

# DRAMATISTS NEWS

## ATTENTION MEMBERS:

The Dramatists Guild will soon be kicking off the 2012 Council Elections. This year we are streamlining the voting process by using an electronic balloting system. All Guild members at the Member level will receive instructions by email on how to participate in this year's elections. If you would prefer to vote by paper ballot, please contact The Dramatists Guild offices at 212-398-9366 or email [avonvett@dramatistsguild.com](mailto:avonvett@dramatistsguild.com).

## ANPF 2011 Saw Record Audiences, Gave the Playwrights a Profound Experience

This year's Ashland New Plays Festival, which ran October 19 to 23, 2011, had the best attendance ever in its nineteen-year history. The festival in picturesque Ashland, Oregon, draws playwrights and theatre lovers from far and wide for a week of workshops, readings, and playwright appreciation as they celebrate new works for the stage. Eight readings of four exciting new works were performed over five days, featuring professional directors and actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the local community.

The four winning playwrights were DG

PHOTO: © 2011 ELIZABETH VON RADICS

*Countdown to the Happy Day* playwright Thomas W. Stephens during a talkback.



PHOTO: TARI STRATTON

## PASEK AND PAUL WIN 2011 SONGWRITER'S FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Musical theatre writers and former DG Fellows BENJ PASEK and JUSTIN PAUL are the winners of the 2011 Songwriter's Fellowship Award, overseen by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

The honor was initiated by songwriter and Tony Award nominee Ann Hampton Callaway to recognize excellence in writing and offers support to emerging artists by fostering their talents.

Pasek and Paul are the team behind *A Christmas Story, The Musical!*, which will have an upcoming five-city national tour for the holiday season, launching in Hershey, PA in November.

Other current projects from the songwriting team include a musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* and *Dogfight*, a new musical commissioned by Lincoln Center Theatre. Both are graduates of The University of Michigan.

members THOMAS W. STEPHENS of Washington, DC, for *Countdown to the Happy Day* and CAROL VERBURG of San Francisco for *Spin, or Twilight of the Bohemians*, as well as Gary Dontzig of New Mexico for *Couples* and Steven Haworth of New York for *Fernando*. They were hosted in local B&Bs and enjoyed a full week of receptions, rehearsals, dinners, a playwriting workshop, and two staged readings of each play, followed by a moderated talkback. EM Lewis, an ANPF 2008 winner for *Song of Extinction*, returned to ANPF as the host playwright.

The four winning scripts were chosen from among more than 200 submissions, and the readings were held in a 200-seat venue within walking distance of downtown Ashland.

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*Spin, or Twilight of the Bohemians* playwright Carol Verburg during a talkback.



## ANYTHING GOES, BOOK OF MORMON AND HOW TO SUCCEED ARE GRAMMY-NOMINATED

Nominations for the 54th Annual Grammy Awards were announced Nov. 30. Nominees in the Best Musical Show Album category include *Anything Goes*, *The Book of Mormon* and *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*. The complete list of nominees in the Best Musical Show Album category follow:

**Anything Goes**, Cole Porter, composer/lyricist. (New Broadway Cast Recording) [Ghostlight Records]

**The Book Of Mormon**, Robert Lopez, Trey Parker & Matt Stone, composers/lyricists. (Original Broadway Cast) [Ghostlight Records]

**How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying**, Frank Loesser, composer/lyricist. (The 2011 Broadway Cast Recording) [Decca].

The 54th Annual Grammy Awards will be presented Feb. 12, 2012. CBS will broadcast the event live beginning at 8 PM ET.