
BONEAU / BRYAN-BROWN

150 WEST 46TH STREET • SUITE 700 • NEW YORK, NY 10036
PHONE: (212) 575-3030 FAX: (212) 575-7534

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2004

EDITOR AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS
Contact: Jeffrey Eric Jenkins (718-789-5553)

Pulitzer Prize Winners Honored!

Best Plays Released Today Includes Essays on *Wife, Anna*

THE BEST PLAYS THEATER YEARBOOK 2002–2003 (84TH EDITION)

(New York, NY) — Two Pulitzer Prize-winning plays are honored in the 84th edition of ***The Best Plays Theater Yearbook*** released today (Limelight Editions, \$47.50, 500 pages). During the 2002–2003 season, **Doug Wright's *I Am My Own Wife*** opened at New York's Playwrights Horizons and **Nilo Cruz's *Anna in the Tropics*** received the Steinberg New Play Award after opening at the New Theatre in Coral Gables, Fla. Wright's play received the 2004 Pulitzer, Cruz's was honored in 2003.

Publication of the book continues a tradition dating back to 1920, when **Burns Mantle** founded the annual series on United States theater. Recent reviewers have written: "No theater enthusiast should be without it."* "Stylish commentary, which gives the reader a sense of the original production in addition to its literary merit."* "It remains the smartest, most comprehensive . . . survey of American theater."*

Under series editor **Jeffrey Eric Jenkins**, the current edition honors 10 New York-based dramatic works and three plays from the resident theater while providing a collection of viewpoints on the season under review. It also offers an extensive compendium of facts and figures about the theater season in New York and around the United States.

The Best Plays of 2002–2003 were chosen from Broadway, Off Broadway and Off Off Broadway productions of new plays that opened between June 1, 2002 and May 31, 2003. The choices were made by Jenkins after consultation with the *Best Plays* editorial board, which includes Robert Brustein, Tish Dace, Christine Dolen, Mel Gussow, Robert Hurwitt, John Istel, Chris Jones, Julius Novick, Michael Phillips, Christopher Rawson, Alisa Solomon, Jeffrey Sweet, Linda Winer and Charles Wright. The United States resident theater is represented in new-play statistics and in essays by Christine Dolen, Claudia W. Harris and Alec Harvey on plays recognized by the American Theatre Critics Association in its Steinberg New Play Award and Citations competition.

The Best Plays of 2002–2003 (in alphabetical order): *Book of Days* by Lanford Wilson (essayist, Tish Dace); *Dublin Carol* by Conor McPherson (essayist, Charles Isherwood); *I Am My Own Wife* by Doug Wright (essayist, Julius Novick); *Imaginary Friends* by Nora Ephron (essayist, Charles Wright); *The Mercy Seat* by Neil LaBute (essayist, John Istel); *Our Lady of 121st Street* by Stephen Adly Guirgis (essayist, Jennifer de Poyen); *Stone Cold Dead Serious* by Adam Rapp (essayist, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins); *Take Me Out* by Richard Greenberg (essayist, Christopher Rawson); *Talking Heads* by Alan Bennett (essayist, Jeffrey Sweet); *Yellowman* by Dael Orlandersmith (essayist, Michele Volansky). Each of the Best Plays of 2002–2003 is illustrated by photographic highlights from the honored production.

**Distribution of *The Best Plays Theater Yearbook* is generously underwritten
by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust.**

* Reviews are available in full at <http://www.bestplaysonline.com/>