

THE CELEBRATION OF TWIN CITIES THEATER



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**2010 Ivey Awards Recognize
Wendy Lehr for Lifetime Achievement and
Kalere Payton for Emerging Artist**

**Three productions and six individuals also
honored at September 20 celebration**

(MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL) — The Twin Cities theater community honored actor **Wendy Lehr** with the Lifetime Achievement Award and **Kalere Payton** (pronounced Kah-LEER-ah) with the Emerging Artist Award at the 6th annual Ivey Awards on Monday, September 20, at the Historic State Theatre in downtown Minneapolis. The yearly celebration honors and showcases the work of professional theater companies and artists over the past year.

Lehr, one of the Twin Cities' most respected actors, also served as co-host for the evening with Bain Boehlke, Artistic Director of the Jungle Theater.

Based on evaluations completed by the general public and more than 150 volunteer theater evaluators who saw more than 1000 performances in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area from September 2009 through August 2010, the following productions and individuals were also recognized with 2010 Iveys:

Productions

Mary's Wedding by the Jungle Theater

Ruined by Mixed Blood Theatre

Othello by Ten Thousand Things Theater

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Individual Recognition

Aaron Gabriel: Music, *Madame Majesta's Miracle Medicine Show* (Interact Theater)

Katie Guentzel: Acting, *My Antonia* (Illusion Theater)

Allison Moore: Playwright, *My Antonia* (Illusion Theater)

Joseph Stanley: Scenic Design, *Mulan, Jr.* (Children's Theatre Company)

Tulle & Dye: Costumes, *Disney's Beauty & The Beast* (Ordway Center for the Performing Arts)

Regina Marie Williams: Acting, *Ruined* (Mixed Blood Theatre)

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Wendy Lehr (Lifetime Achievement Award) is one of the Twin Cities' most beloved and respected actors whose work has been seen on the stages of The Jungle Theater (currently in *The Glass Menagerie*; *The Gin Game*, *Blithe Spirit*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Bone Dry*, *House of Blue Leaves*), the Guthrie (*A Christmas Carol*), Theatre de la Jeune Lune (*Lulu*, *Lettice and Lovage*), Park Square Theatre (*Mary Stuart*, *Noises Off!*), Theater Latté Da (*The Full Monty*), Ordway Center/Park Square (*Grey Gardens*), and History Theater (*Eternity*). From 1966–1986, as a member of the resident acting company at Children's Theatre Company, she created roles in more than 130 productions, including her signature role as Pearl Cramp in *Cinderella* (which she performed from 1966 to 1999). She also served as CTC's associate artistic director and director of education from 1990–1998. Regionally, Wendy performed with the Arizona Theatre Company for four seasons, as well as with Lyric Opera Cleveland, Seaside Music Theater (FL), and Kansas City Repertory Theatre. As a director, Wendy has directed productions for Park Square Theatre, Ordway Center and SteppingStone Theatre. She served as artistic director of the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists from 2005–2009, which recently renamed the Lowry Theater in downtown St. Paul the Lehr Theater in her honor. Wendy was the recipient of the 2008 Sally Irvine Ordway Award for Commitment to the Arts.

Kalere Payton (Emerging Artist Award) designed the costumes for Penumbra Theatre's currently running *Sleep Deprivation Chamber* as well as *The Whipping Man*, The Producing House's *Power Balladz*, Park Square Theatre's *Othello*, Theater Latté Da's *Violet*, and the Guthrie's *Circle Mirror Transformation*. She has designed numerous shows for the University of Minnesota, including *A Bright Room Called Day*, *The Wiz*, *The Arabian Nights*, and *Happy*. She also has designed costumes for Black Theatre Ensemble in George and Florida Players. Kalere received her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Minnesota in 2009.