



Press release: 10-Sept-2010

Theatre-goers invited to join the 2012 Laurence Olivier Awards judges

Release your 'inner critic' & enjoy free theatre tickets for the whole of 2011!

For nearly 35 years, ten lucky members of the public have been selected each year to join expert panellists (who are not critics but have professional knowledge of the industry) in assisting the Society of London Theatre (SOLT) to judge the winners of the most prestigious awards in London theatre.

The highly-acclaimed winners of the 2010 Laurence Olivier Awards included Rachel Weisz, Mark Rylance, Ruth Wilson, and Rambert Dance Company along with productions of *The Mountaintop*, *Morecambe* and *Spring Awakening*.

With London's regular theatre-goers starting to anticipate the theatrical treats 2011 might hold in store – from *Blithe Spirit* and *Shrek the Musical* to *Anna Nicole* and *Cinderella* – SOLT is inviting those with a keen critical eye to step up and apply for one of the public places on the 2012 Laurence Olivier Awards Panel.

Each panellist can enjoy free theatre tickets for a wide range of productions which they will be expected to review throughout 2011. And what's more, they will also receive a much sought-after invitation to attend the glittering 2012 Olivier Awards Ceremony at a glamorous five-star hotel, rubbing shoulders with London's finest theatrical talent!

Potential panel members, who must be over 18 years old and live within easy reach of London, can apply for a place on one of four independent judging panels – reviewing theatre, opera, dance or SOLT's affiliate theatres (which include Soho, Lyric Hammersmith, and Theatre Royal Stratford East).

Applicants will highlight their passion for London theatre in writing a succinct and insightful 150 word review of a new production they have seen in the past year, which should be submitted with a list of productions they have seen during that time.

Further application details are available in the Olivier Awards leaflet (available from any West End theatre), online at www.olivierawards.co.uk, via email awards@soltma.co.uk or by sending a S.A.E. to Awards Office, the Society of London Theatre, 32 Rose Street, London WC2E 9ET.

The closing date for applications is 26 November 2010, and interviews will take place in early December.

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- **For images, logos, or interviews** from representatives of the Olivier Awards contact Alison Duguid (details above).
- The Laurence Olivier Awards were created in 1976 as The Society of West End Theatre Awards to recognise excellence on the London stage, and became The Laurence Olivier Awards in 1984 when Lord Olivier agreed to have his name associated with them. Since then, winners have included a roll-call of legendary names and the awards event attracts high profile and extensive media coverage. Facts and figures: http://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/olivier_awards/facts/
- The awards include 23 categories, although they are not all given each year: 18 for theatre, two for opera, two for dance and one for productions presented by SOLT's (Society of London Theatre's) affiliate members
- Categories for the judging panels and numbers of the public positions available are as follows:
 - Theatre panel, 4 members of the public, 5 professional panellists
 - Opera panel, 2 members of the public, 3 professional panellists
 - Dance panel, 2 members of the public, 3 professional panellists
 - Affiliates panel, 2 members of the public, 3 professional panellists
- The Society of London Theatre is the trade association which represents the producers, theatre owners and managers of the 52 major commercial and grant-aided theatres in central London. The organisation exists in order to promote theatregoing, develop audiences, and to serve, protect and promote the interests of those engaged in theatre across London, through activities including: The Laurence Olivier Awards, tkts ticket booth, the Official London Theatre guide, Theatre Tokens and the annual promotions Kids Week in the West End and Get into London Theatre.