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Best of the Quad Cities Fall 2010 Winners

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WRITTEN BY ADMINISTRATOR

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Here are the winners in our fall 2010 Best of the Quad Cities balloting, covering four categories: Arts, Culture, and Entertainment; Night Life; Shopping and Services; and People.

(For the winners of our spring competition – covering Food and Dining; Civics and Government; Media; and Recreation – click here. Our Best of the Quad Cities archive – with 10 years of winners – is here.)

In this round of voting, we had 581 valid ballots, and we required participants to provide reasonable answers in at least 20 of the 63 categories. In all, 17,829 votes were cast on valid ballots.



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Local Actor

- 1) Tristan Tapscott
- 2) Ben Hopkins
- 2) Mike Schulz
- 2) Tom Walljasper

Local Actress

- 1) Kimberly Kurtenbach Furness
- 2) Tracy Pelzer-Timm
- 3) Stephanie Burrough

Tristan Tapscott

Best Local Actor

Kimberly Furness

Best Local Actress

If you're a frequent area theatre-goer – and, as I'll continue to scold, shame on you if you're not – you have almost no choice but to be familiar with the stage work of the *Reader* poll's Best Local Actor and Actress, Tristan Tapscott and Kimberly Furness. After all, between the two of them, they've appeared in, I dunno, about a million local productions over the past six years alone. That's an exaggeration, sure, but there's no exaggerating the talent, or prolificity, of these two supremely



Tristan Tapscott and Kimberly Furness

gifted performers/directors/producers. In 2010 alone, Tapscott has appeared in *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Whodunit: The Musical*, *Go, Dog. Go!*, and the current *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline* for the Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse, and *Rent* and

the current *The Rocky Horror Show* for the Harrison Hilltop Theatre (of which he's artistic director and a co-founder). Furness performed in Circa '21's *Squabbles* and, for the Curtainbox Theatre Company (of which *she's* artistic director and a co-founder), January's *Fool for Love*, and will soon portray the title character in the Curtainbox's November drama, *Hedda Gabler*. (In the interest of full disclosure, I'm a Curtainbox company member myself, will be playing Furness' husband in *Hedda Gabler*, ... and have seen more than 20 Harrison Hilltop shows in the theatre's 29-month history.) Recently, the pair joined me in the Circa '21 salon and shared some thoughts on the past year, favorite co-stars, and dream projects:

On favorite stage memories in 2010

Furness: It was really fun to be back on the Circa stage, because I haven't been for a while, and any time I get to work with Mike Kennedy and Autumn O'Ryan and Adam Lewis is always a delight.

Tapscott: *Rent* was definitely a highlight, but also doing [the debuting] *Whodunit* here – doing something incredibly new that no one's ever touched.

On favorite Quad Cities experiences over the years

Furness: Honestly, one of my favorite things that I've gotten to do was [Circa '21's 2005] *The King & I*. It was the first thing I did when I moved back to the area. *Fool for Love* was a fun thing to do, too, because that's a play I have loved forever. And producing [2009's] *Glengarry Glen Ross*. For sure.

Tapscott: I'll tag onto that and say that was one of my favorite acting experiences in the Quad Cities, *Glengarry*. To be on stage at the same time with Pat Flaherty and Lou Hare, and Eddie Staver, and Dan Sheridan ... It was like "Wha-a-ah!?"

On dream roles

Furness: I'm excited that I'm getting to *play* one of my dream roles in *Hedda Gabler*. Being a producer – and Tristan will probably agree – is kind of nice because if you want to play those roles, you can. So *Hedda*, and crazily enough, *Evita*. I'm probably getting too old to play that now, but it's a role I've never gotten to play, and I love that musical.

Tapscott: I'm really looking forward to playing Dennis here in *All Shook Up* in January. But the cool thing is: I've been lucky enough to play a lot of the roles that I've really wanted to play. I need to make a new list, almost. Jamie in *The Last Five Years* is still on the top there. And, of course, I can't play [the African-American character] Coalhouse Walker Jr. in *Ragtime*, but I *wish* I could.

Furness: I want to do that one, too. – Mike Schulz