

## Broken Arrow Community Playhouse wins top honors

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The Broken Arrow Community Playhouse's production of "The Gin Game" took top honors at the 2010 Oklahoma Community Theatre Association's OCTAFest competition, held July 30-Aug. 1 in Norman.

The company's presentation of the second act of this Pulitzer Prize-winning play by D.L. Coburn was named the best show of the festival and also earned the "Standing Ovation" Audience Choice award. The play's two-person cast, Tom Berenson and Karyn Lee Maio, won Best Actor and Best Actress awards, respectively.

Tulsa's Heller Theatre received the OCTAVision award, in recognition of the company's efforts to create a new space for itself and for its sister program, Clark Theatre, in the Henthorne Park Community Center.

Coburn's "The Gin Game" is the story of two residents of an assisted living center who form a tentative relationship over what begins as a friendly card game.

BACP's production, directed by Martha Cherbini, was originally presented in October 2009. Berenson also appeared in a 2000 production of the play, by the American Theatre Company.

"The Gin Game" will represent Oklahoma community theaters at the regional competition, to be held April 2011 in Lewisville, Texas. Winners from that competition will go on to the national competition of the American Association of Community Theaters, set for July 2011.


A total of eight theater companies from around the state competed at this year's OCTAFest. In addition to the Broken Arrow company, the festival had performances of "Almost Maine" by the Duncan Little Theatre; "Love Letters" by the Lawton Community Theatre; "Wanda's Visit" by the Regional Actors Community Theatre of Tonkawa; "Ladies of the Mop" by Lawton's Blue Moon Productions; the first act of "Proof" by the Ponca City Playhouse; "The Lady of Larkspur Lotion" by the Sand Springs Community Theatre; and "Smoke Damage" by the Terrace Level Players of Bartlesville.

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