

Ragtime at the Piccadilly Theatre

Autograph Sound Recording, the UK's leading theatre sound design specialist, have been nominated twice in the theatrelands most prestigious show business awards. For the first time in its 28-year history the Laurence Olivier Awards panel has added a Best Sound Design category to its list of honours.

Autograph are used to being associated with the awards, in the last 20 years they have designed or supplied 28 of the productions that have won in the Best Musical or Best Play categories! Out of the 4 nominations Autograph have been named twice for their excellent work on the musicals Pacific Overtures and Ragtime that played at the Donmar Warehouse and The Piccadilly Theatre respectively.

Ragtime was designed by the American sound designer Peter Hylenski who was working for Autograph on this occasion. He had expert hands-on help from Autograph's founder and designer Andrew Bruce who had been asked by the producers to be a consultant on the project, "Peter did a beautiful job on the show, it was great to be of help and to hear him bring the show's full and vibrant score to life", comments Bruce. To complete the strong Autograph team Hylenski was also assisted by Chris Full who took the role of Associate designer.



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Pacific Overtures at the Donmar Warehouse

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The other nomination for the sound design award is Autograph's Nick Lidster who designed Stephen Sondheim's Pacific Overtures. This played a sell out two-month season last summer at the Donmar Warehouse and won huge critical acclaim.

Lidster overcame the problems of amplification in a small venue by using the Swedish LDS700 ribbon loudspeakers, his discreet use of them perfectly suited the subtle requirements of the production and the intimate nature of the Donmar.

Autograph's Managing Director Terry Jardine is delighted by the addition of the sound design category to the Laurence Olivier Awards, "We, that is all sound designers, have had to wait a long time for this recognition from a high profile awards body. Sound designers have been making a significant difference to live theatre productions for many years now and so it is high time that this vital contribution is recognised and rewarded. To have two nominations for Autograph designers is quite fantastic and of course we would love to be successful, but I think all 'soundies' are winners this year by the very fact that we have at long last been invited to join the party!"

The awards are being held at London's Hilton Hotel, Park Lane on 22 February.