

Nominee: Becky Daggett
Category: Performing Arts

I nominate Becky Daggett for the Viola Award for the Performing Arts. In her many roles, Daggett is a major player in the performing arts community in Flagstaff. This community has benefited in so many ways from her work as a performer and from her many efforts to support, advocate for, and raise the profile of the arts. I dare say that no other person has had a larger impact on the performing arts in Flagstaff in 2011 than Ms. Daggett.

AS AN ARTIST

In 2011, Becky Daggett performed in two major productions at Theatrikos Theatre Company. The first was a one-woman show called *The Last Flapper*, a portrayal of Zelda Fitzgerald, the late wife of author F. Scott Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was an artist and author, and spent the last 18 years of her life in various mental institutions, diagnosed with schizophrenia. The play, a two-act production with Daggett as the only actor, is written using many of Fitzgerald's letters written from these last 18 years. Daggett's powerhouse performance portrayed the pride, intelligence and mental deterioration of Zelda Fitzgerald with astonishing emotional depth and beauty. Her ability to carry this entire production, from start to finish, solely on her own shoulders - that's an amazing accomplishment on it's own. But Daggett also gave a compelling and interesting portrayal that left the audience feeling the sadness and tragedy of an intelligent, popular woman who's world has slowly fallen apart.

Daggett also performed in Theatrikos' recent production of *Inspecting Carol* as M.J. In this production with so many other cast members, Daggett's stage presence is powerful. While there were other quality actors in this play, Daggett stood out for her ability to so naturally portray a woman who sarcastically and cynically approaches a production that is comically falling down all around her.

AS A LEADER

Daggett is the Executive Director of Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy (FALA), a charter school for grades 7 - 12. FALA excels as a primary middle and high school that offers quality arts education: music, visual art, dance, theater and more. Daggett's leadership has helped to professionalize a strong but scrappy school that is nationally recognized for it's quality efforts, especially in the arts. She is a tireless promoter and fund raiser, making the school a bigger part of the larger community and more visible than ever before. Most importantly, she's always putting the students and their efforts out front, highlighting their many performances in the community.

She has also been President of the Board of Directors of Theatrikos Theatre Company for the past three years. The change and growth of the theatre in the

last few years under her leadership has been a breath of fresh air. She has overseen the successful transition between two Executive Directors, while the theatre has remained strong and vibrant throughout. She led the effort to improve and increase the organization's fund raising efforts, and it's Board is very strong under her leadership. Theatrikos - and all those who participate in and benefit from the theatre's programs - owes much to her efforts.

This combination of Daggett's efforts - as an exceptional actor, effective Director, and volunteer leader - is rare and valuable. She has made a huge impact on the performing arts, and has made Flagstaff a better place to live as a result.

Article about The Last Flapper

http://www.flaglive.com/flagstafflive_story.cfm?storyID=225072

Theatrikos' Board Bio of Daggett

<http://theatrikos.com/index.php/board-of-directors/>

ED Welcome at FALA Website

<http://www.flagarts.com/about-us/Executive-Director-Welcome.htm>