

## Canadian Theatre Critics Association Extends Deadline for Cohen Award



The Canadian Theatre Critics Association has extended the submissions deadline for the revived Nathan Cohen Award. The deadline for this year's competition is now **September 15**.

Named after the esteemed CBC and *Toronto Star* theatre critic, the award aims to recognize excellence in theatre criticism in print media, including newspapers, magazines, and literary journals. Submissions from recognized internet publications and websites that are dedicated to theatre criticism or that publish some theatre criticism within the site will also be accepted.

The Nathan Cohen Award will be given out once every two years. Submissions will be accepted in two categories: long reviews (more than 2,500 words) and short reviews (less than 2,500 words). Submissions may be received from any Canadian or permanent resident theatre critic for articles published within the previous 24-month period prior to the submission deadline.

"The Nathan Cohen Award is a way of recognizing some of Canada's best critical writing at a time when the whole notion of writing skill, authority and expertise is under attack," said CTCA President Don Rubin, former head of the Graduate Theatre Program at York University and Editor of the six-volume *World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre* published by Routledge.

"Outstanding writing in our field is often lost these days both in traditional media (which has been cutting back on space for criticism) and in the democratic ocean of the internet. Our profession needs to push back.

"We understand all too well the traditional animosities some people have toward the idea of criticism as a whole. That's even more reason that we need to recognize examples of outstanding critical writing when they come along.

"As the Canadian Centre of the International Association of Theatre Critics (UNESCO), the CTCA is pleased to be able to offer this important award in the name of a man who believed in critical standards. We encourage writers across the country to submit what they feel is their best work."

Submissions to the Nathan Cohen Award should be sent with a \$20 application fee, payable to the Canadian Theatre Critics Association, per piece. Only one piece per category will be accepted, although authors may submit two pieces (one in each category) with a \$40 application fee. Submissions should be sent to Kamal Al-Solaylee, School of Journalism, Faculty of Communication and Design, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 2K3.

The Nathan Cohen Award will be given out at a theatre event in the fall. The winner in each category will receive an award of \$200 and a plaque.

The Canadian Theatre Critics Association was incorporated in 1981 to promote excellence in theatre criticism and to encourage the dissemination of information on theatre on a national and international level. The organization has just launched *Webplay*, a survey of theatre reviews across Canada posted at <http://www.canadiantheatrecritics.ca/reviews.html>

-30-

Ann Swerdfager  
Publicity Director

Stratford Shakespeare Festival  
North America's Leading Classical Theatre  
55 Queen Street | PO Box 520 | Stratford ON | N5A 6V2  
Toll Free 1.800.561.1233 | 519.271.0055 Ext. 2297

Box Office: Toll Free 1.800.567.1600 | 519.273.1600  
[www.stratfordshakespearefestival.com](http://www.stratfordshakespearefestival.com)

2010 Season | As You Like It | Kiss Me, Kate | The Tempest | Dangerous Liaisons | Evita | Peter Pan | The Winter's Tale | Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris | For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again | Do Not Go Gentle | The Two Gentlemen of Verona | King of Thieves