

## SOUTH SOUND CRITICS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES BEST OF THE 2015 – 2016 THEATER SEASON

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Each year SSCA awards recognize the magic of live theater. SSCA remembers the great performances. SSCA celebrates the great shows. BPA is among those chosen for recognition:

### **BEST PLAY, *WINNER***

[AMADEUS](#), Bainbridge Performing Arts

### **BEST PLAY, *BPA NOMINEE***

[MARY POPPINS](#), Bainbridge Performing Arts

### **BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR, *WINNER***

**Luke Walker**, as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in [Bainbridge Performing Arts](#)' "Amadeus." Just a year removed from his nomination for Adolpho in last year's "The Drowsy Chaperone" Luke Walker walks the red carpet in search of a Best Supporting Actor nod for his portrayal of Mozart. The famed composer was a kaleidoscope of moods, and Mr. Walker nailed them all. When Axs reviewed the play we said, *"Mr. Walker plays him with perfect pitch."*

### **BEST ACTORS, *BPA NOMINEES***

**Nelson Spickard** as Antonio Salieri in [Bainbridge Performing Arts](#)' "Amadeus." Musicians, actors and theater critics have three things in common. They have talent, a voice, and can be a territorial lot. "Amadeus" highlights all three characteristics in two of history's greatest musicians. Antonio Salieri and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were the toast of Italy during their careers as composers. Mozart was the young, and impetuous one. Salieri was traditional...and wildly jealous of his younger counterpart. Nelson Spickard's Salieri spat out his distaste for Luke Walker's Amadeus over the course of three thrilling hours. Mr. Spickard won the Best Supporting Actor nod from the SSCA last year for The Man in the Chair in "The Drowsy Chaperone." There was nothing drowsy about his performance in "Amadeus." And the audience was kept wide awake, as well. When Axs reviewed the play we said, *"With his voice, his walk, and his superb stage bearing Nelson Spickard plants his stake...BPA Nominee"*

**Pete Benson** as Benedick in Bainbridge Performing Arts' "[Much Ado About Nothing](#)." Once a year Bainbridge Performing Arts takes the show on the road with an outdoor performance of Shakespeare. In "Much Ado About Nothing" Pete Benson gives an inspired and entertaining performance of the Bard's work. Benedick is a scoundrel, a loyal friend, and a man who doesn't know that his heart wants what a heart wants. The audiences at the Bloedel Reserve roared with laughter and nodded in agreement as Benedick traveled his path to enlightenment. Mr. Benson plays his role to perfection. He also plays to the crowd in hilarious asides. To be able to do both is a gift. When Axs reviewed the play we said, *"Pete Benson's Benedick bought into the humor and physicality of his role. His performance was both wry and completely believable."*

### **BEST ACTRESS, *BPA NOMINEE***

**Lisa Mandelkorn** as Mary in [Bainbridge Performing Arts](#)' "Mary Poppins." Way back in December, Bainbridge Performing Arts set the tone for the season and set the bar high all in one fell swoop of a parasol. Their "Mary Poppins" was a spectacle! The role of Mary in this show is a great responsibility. If Mary is good, the show will succeed. If Mary fails to deliver, no amount of chimney sweeping and bird feeding can save the show. Lisa Mandelkorn wasn't good. She was great! A singer par excellence, Ms. Mandelkorn sang notes a piano would fail to find in its repertoire. When Axs reviewed the show we presciently said, "Doubtless a Best Actress nominee in the South Sound Critics Award season next summer".