



For Immediate Release

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***Westword* “BEST OF DENVER” Winners:**

**Alumni and Partners of the College of Arts & Media
University of Colorado Denver**

The Music & Entertainment Industry Studies, Theatre, Film & Video Production, and Visual Arts Programs of The University of Colorado Denver’s College of Arts & Media proudly recognize the following alumni and partners for their recent distinctions in the *Westword*’s “BEST OF DENVER” issue April 1, 2009.

- **BEST HISTORY FESTIVAL – *Celebrate 1908*** – Laura Cuetara, Associate Professor in Theatre, Film & Video Production department spearheaded and created *Celebrate 1908* in partnership with Auraria Casa Mayan Heritage and El Centro Su Teatro. Theatre students participated in *Celebrate 1908* festival’s theatre presentation and also contributed to exhibits and the book sale – “...the best entertainment inspired by the 2008 Democratic National Convention may leave a more permanent legacy. *Celebrate 1908* was a true celebration of the people who’ve contributed to the melting port of Denver over the past century.” – *Westword*
- **BEST EXAMPLE OF THEATRICAL RELEVANCE – *Mediamockracy*** – Mitch Dickman, UC Denver Theatre, Film and Video Production Department alumnus and owner of Listen Productions created “DNC Mediamockracy”, a hybrid documentary, theatre and internet multimedia project for the Denver DNC “Director Mitch Dickman and actors Karen Slack, William Hahn and GerRee Hinshaw went out with recording equipment during the Democratic Convention in Denver, asking questions and shooting video. Hahn and Slack made their characters so vivid and interesting that you almost wished someone, somewhere, would give them shows of their own.”
- **BEST JAM SESSION – *Tuesday Session with Dan Schwindt***, Dazzle Restaurant and Lounge – UC Denver lecturer Dan Schwindt teaches applied guitar and guitar theory for the Department of Music & Entertainment Industry Studies. “Dan Schwindt definitely knows a few things about jazz guitar and improvisation, and he’s performed with a ton of the region’s heavier players.” – *Westword*
- **BEST NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL – *Mile High Music Festival***, “It was a festival where rock legends like Steve Winwood followed hometown artists like Meese, a gathering where giants from history of pop music rubbed elbows with artists who’ve helped forge the local scene.” – *Westword* – MEESE’s Mike Ayars, a 2004 graduate of the Music & Entertainment Industry Studies program plays guitar, keyboards and is a vocalist with the band. MEESE’s newest Atlantic album, *Tell Me It’s Over*, will be broadcast June 30th, 2009. <http://www.atlanticrecords.com/meese>

- **BEST ONLINE HIP-HIP SHOW** – D.J. Chonz on Ustream.TV. DJ Chonz, aka Mario Rodriquez, is a 2001 graduate of the UC Denver Music & Entertainment Industry Studies Department Music Industry Studies emphasis/Business focus. “...DJ Chonz is probably the most famous of his brethren in Denver. He’s on KS-107.5 every day, offering live mixes to listeners as they drive home from work...Chonz set up his own channel on Ustream.TV and began spinning live music...” – *Westword*
- **BEST ACTOR** – Terry Burnsed, *Tiny Alice* at Germinal Stage Denver. Burnsed is a lecturer in the Theatre, Film & Video Production Department teaching Introduction to the Theatre and Drama of Diversity classes. “Burnsed’s portrayal was at the heart of *Tiny Alice*’s power and success; in fact, he acted with such integrity and passion that you wondered how he could endure repeating the role again and again through the run.” – *Westword*

The Dean of the College of Arts & Media congratulates all of our winners for these outstanding achievements and contributions to the Denver cultural arts community. To see all of *Westword*’s “BEST OF DENVER” winners, go to: <http://www.westword.com/bestof>.

As the first college in Colorado devoted exclusively to arts and entertainment, the College of Arts & Media (CAM) at the University of Colorado Denver embraces the influence of modern trends on traditional art forms. Located on UC Denver’s downtown campus, CAM is at the heart of Denver’s thriving, dynamic arts community. The college uses the latest technology to encourage its students to discover new forms and contexts. CAM is one of 13 schools and colleges at UC Denver. The University offers more than 100 degrees and serves more than 28,000 students in Metro Denver and online. For additional news and information, please visit the www.ucdhsc.edu/news/.

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