



The Madness of George III at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

LIZ LAUREN

■ At the 43rd Annual Equity Jeff Awards, held in November to honor accomplishments in Chicago-area theatre, *The Madness of George III* from **Chicago Shakespeare Theater** took top honors—five awards, including best large-theatre play—and **Charles Newell** won the musical-directing award for his work on *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* at the **Court Theatre**.

■ The Fred Ebb Foundation and New York City's **Roundabout Theatre Company** has presented the seventh annual Fred Ebb Award to **Jeff Blumenkrantz**. The \$50,000 prize recognizes up-and-coming musical-theatre songwriters. Blumenkrantz will also receive a one-night-only showcase of his work.

■ The inaugural BEST (Building Excellence in Small Theatre) Awards were bestowed in October in Los Angeles. Ranging from \$7,500 to \$10,000, the awards were given to six small Los Angeles County-based theatres: **24th Street Theatre**, **Circle X Theatre Company**, **Cornerstone Theater Company**, **Ensemble Studio Theatre**, **TeAda Productions** and **Will Geer**

Theatricum Botanicum.

■ **Catherine Trieschmann** is the winner of the 2012 William Inge Theatre Festival's Otis Guernsey New Voices in the American Theatre Award. The honor will be presented at the Inge Festival in April, in Independence, Kans. Trieschmann's plays include *How the World Began* (see page 29) and *The Bridegroom of Blowing Rock*.

■ At the **Acting Company's** November Masquerade Gala in New York City, **Brian Stokes Mitchell** and **Joseph Benincasa** received the Joan Warburg Humanitarian Award, for their work as chairman and president, respectively, of the Actors Fund. In addition, the John Houseman Award was presented to **James Bundy**, artistic director of Connecticut's **Yale Repertory Theatre**.

■ **Catherine "Kaki" Marshall** was presented with the Penn Creative Spirit Award in November. She was recognized for her creation of the **Philadelphia International Children's Festival**, the oldest children's arts festival in the country.

■ Composer **Robert Lopez** received an award of excellence in November at the PhilDev Celebrates

Broadway: *Suites* by Sondheim gala, hosted by the Philippine Development Foundation in New York City. Lopez is a Tony-winner for *Avenue Q* and *The Book of Mormon*.



Cathy Bernard presents Joan Cushing, left, with an Imagination Award.

DANIEL CHIA

■ **Joan Cushing** received an Imagination Award at **Imagination Stage's** 2011 Gala in Bethesda, Md. She was recognized for her work in creating new musicals for young people, including her stage adaptations of *Miss Nelson Is Missing* and *Junie B. Jones & A Little Monkey Business*.

■ At the Ashland New Plays Festival in Oregon four winning playwrights received workshops and readings of their plays. The works included *Couples* by **Gary Dontzig**, *Fernando* by **Steven Haworth**, *Countdown to the Happy Day* by **Thomas W. Stephens**

and *Spin, or Twilight of the Bohemians* by **Carol Verburg**.

■ **Christopher Plummer** and Cherry Lane Theatre artistic director **Angelina Fiordellisi** were honored in December at New York Stage and Film's annual winter gala.

■ **Vanessa Redgrave** was honored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in November for her five decades in film.

■ Tony-winner **Kristin Chenoweth** has been inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, which focuses on honoring Oklahoma's musical history.

■ Five-time Tony-winner **Angela Lansbury** and theatre historian **Louise Kerz Hirschfeld** were named "Living Landmarks" in November by the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The honor is given to New Yorkers who have made significant contributions to the city.

■ Actor **Ralph Fiennes** received the Shakespeare Society Medal at a December ceremony at Manhattan's Rubin Museum of Art. His stage roles include Richard II, Caesar and Romeo.



From left, at the Ashland New Plays Festival in Oregon, Steven Haworth, Thomas W. Stephens, Gary Dontzig, EM Lewis, Douglas Rowe and Carol Verburg.

ELIZABETH VON RADICS