

# Spoilt for choice

## Stage readers reveal who they would have picked as theatre world's most influential

This year, for the first time, we asked readers of *The Stage* to vote for whom they believed should have been included in the *Stage* 100, our annual list of the most influential names in the theatre world.

Voting on our website [www.thestage.co.uk](http://www.thestage.co.uk) closed at the end of February and we can now present a selection of the many and varied suggestions we received.

As one might expect, actors featured heavily in the public vote, with **Jane Krakowski**, **Douglas Hodge** and **Jenna Russell**, who all appeared in *Guys and Dolls* in the West End in 2005, getting the nod. They were joined by **Judi Dench**, a near ever-present over the years in the list, **Penelope Wilton**, **Kathleen Turner** and panto favourite **Louise English**, described by one reader as "a superb vocalist and captivating on stage".

*Mamma Mia!* also received strong support, with both global producer **Judy Craymer**, "one of the highest earning females around", and executive producer **Andrew Treagus** featuring.

There were also calls for **Alan Ayckbourn**, another *Stage* 100 stalwart who missed out this year, to be reincluded, while established director **Michael Blakemore** was also a favourite with voters. Other directors featured in the responses included **Phil Wilmott** – his "refreshing and enthralling use of direction sees him mix character and story to great effect" – and **Mark Wing-Davey**.

The fringe, perhaps surprisingly, also performed well with director **Tassos Stevens**, "a shambolically brilliant and tireless supporter of artists who are genuinely emerging and at the start of their

careers", and Arcola artistic director **Mehmet Ergen** among those put forward for inclusion.

Meanwhile in the regions, **Hannah Miller**, casting director at the Birmingham Rep, and **Terry Hands**, artistic director at Clwyd Theatr Cymru in north Wales, featured alongside **Kate Cross**, artistic director at the Egg in Bath – "creator and director of the most perfect and most thrilling theatre for young people... the driving force behind this achievement".

Theatre's technical side also threw up some interesting nominations. Among them was **Andy Scorgie**, head of production at the Royal Festival Hall – "Andy's stage engineering for the refurbished RFH is bold and revolutionary... he has been a major influence on reshaping the technical staffs of the London RSC, Riverside Studios and the RFH". Lighting designer **Mark Henderson** was also nominated, alongside **Marc Sinden**, producer and creator of the website UK Theatre Availability, which "will transform the theatre industry, enabling producers to book tours around the UK and Europe via a single website". Qdos Entertainment executive producer **Michael Harrison** and, finally, **David Adams**, honorary treasurer of the Association of British Theatre Technicians for "services to the theatre industry in helping to formulate guidelines to best working practice".

Interestingly, there was also an elite group who were so popular that, despite having already made the *Stage* 100, voters felt so strongly about their inclusion that they voted for them again: **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, **Cameron Mackintosh**, **Ewan MacGregor**, **Ruth Mackenzie** and **Richard Jordan**.



Picture: Joan Marcus



Picture: Catherine Ashmore



Picture: Charlie Hopkinson

Pick of the pack – (clockwise from top left) Judy Craymer, Michael Blakemore, Jane Krakowski and Judi Dench