

STAGE WATCH

CRITICS PICK BEST DRAMA CANDIDATES

The Drama Critics' award ceremonies will be held in conjunction with a buffet supper and a musical show at the Variety Arts Center on April 22. The show is called "Theatre Sings Theatre" and is directed by David Galligan, who did a bang-up job at last year's ceremonies with a Stephen Sondheim retrospective.

Following is the complete list of nominees.

Production: "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been," produced by Laura Zucker at the Back Alley Theatre; "In the Belly of the Beast," produced by Madeline Puzo for Center Theatre Group/Mark Taper Forum at Taper, Too; "In Trousers," presented by Roger Berlind, Franklin R. Levy and Gregory Harrison in association with Catalina Production Group; co-producers David R. Brymer and Jeanne Troy; at the Callboard Theater; "Tamara," produced by Moses Znaimer and Barrie Wexler for Maple Interactive Entertainment Ltd.; at Il Vittoriale.

Direction: Gwen Arner, "Passion Play," Mark Taper Forum; Paul Benedict, "Beyond Therapy," L.A. Public Theatre/Coronet Theater; Matt Casella, "In Trousers"; Paul Giovanni, "Light Comedies," Ahmanson Theatre; Richard Rose, "Tamara"; Clyde Ventura, "Like One of the Family," Theatre West; Robert Woodruff, "In the Belly of the Beast."

Writing: Caryl Churchill, "Top Girls."

Literary Adaptation: Adrian Hall and Robert Woodruff, "In the Belly of the Beast."

Musical Score: William Finn, "In Trousers"; Randy Newman, "Maybe I'm Doing It Wrong," Roxy.

Costume Design: John Kline and Richard



IAN DRYDEN / Los Angeles Times

Wendel Meldrum, left, William Schallert, Margot Dionne in "Tamara," a production that picked up five nominations.

Lead Performances: David Abbott, "Kingdom of Earth," Theatre West; Steven Berkoff, "Decadence," L.A. Theatre Works/Pilot Theater; Matthew Broderick, "Biloxi Blues," Ahmanson Theatre; Bud Cort, "Endgame," Mayfair Theatre; Richard Dreyfuss, "The Hands of Its Enemy," Mark Taper Forum, Huntington Hartford; David Dukes, "Light Comedies," Ahmanson; Gerald Hiken, "The White Crow," Los Angeles Actors' Theatre; Elizabeth Huddle, "Second Lady" (part of "Solo Flights"), Zephyr Theatre; Jenifer Parker, "Top Girls"; Charles Pierce, "Charles Pierce," Mayfair Theatre; Andrew Robinson, "In the Belly of the Beast"; Jonathan Silverman, "Brighton Beach Memoirs," Wilshire Theatre; John Snyder, "Vicious," 2nd Stage.

Featured Performance: Charles Cioffi, "Brighton Beach Memoirs"; Joan Copeland, "Brighton Beach Memoirs"; Karen Hensel, "Top Girls"; Kenneth Tigar, "The Coming of Stork," Santa Monica Playhouse.

Ensemble Performance: Kathy Garrick.

Nichols, "In Trousers"; Margot Dionne, Sue Glosa, Marilyn Lightstone, Wendel Meldrum, Leland Murray, John P. Ryan, William Schallert, Helen Shaver, Michael Stefani and Robert Thaler, "Tamara."

Creation/Performance: Penn Jillette and Teller, "Penn & Teller," L.A. Stage Co.

Choreography: Karin Baker, Gower Champion and Randy Skinner, "42nd Street," Shubert Theatre.

Costume Design: Theoni V. Aldridge, "La Cage aux Folles," Pantages Theatre; Robert Blackman, "Wild Oats," Mark Taper Forum; Gianfranco Ferre and Diana Eden (coordinator), "Tamara."

Lighting Design: Martin Aronstein, "Passion Play"; Dawn Chiang, "Light Comedies"; Steve Cuden, "In Trousers"; Jules Fisher, "La Cage aux Folles"; Paule Jenkins, "In the Belly of the Beast"; Russell Pyle, "Billy Budd," Gene Dynarski Theatre; Greg Sullivan, "Endgame."

Musical Direction: Jim Coleman, "42nd Street"; Roy Leake Jr., "In Trousers"; Michael S. Roth, "Maybe I'm Doing It Wrong."

Orchestration: Michael Starobin, "In Trousers."

Scenic Design: Vicki Baral and Gerry Hariton, "Homesteaders," Matrix Theatre.

D. Martyn Bookwalter, "Passion Play"; Robert Checchi, "Tamara"; David Mitchell, "La Cage aux Folles"; Douglas W. Schmidt, "Light Comedies"; Carl Toms, "A Patriot for Me," Ahmanson Theatre; Bo Welsh, "Steaming," Cast-at-the-Circle Theater.

For further information about the awards ceremony; 851-3771.