



## Media Release

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### Central west strongly represented at the CAT Theatre Awards

Central West theatre groups have shown just how much talent our region has with nine local plays and musicals up for 24 different awards at the 2007 Telstra Countrywide Canberra Area Theatre (CAT) Awards next weekend.

The CAT awards, for theatre and musical productions in the Canberra area and surrounds, recognise the enormous contribution made by non-professional groups to the artistic life of Australia. The 2007 awards will be announced in Canberra on **Saturday February 23**.

Judges were dispatched throughout the year to see the shows of participating community and school groups and assess them Oscars-style in categories such as Best Musical, Best Actor, Best Set Design and even Best Magical Moment of Theatre. The judges gave 41 nominations to central west theatre companies across 24 categories.

**Orange Theatre Company** received 10 separate nominations for their production of 'Jekyll & Hyde' and nine nominations for 'Cats', including nominations for Best Musical for both shows. They also received nominations in two categories for the play 'Educating Rita'. OTC actors are well placed to take out the Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a Musical award with four of the five nominations.

**Parkes Musical & Dramatic Society's** superb production of 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' received four nominations including Best Musical and Best Director.

**Cowra Musical & Dramatic Society** received two nominations for their popular production of 'Fawlty Towers' including a Best Actor nod to Lawrance Ryan for his portrayal of Basil Fawlty.

Orange schools are represented at the awards also with **James Sheehan High School** nominated in three categories for 'Footloose' and **Kinross Wolaroi School** nominated for two productions from 2007. Their production of 'The Sound of Music' is up for three awards while their new work, '2259—A Convenient Lie' is up for 5 awards including Best Original Work.

**Billican Productions** from Billimari are also nominated for the special 'In The Spirit Of The Community Award'.

The CAT Awards have ran annually since 1994 with groups from across southern NSW and the ACT competing. The awards night will be held at the Canberra Theatre on Saturday February 23.

Orange Theatre Company, Parkes Musical and Dramatic Society, Cowra Musical and Dramatic Society, Kinross Wolaroi School, Molong Players and Bathurst's Carillon Theatrical Society have been past CAT award winners.

For more information on the CAT Awards and a full list of the nominees go to [www.catawards.com.au](http://www.catawards.com.au)

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