

## LOCAL

# Mainstage waits for Stage North

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Blair Scott said he's been heading to Mainstage festivals since 2000 and that this was incredible.

"I think the play that we did made a huge difference and just the effect that it had on the people that were there," he said. "We were relatively early in the week so all week long it was people beating through other people to talk to you and tell you how great the show was and it was just a fantastic experience. You had people coming up to you and telling you about their life experiences and how it brought back things in their life, this show that we did."

It was the Courtenay Little Theatre who won Best Production for 'Biloxi Blues,' whose director is a drama instructor and no stranger to the festival.

Boyle admitted even though Stage North has been returning with some award every year since 2005, the competition is always impressive.

"There was something good about every play in that competition. Maybe the acting wasn't there but the set was fabulous, maybe the set was horrible but the ensemble was fantastic, it's just the theatre from around this province," said Boyle.

Adjudicator Andrew McIlroy had a

two hour coffee critique with the cast and crew and said although there were a few aspects that could use some work, he was blown away, especially by Laventure doing such a heavy play for his first time directing.

Boyle isn't the only actress leaving Stage North. The theatre company also loses Christine Unger who played Boyle's mother in 'The Rabbit Hole.'

"She's just coming into her own, she's been with Stage North for four or five years and just a great asset, she's been backstage, on stage and she did some fabulous work with the adjudicator at the coffee critique also. She's awesome," raved Boyle.

Boyle will also be missed by Scott.

"We have been doing this for 12 years together, it's a huge loss to this company" he said.

Stage North will hold its annual general meeting on July 29 at 7 p.m., with a BBQ at 6 p.m. Scott hopes to get bums in seats and already has a few ideas for next year's Mainstage.

"We go there every year with a huge contingent of people and we show up for everything, we go to the coffee critiques, the green rooms, and people actually tell us that Mainstage doesn't actually start until Fort St. John gets there," he said.



Submitted Photo

Director Rob Laventure, producer Dale Hillman and actress Terry Boyle in Stage North's *Rabbit Hole* attended Theatre BC's Mainstage in Maple Ridge recently where Stage North won Runner-up for Best Production and a number of other awards as well.



# Stage North receives awards, honourable mentions at Mainstage

JULY 26, 2009

**HIEDI IRVINE**  
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

After nine days at Mainstage, the cast and crew from Stage North's 'The Rabbit Hole' arrived back in Fort St. John with a few awards under their belts.

Although everyone was tired from their 2 a.m. arrival and some even talked about sandwiches in their sleep, their efforts proved to be worth it.

The production won awards for Best Sound by Chalene Scott, and

Best Backstage Crew organized by Tony Atkins. Honourable mentions went to Zac Scott and Aubyn Petryshyn in the Best Supporting Actor and Actress roles, Tabby Dyer also got an honourable mention for properties manager. Certificates of merit were given to first-time director Rob Laventure, and actors Terry Boyle, Blair Scott and Zac Scott.

For Terry Boyle, who played the mother of a boy who had been killed by a young driver, played by Zac Scott, this marked her last Mainstage after a 12 year run with Stage North

since she'll be moving in August.

"We had a great performance, the cast and crew are a close-knit cast and crew, one of the closest we've had in the plays I've done with Stage North, we all just kind of had a big love-fest, we loved each other and we had a good time together and put on a great show. If I'm going to go out I wanted to go out big and thanks to Rob Laventure and all of the cast and crew I did," said Boyle, who admitted the week was emotional for her.

In order to get to Mainstage, each

of the 10 zones in the province select the best production to attend the event in early July.

"All of these plays have already won awards already and their not going to show up with junk," said actor Blair Scott, who played the father of the boy who was killed.

Before heading to Mainstage and winning the Peace River Zone Festival in May, the cast and crew were told they should re-think or change a few things, which they did, including the set.

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