

■ Composer/lyricist **Peter Mills** (*Illyria, The Rockae*), a founding member of Prospect Theater Company in New York City, has received the Fred Ebb Award for songwriting. The \$50,000 prize will assist Mills as he prepares with co-writer/director Cara Reichel to open his new musical, *Honor*, next month at Prospect.



Jacob

COURTESY OF USITT

■ This month at the USITT Conference and Stage Expo for entertainment design and production (see page 16), several designers will be honored with USITT Distinguished Achievement Awards in their crafts: **John Lee Beatty** (sets), **Patricia Collins** (lighting), **Rebecca Cunningham** (costumes) and **John and Helen Meyer** (sound). **Karl Eigsti** will be honored for his career as an educator, and **Abe Jacob** will be paid tribute with the USITT Award for his long career in sound design.

■ Baltimore librarian **Laura Amy Schlitz** won the Newbery Medal—one of the most prestigious awards for kids' books in the U.S., which is rarely bestowed outside the narrative fiction genre—for a series of theatrical monologues. *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!: Voices from a Medieval Village* was published



Ávila

in picture-book form by Candlewick Press.

■ Denver playwright **Tencha Ávila** is the first-place winner of the 2007 MetLife Nuestras Voces national playwriting competition, following a December reading series of the finalists. Ávila's script, *Kiss Bessemer Goodbye*, will be produced at Repertorio Español next year. The second- and third-place plays are *Meskins/Cycle of Life, Love and Death*, by **Fernando Dovalina** of Houston, Tex.; and *All I Want to Hear*, by **Rob Santana** of Jersey City, N.J.

■ Season of Concern presented its first annual Lawrence Sloan Awards—



Biancosino

COURTESY OF SOCC

named after the first executive director of that organization, which raises funds to fight HIV/AIDS in the Chicago theatre community—to **Roche Schulfer** of the Goodman Theatre, **Margaret Newton** of the Marriott Theatre, and the Chicago company of *Wicked*.

■ **Michhole Biancosino**—

founding artistic director of New York's Project Y Theatre Company and co-founder of the New Orleans Theatre Experiment—will serve as the assistant director on Laird Williamson's production of *Coriolanus* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, thanks to the Sir John Gielgud Fellowship, administered by the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation.

■ Page 73 Productions has named **Tommy Smith** its 2008 Playwright Fellow. The P73 Playwriting Fellowship provides cash and development support to a playwright who has not yet received production opportunities in New York City. Smith will work on a new comedy called *The Wife* and a libretto for a musical adaptation called *The Story of the Eye*.

■ The new class of Huntington Playwriting Fellows, the third since the program began in 2004, is made up of Boston-area playwrights **Kirsten Greenidge**, **Jacqui Parker**, **Ken Urban** and **Joyce Van Dyke**.

■ Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley, Calif., awarded four staged readings last month through its third annual Global Age Project: **Javier Malpica** (*Our Dad Is in Atlantis*, in a translation by **Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas**); **Michelle Carter** (*Kings Play Chess on Fine Green Satin*); **Zayd Dohrn** (*Sick*); and **Alberto Villarreal Diaz** (*Events with Life's Leftovers*, in a translation by **Andy Bragen**).

■ More than a decade ago, critic Pat Launer created the annual Patté Awards to celebrate San Diego-area

theatre. Pattés were handed out at January's televised event to winners representing 13 companies.

**Ira Bateman-Gold** (aka **Dale Morris**) received best-new-play honors for *A Hundred Birds*; and the three top productions were *Communicating Doors* at Cygnet Theatre Company, *The Farnsworth Invention* at La Jolla Playhouse and *Bell, Book & Candle* at the Old Globe. Special honors went to veteran director/choreographers **Don** and **Bonnie Ward**, philanthropists **Dea** and **Osborn Hurston** and volunteers **Ree** and **Maurice Miller**. Eighteen-year-old **Luke Marinkovich** snagged the first annual Patté Scholarship for a Promising Young Theatremaker.

■ The Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce in Alabama gives out an annual award called "Live the Dream" to accomplished sons and daughters of the city. Two Birmingham-to-Broadway transplants accepted that honor at a February ceremony: **Max Cooper**, producer of *Spring Awakening*, and actor **Rebecca Luker**, most recently seen in *Mary Poppins*. ❧

From left, Greg Whitman, Robert Borzych and Thomas Hall in *A Hundred Birds*.

PAUL SAVAGE