



Press Embargo: Thursday 21 July 00:01

Royal Opera House to host the 2012 Olivier Awards with MasterCard on Sunday 15 April 2012

The 36th Olivier Awards with MasterCard, the UK's highest stage honours, will be hosted at London's prestigious **Royal Opera House** for the first time ever at a star-studded ceremony on **Sunday 15 April 2012**.

The event will be moving slightly later than usual in the theatrical calendar. Nominations for the awards will be announced on Thursday 15 March 2012 with a cut-off date of Thursday 16 February 2012 for eligible productions.

Mark Rubinstein, President of the Society of London Theatre (SOLT), said: "Following the huge success of last year's event under the inspired direction of our Chief Executive Julian Bird, we are delighted to be hosting the 36th Olivier Awards with MasterCard at the beautiful Royal Opera House. We look forward to welcoming the finest theatrical talent to the industry's premier awards."

The 2011 Oliviers were celebrated at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane at a high-profile ceremony and awards show, at which guests enjoyed a spectacular night of entertainment.

For further information about the Olivier Awards with MasterCard visit:

www.olivierawards.com

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- **For further information including a list of the 2011 winners visit www.olivierawards.com**
- The Laurence Olivier Awards were created in 1976 as The Society of West End Theatre Awards to recognise excellence on the London stage and became the Laurence Olivier Awards in 1984 when Lord Olivier gave his name to the awards
- The Society of London Theatre is the association which represents the producers, theatre owners and managers of the 52 major commercial and grant-aided theatres in central London. The organisation exists in order to promote theatregoing, develop audiences, and to serve, protect and promote the interests of those engaged in theatre across London.
- The awards include 24 categories, although they are not all given each year: 18 for theatre, two for opera, two for dance, one for productions presented by SOLT's (Society of London Theatre) Affiliate members and the BBC Radio 2 Audience Award for Most Popular Show. The Society of London Theatre also presents the Special Award.
- In 2011 the awards were attended by nominees including: Roger Allam, Sir Derek Jacobi, Antony Gormley, Gina McKee, Rachael Stirling, Tamsin Grieg, Sophie Thompson, David Suchet, Rory Kinnear, Nancy Carroll, Tracie Bennett, Sahr Ngaujah, Brian May, Roger Taylor, Simon McBurney, Michelle Terry, Alex Gaumond, Jeremy Dyson, Andy Nyman, Jill Halfpenny, Sheridan Smith, Michael Xavier, Emma Williams, Ramin Karimloo, Sarah Goldberg, Elena Roger, Josefina Gabrielle, Summer Strallen, Sierra Boggess, David Thaxton, Hilton McRae, James Laurenson, Lee Ross, Adrian Scarborough and the cast of *Blasted*
- Presenters of the 2011 awards included: Sir Patrick Stewart, Benedict Cumberbatch, Anne-Marie Duff, Matthew Fox, Joss Ackland, Rupert Everett, Elisabeth Moss, Lesley Manville, Oliver Chris, Mark Gatiss, Reece Shearsmith, Amanda Holden, Es Devlin, Gok Wan, Alfie Boe, James Purefoy, Joanna Riding, Jonny Lee Miller, Elaine Paige, Tamara Rojo, Danielle Hope, Rachel Tucker, Louise Dearman, Olivia Williams and musician Dave Stewart with Caissie Levy.