

Nominee Name*: Tony Sutera

Category: Performing Artist

Some actors “saw in the air”; as Shakespeare said but some command the space and force you to watch them by their sheer compelling presence. Tony is such an actor. He shines on stage and brings body, mind and soul to the character he inhabits. In 2010, he literally embodied Sir John Falstaff in the play “The Merry Wives of Windsor”; He researched the character and using Shakespeare's text determined that Falstaff was as wide as he was tall, so Tony padded himself into a six foot sphere. For the world premiere of “Enlightenment”; at Theatrikos he found a Beefeater's costume on line and had it shipped to him, at his cost, for the volunteer role. He's been involved in over 30 productions, 23 as a cast member, including leads in “Miracle on 34th Street”; “The Laramie Project”; and “Six Degrees of Separation”; He also volunteered as a set builder and technical crew member. Tony goes beyond the call of duty and mentors young actors who watch with amazement as he seemingly creates new characters out of thin air. There's a child-like sense of play that Tony brings to each creation as he breathes life into old costumes. Tony's legacy is that he leaves a part of himself on the community stage each time he performs. He shares his humanity with us and thereby expands our humanity. He gives out of the goodness of his heart.

Tony played one of the leads in the February 2010 production of “The Merry Wives of Windsor”; As John Falstaff he was the center of the stage literally. He was just cast in December of 2010 in “You Can't Take it With You”; also to be at Theatrikos. He was involved in a feature film in Flagstaff in 2010 working for Stephen Root as well as starring as Harvey in the short film “Pitching Harvey”; that was filmed last week, in December, 2010.

Tony has volunteered at numerous Theatrikos and FUSD events as an M/C. Thirty years of teaching and coaching at Coconino High School. He supports each actor that mounts the stage and has been a positive role model to do the thing you love and never be afraid! Each performance he takes risks and teaches the audience tolerance by conveying characters that may sometimes be repulsive but are always human. His impact on local theatre is great and young actors are taught by Tony's example nightly on the stage.

Tony has been a part of a play called “Life Without Parole”; for several years in the Los Angeles area but has also played it in Flagstaff. It's based on real transcripts from battered women who kill in self defense and then go to prison to serve life without parole. He has also spoken at memorial events twice this year.

Please visit these website for more information, photos, and clips of Tony's work.

http://theatrikos.com/photo_galleries/The%20Merry%20Wives%20of%20Windsor%202010/index.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqIZnHMgDJg>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0xePKpVMDQ&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NNeWZr1i7w&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

http://theatrikos.com/photo_galleries/Six%20Degrees%20of%20Separation%202008/index.html

http://theatrikos.com/photo_galleries/The%20Laramie%20Project%202007/index.html