

The West Australian

Arts Entertainment Theatre

Big night as 2022 Performing Arts WA Awards celebrates local dance, theatre, musicals and opera

Tanya MacNaughton The West Australian

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📷 Spare Parts Puppet Theatre winners Sam Longley and Philip Mitchell. Credit: Miles Noel



A prime example of the highs and lows experienced by those working in the arts industry developed during Monday night’s 2022 Performing Arts WA Awards held at the State Theatre Centre of WA.

Mere hours after Spare Parts Puppet Theatre announced the forced cancellation of its remaining 2022 theatre season – due to building remediation issues of the company’s theatre in Fremantle – it was awarded Best Mainstage Production for *Beanstalk*, a retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk written and performed by Sam Longley.



📷 Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's Beanstalk with Sam Longley. Credit: Supplied

The 40-year-old company, who was advised without notice last week by the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries that performances could not proceed in the government-owned building it has called home for 37 years, was also recognised with the Outstanding New Work theatre award for *The One Who Planted Trees*.

Hosted by Artist Relief Fund WA, the annual night that celebrates the achievements of actors, directors, producers, theatre and dance makers in WA's performing arts industry, bestowed 46 awards across dance, theatre, musicals and opera.



📷 The Bleeding Tree by Angus Cerini. Credit: Tashi Hall

Revenge fairytale *The Bleeding Tree* by Angus Cerini and *ET*-inspired musical comedy *The Summer of Our Lives*, both from The Blue Room Theatre, each took out four awards, while Co3 Contemporary Dance was bestowed three awards for the company's *Archives of Humanity*.



In a surprising turn of events, all four dancers individually nominated for the Outstanding Performer award won – Natalie Allen for Julia, Juan Carlos Osma for The Sleeping Beauty, Carina Roberts for Coppelia and Ella Rose Trew for Slow Burn, Together.

Freeze Frame Opera's Angels & Devils, a re-imagining of Suor Angelica, was awarded Best Production in the musical and opera category.





 Lifetime Achievement recipient Chrissie Parrott. Credit: Miles Noel

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award honour went to Chrissie Parrott for her extensive work in the creative industries including as a dancer, lecturer, choreographer and arts festival director.

Artist Relief Fund WA secretary Nick Maclaine congratulated all the nominees and winners, saying each year the Performing Arts WA Awards seemed to get bigger.

“Thank you to everyone who made 2021 a year worth celebrating,” Maclaine said.

The full list of winners can be viewed at performingartswaawards.com.

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