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December 27, 2017

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The Best of Cleveland Theater in 2017

Our year-end accounting of the stars of the local stage

By Christine Howey

So, we've put one more year of local theater in the can. Who knew we'd still be alive to write this list, let alone read it? No nuclear war yet. But, you know, I'm typing as fast as I can just in case.

Here are some notable winners from 2017 in categories that are random, entirely subjective, and occasionally irrelevant. Enjoy!



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Waiting for Godot, Courtesy Beck Center

BEST PORTRAYAL OF TWO REAL-LIFE GENIUSES

Robert Hawkes, who played both poet Wallace Stevens (*Things As They Are* produced by Playwrights Local) and electrical inventor Nikola Tesla (*The Chaste Genius and His DeathRay Gun* at Convergence-Continuum Theatre).

BEST RISKS: BECAUSE IT'S VITAL FOR RISKS TO BE TAKEN IN THEATER (whether they actually succeed or not)

Massacre (*Sing to Your Children*) Convergence-Continuum Theater

*Things As They Are**, *This is NOT About My Dead Dog**, Playwrights Local

*Don't Wander Off**, *Who We Used to Be**, Theater Ninjas

*Red Ash Mosaic** and *The Art of Longing**, Cleveland Public Theatre

(* World premiere, locally-written)