist categories (Actor, Director, etc). The award is given to the presenters of the production, not the original producers.

(Please note, the Touring category was eliminated in the 2008/2009 season. It was replaced, beginning in the 2011/2012 season, with the Presented Production category.)

CHOREOGRAPHER/ MUSIC DIRECTOR

Choreographers and Music Directors may be considered in their category for both musicals and plays. This does not create a separate category, as it does for directors - they can simply be listed on ballots for either type of production.

WRITING CATEGORIES

These are text-based categories designed to recognize the creative achievements of writers in connection with new works. These are not categories that are intended to apply to the restaging of pre-existing works by means of creative concepts in direction or production, no matter how novel or innovative they may be.

To be eligible in the writing categories (Original Play, Book of an Original Musical, and Lyrics/Music of an Original Musical), a production must be an LA Premiere (having never had a performance run of 6 or more performances in the seven-county Greater LA area), and can never have had a full production (6 performances or more) at a Broadway, Off-Broadway, or LORT theatre.

A WORK IS NOT ELIGIBLE IN THE WRITING CATEGORIES IF:

It has been previously produced in Los Angeles and the script is the same with minor changes

The work is essentially the original text of a non-musical play to which incidental music and/or dances have been added as a directorial concept

The work is a new translation of a pre-existing play

The work has been updated, revised or presented in a new period setting, in an ethnic variation or restructured while still remaining closely connected with the underlying characters, plot and similar creative elements

PRODUCTION ELIGIBILITY

In order for a production to be eligible for Ovation consideration:

The producing entity must be affiliated with LA STAGE Alliance in one of the following three ways:

1. A Full Organizational Member of LA STAGE.
2. Using a one-time Rider Agreement while renting an Organizational Member's venue.

To be eligible for the Ovation Awards, productions must meet one or more of the following requirements:

1. The production includes a director who is a full member of SDC (working under a fully executed contract)
2. The production includes a designer who is a full member of USA (working under a fully executed contract)
3. The production includes an actor who is a full member of AEA (working under a fully executed contract or plan)
4. The producing organization has previously produced an Ovation Award Nominated production in the last three seasons, before the current one*

***Note:** If a producing entity is co-producing the production with another LA STAGE Organizational Member, and the production qualifies for Ovation consideration based specifically on #4, then both entities must qualify under this clause for the production to be eligible.

In addition:

The production must run at least **12 performances** (if 99 seats or fewer) or **6 performances** (if 100 seats or more). These must be full performances — previews, invited dress rehearsals and other similar showings do not count towards eligibility.

Productions in theatres with **more than 100 seats which include no members of any theatrical union** (AEA, SDC, USA, etc) are ineligible for the Ovation Awards.

The producer must offer **at least 30 complimentary tickets** to voters on at least five different performances.

To be eligible for nominations, **the production must receive a minimum of 12 votes**. LA STAGE Alliance does not guarantee voter attendance; it is the producer's responsibility to register in a timely fashion and to effectively market their production to Ovation voters to ensure that their 12 vote minimum is met (see page 14).

There is a **\$75.00 registration fee per show** if the show is registered prior to or on opening night. The fee may be paid online with a credit card or by sending a check to the LA STAGE Alliance P.O. box. For late registration, a producer may register no later than the Wednesday after opening night. In this case, the registration fee increases to \$90.00.

All Ovation Awards ballots must be completed and submitted for approval by the Wednesday after opening night, otherwise the production will be ineligible.

Shows are disqualified from Ovation eligibility if the production company is on any of the **union 'strike lists'** or the equivalent at the time of the production.

As of 2013/2014, all ballots must be approved by the Ovation Rules Committee prior to the production becoming fully registered. This process is done electronically and aims to eliminate any registration errors.

OVATION AWARDS POLICY REGARDING “DUPLICATE REGISTRATION”

For purposes of the Ovation Awards, a production is defined as a combination of script (regardless of revisions) and any TWO of the following elements:

Venue

Any producer or producing organization

Director

Any Lead or Featured Actor or Actress

Any Designer, Choreographer or Musical Director

Rule 1. No individual artist/element of a production may be reregistered in the same category for Ovation consideration within the same season, or again in any future Ovation seasons. **

Rule 2. No production or individual artist (performer, director, designer, choreographer, musical director) who has won an Ovation Award for any play or musical may be re-registered for Ovation consideration for the same role or artistic element of that play or musical, in any subsequent production or Ovation season.

**** Exception to Rule 1:** In the event that a production in an Intimate Theatre is re-mounted in a Large Theatre in any subsequent season, ALL individual artists may be re-registered for Ovation consideration in their categories, providing that they had not won the Ovation Award for that same production in any

prior season. This exception is intended solely to foster and encourage collaboration between larger and smaller budget organizations, in keeping with LA STAGE Alliance’s mission of building awareness, appreciation and support for the performing arts in Greater Los Angeles.

EXCEPTION TO “DUPLICATE REGISTRATION”

In the event a production closes without securing the minimum number of votes required for eligibility (12), the producer has the right to re-register the production for consideration again in the future. In the event a production is registered twice in this way, a voter who voted on the first production is allowed to vote on the production the second time around if they choose, or conversely, to cancel their assignment if they are assigned to see the production a second time. However, votes cast for the first version of the production may not be counted towards the second version of the production; it must secure the minimum number of votes in its own right.

Any production or artist which is rendered ineligible by these rules may appeal directly to the Ovation Rules Committee for an exception, and may be granted permission to register in specific unusual cases.

OVATION AWARDS POLICY REGARDING “EVENINGS OF ONE ACTS”

Only one show may be registered for Ovation consideration per ticket that an audience member would purchase. This prevents a group of one acts presented in a single bill to register individually.

They must register as a single production and the artists constitute one team (including co-directors, co-writers, co-designers, and one acting ensemble).

VOTER SELECTION

Voters may serve as many consecutive terms as they wish, provided that they are approved via the voter selection process each season. The process for selecting voters is as follows:

1. Applications for voters are typically made available in early May. The desired number of voters for each season is around 250.

2. First-year voters who have met their minimums and would like to rejoin must reapply for a second year. After that, voters need only reapply every three years.

3. Current members of the Ovation Rules Committee are instated as voters each year without having to apply.

4. All other voters (current and new) submit a written application which includes: a set of initial questions regarding their theatre history, theatre attendance behavior, a resume, and an essay/score sheet for a production that occurred within the past year and was also attended by a Committee member.

5. Regarding voter eligibility: A) As voters cannot vote on any show that they write a review about in any medium, professional critics and reviewers are typically ineligible for voter selection, and B) Voters are not eligible to be voters if they are already judges/voters/evaluators in another Los Angeles theatre awards program (Weeklys, Garlands, LADCC, Scenies, etc).

6. At least three Committee members score each application (scoring the essay portion 'blind', with the applicant's name removed).

Applications are scored on a ten point scale — five points for the initial questions/resume, and five for the essay/score sheet.

7. On either the essay portion of the application or the questions/resume portion, any Committee member may flag an applicant as 'do not approve without interview', requiring that that applicant be interviewed before they can be approved as a voter.

8. All scores are aggregated and averaged. Based on their score, some voters will be approved without an interview, some will require an interview and others will be declined without an interview.

9. Based on the number of applicants who need interviews, the staff schedules a number of interview sessions at various times and days of the week. Each interview session is four hours long, with three fifteen-minute interview slots per hour.

10. Every interview must be attended by at least three Committee members. If more than six Committee members are available for a given session, they may split into multiple rooms (of at least three in each) to see more applicants in that session.

11. Committee members will score applicants during the interviews, and at the end of each session, the present Committee members will make final yes or no decisions on each applicant based on their interview and written application scores.

12. Currently, a voter's behavior over a season does not influence their likelihood of being re-accepted, except in cases of not making minimums or of blatant code of conduct violations.

13. All approved voters must complete a training/orientation process every season.

14. Training/orientation will be split into two parts:

- a.** An online tutorial that goes over basic information and details of how to be a voter and use the electronic system
- b.** An interactive, in-person session that goes over new major changes to the rules or system for each season, and includes a discussion about the purpose of the Ovations and voting scenarios with the Committee

15. A voter's commitment during the year includes the following:

- I.** To attend and score at least 15 productions from 15 different companies. (There is no maximum)
- II.** To be "assigned" to at least three different productions using the online Ovations platform
- III.** To pay LA STAGE Alliance voter dues of \$100/Ovation season (this excludes only current Committee members and past Committee members who served seven years or more)
- IV.** To sign the Voter Code of Conduct.
- V.** To attend the Ovation Awards ceremony

VOTER POLICIES

Voters are able to vote on any Ovation-registered production that they attend during its initial run, no matter when or how they received tickets to the production.

Voters are required to identify themselves at the box office whenever they attend a show without an official Ovation reservation.

Voters must submit their scores online within 14 days of the performance attended. If a voter has not voted by the 14th day, the show will be removed from his/her "Cast Your Vote" list and the voter will be unable to vote on the production. (For performances seen less than 12 days from the end of the season, voters only have 48 hours after the season concludes to submit their ballots, rather than the full 14 days.)

Voters may vote on any Ovation eligible production they attend, EXCEPT:

- A voter who has a formal role with a producing organization (company member, staff member, board member) is not permitted to cast a ballot for any production produced by that organization.
- A voter who is an official contributor to a production in any way (usually indicated by being named with a job title in the program) is not permitted to cast a ballot for that production.

If an understudy performs in the performance a voter attended, the voter can still vote on the production as a whole. In addition:

- In the Acting Ensemble category, the work of the entire group of performers is included, including the understudy.

- In the Individual Actor category, only the particular actor/actress listed on the Scoring Sheet (not the understudy) may be scored. The voters should use the red X to avoid scoring that role in the individual (Lead/Featured) category if they saw the understudy perform instead.

In order to vote, voters must see the entire production. If a voter leaves early or arrives late they cannot vote, and they must cancel their reservation through the online interface.

Voters cannot score previews or invited dress rehearsals. They can score any performance from opening night to the originally-announced closing date, with the exception of "pre-scheduled and advertised understudy performances". **In the event of an extension beyond the originally announced closing date, the producer may choose to cut off voting to all future Ovation voters at that time.**

Any current Ovation voter is allowed to vote on any Ovation-registered production they attend, regardless of how they acquire the ticket (season subscriber, individual ticket-buyer, guest of someone else, etc.).

VOTING PROCESS

When a producer registers a production for Ovation Awards consideration, they offer at least 30 complimentary tickets to Ovation voters through a secure online interface. These tickets must be offered across at least five performances. Producers are only required to offer one ticket per voter, though they may choose, on any given performance, to offer an additional 'companion' ticket for voters to use if they wish. (Voters with physical accessibility issues will work out arrangements directly with the theatre if a companion seat is necessary for them to reasonably attend.)

Voters may reserve tickets through the online voter interface, which also allows voters to cancel or reschedule as necessary. Producers can check their will-call list at any time, and are notified by email when a voter cancels or reschedules. In addition, producers receive an email notification of will-call lists before each performance date.

If a voter attends an Ovation-eligible production without reserving a complimentary Ovation voter ticket, they are able to 'self-activate' in order to vote on the performance. When a voter self-activates, an automatic email is sent to LA STAGE Alliance and to the producer for security purposes. If for any reason it is determined that the voter DID NOT attend the production on the date in question, the Ovation Rules Committee will investigate and/or take disciplinary action.

Once a voter has either reserved tickets or self-activated, and subsequently attended a performance, the online system opens up the ballot for the voter to vote on the production. The voter may vote in any eligible category on a 100 point scale that ranges from a low score of 0.1 to a high score of 10.0. If a voter chooses, they may use the 'Red X' on any given category and choose not to submit a score for this category.

Once the voter has entered his or her scores, they submit the ballot, which is sent in to a secure database. A copy of the voter's submitted ballots are sent to the voter via email for record-keeping.

Once a voter has submitted their ballot, their voter page indicates that the ballot has been submitted. Likewise, the producer's page indicates that the voter has submitted their scores.

PROMOTING PRODUCTIONS TO VOTERS

As every production must have at least 12 votes submitted to be eligible for nomination, producers and voters may promote eligible productions to prospective voter attendees. This can be done in several ways:

1. **SENDING INVITES.** Producers are welcome to send voters a postcard, letter, email, or other invitation once for each production. A spreadsheet of voter contacts is available upon request from LA STAGE Alliance.
2. **LOCK THE VOTE.** Each week, Ovation voters are emailed a summary of every production currently available to attend. This highlights any productions which are about to close without meeting their 12 vote minimum to encourage voters to attend those productions specifically.
3. **MESSAGE BOARD.** In the secure voter pages, there is an internal message board where voters are encouraged to communicate with each other about productions that should be seen by the voting community — especially those that have not yet met their minimums. Voters are told not to share any specific details about a production, only to say, "You should go see this show," and never to do that for productions they are personally involved in creating.

ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM

An integral part of the voting process is the voter assignment system. This helps ensure voters are seeing a cross-section of work being done in our community.

Voters will be assigned to a show after every fourth complimentary reservation made through the system. (If a voter self-activates after having attended a production without using a complimentary voter ticket, it does not count for the purposes of the assignment system.) Voters are randomly assigned to attend a production on the date of their choice. Once a voter requests tickets for a specific date, the computer system will select a production that has Ovation tickets available and will issue those tickets to the voter. As with reservations, producers have the option to make companion tickets available if they choose.

Voters can use this system at any time, and are required to do so for every fifth complimentary voter reservation they make through the system.

Voters cannot 'bank' assignments by being assigned several times in a row. If a voter is assigned several times in a row of their own volition, they will still have to be assigned after the next time they have 'chosen' four complimentary tickets.

Once a voter has chosen a date/time for which they are available to be assigned, the system will randomly assign that voter to a show taking into account various criteria, including:

- If a production has had less than 12 voter reservations.
- If a production has had at least 12 voter reservations, but less than five of those were 'assigned.'
- If a production has had at least 12 voter reservations, and at least five were 'assigned.'
- The distance of the theatre to the voter's home (preferring closer over further).

If all aspects are weighted equally, the system assigns tickets at random.

When a producer makes tickets available on the website, they will appear immediately on the 'assigned' and 'reserve' ticket systems, without waiting for a certain number of 'assigned' voters for any given production. The preference for shows that do not have 'assigned voters' in the assigning system will still exist.

The system also holds one ticket for each date in reserve for 'assignment only' until at least five voters have been assigned. At that time, those reserved tickets are released back into the system for voters to claim at will. Those tickets are also released 96 hours ahead of the performance time, to make sure they can be used.

All voters, whether assigned or choosing, will only be issued one ticket. Producers may, at their discretion, offer the voters a 'companion' ticket (free or at a reduced price).

At any time that the production's average Overall Production score falls below the 20th percentile from the previous season after the first eight voters have scored it, the Assignment system will immediately stop assigning voters to that production.

TABULATION

At the end of each season, the results are tabulated by finding the average (mean) of all the votes cast in each category from the entire season.

The productions and performers with the highest average scores become the nominees, and the highest scoring productions and performers become the recipients. There is no 'second round' of scoring.

- If there are 24 or fewer eligible artists in a category, then there are three nominees.
- If there are 25-49 eligible artist in a category, then there are five nominees.
- If there are 50 or more eligible artists in a category, then there are seven nominees.

Each category has only one recipient unless there is an exact tie in the scores for the top position in a category, in which case there are co-recipients.

In the event that there is a tie between two artists or productions for the 'last nominee slot' (usually the third, fifth, or seventh place in scores), then both artists/productions will be nominees, resulting in one more nominee in the category than would normally be the case. This can also apply in the same way to three-way ties and so on.

Each season, the system and ballots are audited by an outside auditing firm to ensure that all rules and policies have been followed. The auditing firm also certifies the nominees and recipients for each season.

Staff members of LA STAGE Alliance who are registered with the Ovation Awards for their work on an eligible production are not permitted at any time to have access to individual voter ballots or the final numeric average scores for the nominees/recipients.

OVATION RECOMMENDED

BACKGROUND:

Prior to 2009, LA STAGE Alliance regularly heard the following complaint about the Ovation Awards:

I'm thrilled that my production received an Ovation Award, but I wish there had been a way to receive recognition while my production was still running. It could have prompted more people see this wonderful show!

In response, the Ovation Rules Committee, alongside the LA STAGE Alliance Board of Governors and Staff, instituted the Ovation Recommended program in 2009.

Through this program, productions registered for Ovation Awards consideration have the possibility of being designated as 'Ovation Recommended' at some point during their run. This designation acts as a marketing tool for theatres to use for promotion of their productions.

Ovation Recommended can be thought of as a version of Critic's Choice; productions are judged by the vetted pool of Ovation Voters — all of whom are currently working theatre professionals in the Los Angeles area.

Every week, the staff at LA STAGE Alliance generates a list of all productions which have become Ovation Recommended in the previous week. Those productions are notified immediately, and provided with logos and language regarding their new status that can be used in any of their marketing promotions. The Ovation Recommended logo will also appear in appropriate LA STAGE Alliance materials/publications/websites.

The Ovation Recommended program was heartily endorsed by over 90% of theatre producers in Los Angeles at the end of its first season, and it has become a significant marker of quality to the Greater LA theatrical community.

WHAT DOES OVATION RECOMMENDED MEAN?

The LA STAGE Alliance Ovation voters, a body of theatre professionals selected annually through a rigorous application/interview process by the Ovation Rules Committee, have determined through votes cast that these productions are ranked in the top 20% of all registered shows in the Overall Production voting category.

HOW OVATION RECOMMENDED STATUS IS DETERMINED

Once a production has had at least eight (8) Ovation voters attend and cast their ballots, it is eligible to become Ovation Recommended. After that point, if at any time the average overall production score for that production rises to the level which would have placed it in the top 20% of productions for the previous Ovation Season, it will become Ovation Recommended.

(Note that this calculation is made separately for the four production 'categories': Best Play - Intimate Theatre, Best Play - Large Theatre, Best Musical - Intimate Theatre, and Best Musical - Large Theatre.)

Once a production gains Ovation Recommended status, it cannot lose that status, even if subsequent voters who attend score the production poorly and its average overall production score drops below the threshold score.

PLEASE NOTE: Being Ovation Recommended does not guarantee that a production will receive Ovation Award nominations for that season.

There will be Ovation Recommended productions that do not receive any nominations. Similarly, since the Ovation Recommended status is only based on the Overall Production score, there may be productions which are not Ovation Recommended that will receive Ovation Award Nominations due to high achievement in an individual category, such as acting or design.

Ovation Recommended status is only to help communicate to the general public, during the show's run, that the production is highly successful overall.

OVATION AWARDS GOVERNANCE

The Ovation Rules Committee (ORC) is comprised of 9-15 theatre professionals in the Greater Los Angeles area. Committee members serve a provisional one year term followed by two three year terms (totaling seven years). New members are chosen through an application and interview process. Recommendations for Committee members are solicited from LA STAGE Organizational Members, current Ovation Rules Committee members, the Board of Governors, LA STAGE Staff, Ovation Voters, Ovation nominees/winners, and other stakeholders in the community.

For a full explanation of the Ovation Awards governance procedures, please read the Ovation Rules Committee By-laws.

In any case where the rules of the Ovation Awards are unclear or do not address a specific situation, the ORC shall make a decision as necessary, which shall be considered final. Any stakeholder in the community (artist, voter, producer, etc) who has suggestions or questions for the ORC may submit them through the LA STAGE staff by emailing ovations@lastagealliance.com. All communications will be taken to the ORC for consideration and/or response.

APPENDIX: OVATION RULES COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING OVATION RULES COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, an ad-hoc committee of the Board has, in consultation with members of the Ovation Rules Committee, reviewed that Committee's composition and procedures, and; WHEREAS, the ad-hoc committee has made its recommendations to the Board, NOW THEREFORE,

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

RESOLVED, The Ovation Rules Committee should consist of a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 15 voting members, and be co-chaired by a member of the LA STAGE Alliance (LA STAGE) Board of Governors and an elected member of the Ovation Rules Committee.

RESOLVED FURTHER, The Ovation Rules Committee's composition shall be determined with an eye toward diversity and representation by all interested classes of members. To that end, in appointing members to the Ovation Rules committee, the committee should aspire toward a membership that is reflective, and inclusive, of the wide variety of fields within the theatrical profession. The following recommendations shall be considered as factors in making such appointments:

- All members of the Ovation Rules Committee must be current Ovation Voters in good standing, excepting the ORC Co-Chair, who is the designate from the LA STAGE Board of Governors.
- At least one member representing the interests of for-profit theatre producers
- At least one member representing the interests of non-profit theatre producers
- At least one member representing the interests of 99-seat theatre producers
- At least one member representing the interests of Mid-size theatre producers
- At least one member representing the interests of Large theatre producers
- At least one theatre producer from a non-central geographic location
- All members of the Ovation Rules Committee must be practicing theatre professionals, excepting the ORC Co-Chair designate from the LA STAGE Board of Governors.
- As administrators of the program, members of the LA STAGE staff may not serve as voting members on the Ovation Rules Committee.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

RESOLVED, that the number one staff member of LA STAGE and the staff member who directly oversees the Ovation Awards (if different) serve the committee in an organizational and advisory capacity, but do not have the voting rights accorded to other Ovation Rules Committee members.

TERMS IN OFFICE; TERM LIMITS

RESOLVED, that Ovation Rules Committee members shall initially be appointed for a term of one year. Each member shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which appointed and until a successor has been appointed. Following the initial one year term a member may be re-appointed for up to two (2) additional three year terms, followed by a mandatory year off before being eligible for reappointment.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board of Governors may waive the term limit in a circumstance where an otherwise term limited member is considered crucial to the immediate mission and well being of the Ovation Rules Committee. If the Board agrees, such a member shall be considered appointed to an additional three year term.

SELECTION PROCESS

RESOLVED, that new members of the Ovation Rules Committee shall be selected, as vacancies arise, by the following process:

- Recommendations are invited from LA STAGE Organizational Members, current Ovation Rules Committee members, the Board of Governors, LA STAGE Staff, Ovation Voters, Ovation nominees/winners, and other stakeholders in the community.
- The Ovation Rules Committee will set some criteria that any prospective Ovation Rules Committee member must meet. Such criteria should strive to include these requirements:

1. Must be a current voter in good standing
2. Must be a practicing theatre professional, not solely in academics.
3. Must have recently attended a wide variety of theatres within the Los Angeles area.
4. Must have recently attended a wide variety of theatrical genres.

- Prospects are selected and interviewed by the current members of the Ovation Rules Committee. Each member of the Ovation Rules Committee, who has participated in the interview process, will be entitled to vote on the selection of a new member(s). The prospect(s) with the majority vote will be submitted to the LA STAGE Board of Governors, who will have the final approval of new Ovation Rules Committee members.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that new members of the Ovation Rules Committee, approved by the LA STAGE Board of Governors, must serve on the committee in a non-voting capacity for a period of six (6) months before becoming a full voting member. The first term in office will begin at the conclusion of this interim period.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a current member of the Ovation Rules Committee shall be elected to serve a one year term as Co-Chair of the Committee. This member shall have served a minimum of three years on the committee, been nominated by a committee member, and elected by the voting membership. This member shall be invited to attend select LA STAGE Alliance Board of Governors meetings (as a non-voting guest), to assist with the presentation of motions, and report back to the Ovation Rules Committee as pertinent information dictates.

SUBCOMMITTEES

RESOLVED, The Co-Chairs of the Ovation Rules Committee, may establish subcommittees as necessary, subject to the following:

- Subcommittees should be chaired by current sitting Committee members
- Subcommittees may include non-Ovation Rules Committee members, invited to sit on the subcommittee by a member of the Committee.

MEETINGS

RESOLVED, that the Ovation Rules Committee shall hold monthly scheduled meetings from 10:00 a.m – 12:00 noon (or later) on the first Wednesday of each month, excluding July and November. Such meetings shall be held using an agenda that voting members of the Ovation Rules Committee sets and prioritizes.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any motion that has been previously approved within a two-year period by the LA STAGE Board of Governors, may only be revisited if a majority of the present Ovation Rules Committee members vote to re-open the motion.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that motions requiring a vote by members of the Ovation Rules Committee, must be done with a present Quorum of 60% of the total voting membership of the current Ovation Rules Committee.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Ovation Rules Committee may hold such additional meetings as are necessary to perform the functions of the Ovation Rules Committee.

MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS OF OVATION RULES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RESOLVED, that Ovation Rules Committee members shall be expected to attend at least seven (7) of the ten (10) meetings scheduled per year, with no more than two (2) consecutive absences, or the member may be asked to resign by the Co-Chairs.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Ovation Rules Committee members are expected to participate in the solicitation, evaluation, and scoring of prospective Ovation Voter applications, or the member may be asked to resign by the Co-Chairs.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Ovation Rules Committee members are expected to participate in Ovation Voter interviews, or the member may be asked to resign by the Co-Chairs.

ACTIONS NOT REQUIRING A MEETING

RESOLVED, that certain day-to-day issues that come up as the staff administers the Ovation Awards program that involve questions of eligibility, exceptions, or rule violations can be decided via email, provided:

- More than half of the Committee has responded with an agreeing vote via email within 48 hours, unless at least three (3) Committee members request that the decision not be decided without a physical meeting of the Committee. The decision will be tabled until that time if possible.

ACTIONS REQUIRING A FORMAL MEETING

RESOLVED, that the following matters shall require approval of a majority vote of the entire membership of the Ovation Rules Committee at a formal meeting of the Ovation Rules Committee:

- Changes to the Ovation Awards Procedures and Rules
- Changes to Ovation Categories
- Changes to the Voter Selection Process
- Changes to Ovation Scoring System

RESOLVED FURTHER, that if a member is not present at a meeting, they may send their written thoughts and concerns before the meeting. Such communication shall be shared with the attending members, and incorporated into the discussion at the meeting.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that based on the conversation of the members at the meeting, the voting results of present members, and only present members, will be submitted to the LA STAGE Board of Governors for final approval of any motion.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that all motions submitted to the LA STAGE Board of Governors will include a written summary of the motion, a written opinion of the majority, and in cases where a vote is not unanimous, a written opinion of the dissenting minority.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that in the event that there is a tie vote amongst all voting members of the Ovation Rules Committee, the CEO of LA STAGE will make the determining recommendation to the LA STAGE Board of Governors.

INTEGRATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLVED, that all motions created by the Ovation Rules Committee will be presented to the LA STAGE Board of Governors to be voted on as separate items, except in cases when they are dependent on other actions, when proposed changes will be sent to the Board as a complete package.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that in cases that the LA STAGE Board of Governors rejects a motion, that a written response by the Board be submitted to the Ovation Rules Committee for evaluation and further action..