

## Top theatre awards for local schools



Students from De La Salle College, Waterford, winners of the Best Overall School Musical category at this year's Bord Gáis Energy Student Theatre Awards for their production of *Guys & Dolls*, who performed 'Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat' at the awards ceremony. | Photograph: Sasko Lazarov/Photocall Ireland.

De La Salle College in the city and St Declan's Community College in Kilmacthomas have both scooped awards at this year's Bord Gáis Student Theatre Awards, which were hosted by actor Simon Delaney recently. Over 2,000 students representing 57 schools around Ireland attended the ceremony.

De La Salle College was awarded the top accolade in the Best Overall School Musical category for their production of the musical *Guys and Dolls*. "The production demonstrated a high level and standard across all disciplines required of a musical, with a big dollop of heart and passion", one of the judges commented. The school was also selected to perform at the awards on the day and took to the stage with their version of 'Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat' from the show.

St. Declan's Community College won the Best Musical Number award for their performance of the song 'Say Something' by Christina Aguilera. The judges described the performance as a 'wonderfully simple presentation that was distinctive, original and downright classy'.

As part of their prize, both schools will receive a bursary from Bord Gáis Energy.

Bord Gáis Energy set up the Student Theatre Awards two years ago to recognise and reward participation in drama in schools across Ireland. The competition was open to primary school students from 3rd - 6th class and all students in secondary school and featured 11 categories including best direction, best set and best overall play.

This year's judging panel included: Harry Potter star Evanna Lynch; actor Simon Delaney; Emmy® award winning animator Mårten Jönmark from Brown Bag Films; leading Irish fashion designer Emma Manley; managing director of COCO Television Stuart Switzer; manager of the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre Stephen Faloon; and Bord Gáis Energy Theatre sponsorship manager, Tanya Townsend.