

# Picture perfect... Kidman picks up best actress award for pioneering role in 'Photograph 51'

## THEATRE

Actress glitters at London Evening Standard Theatre Awards, reports **William McLennan**

Nicole Kidman has been named best actress at the London Evening Standard Theatre Awards for her starring role as a pioneering genetic scientist who was written out of history – the second time this month she was awarded for the performance.

In a star-studded ceremony at the Old Vic theatre last night, Kidman picked up the Natasha Richardson Award for best actress for her portrayal of Rosalind Franklin in *Photograph 51*, in which the female researcher faces institutional sexism and is sidelined by male colleagues despite her pivotal discovery in unlocking the code of DNA.

It's a fierce rebuttal of a misconception that undervalues the work of Ms Franklin and instead heaps all praise on the Englishman Francis Crick and the American James Watson, who, along with Maurice Wilkins, shared a Nobel prize in 1962.

Kidman won rave reviews for her role and has been playing to full houses at the Noel Coward Theatre from September until the end of the run this week.

At the Harper's Bazaar Women Of The Year Awards earlier this month she won the Theatre Icon award for the performance.

James McAvoy was among the fellow winners and received the best actor award from Gillian Anderson for his performance in *The Ruling Class* at Trafalgar Studios.

The 61st edition of the annual awards was hosted by

was hosted by the owner of the *London Evening Standard*, and *The Independent*, Evgeny Lebedev, alongside two British icons of the stage and screen, Judi

Dench and Ian McKellen. It was presented by comedian Rob Brydon. Imelda Staunton, who was

awarded for best musical performance for her leading role in *Gypsy*, performed one of the show's songs, "Everything's Coming Up Roses". Pixie Lott also sang "Moon River" from a forthcoming production of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, which opens at the Haymarket Theatre Royal next year.

Molly Davies got the Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright with *God Bless the Child* at the Royal Court Upstairs.

Gemma Arterton was recognised for her role in *Made in Dagenham* at the Adelphi Theatre. Her debut musical performance won the Newcomer in Musical Award.

The Emerging Talent Award, in partnership with Burberry, went to David Moorst for his role in *Violence and Son*, at the Royal Court Upstairs.

The Sloane Square theatre picked up the most awards for a single venue, with Anna Fleischle winning the Best Design Award with her set for the world première of Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen*.

The Editor's Award, in partnership with The Ivy, was presented to veteran Vanessa Redgrave. She picked up her award from daughter Joely Richardson and Ralph Fiennes.

The Lebedev Award was presented by Dench and McKellen to multi award-winning music legend Stephen Sondheim, who celebrated his 85th birthday this year.

## Winners The list

**Best Actor** James McAvoy, *The Ruling Class*, Trafalgar Studios

**Natasha Richardson Award for Best Actress** Nicole Kidman, *Photograph 51*, Noel Coward Theatre

**Best Play** *The Mother\*\*\*\*\* with the Hat*, Stephen Adly Guirgis, National Theatre's Lyttelton

**Milton Shulman Award for Best**

**Director** Robert Icke, *Oresteia*

**Best Design** Anna Fleischle, *Hangmen*

**Lebedev Award** Stephen Sondheim

**Charles Wintour**

**Award for Most**

**Promising Play-**

**wright** Molly Davies,

*God Bless the Child*

**Emerging Talent Award**

**in partnership with Burberry**

David Moorst, *Violence and Son*

**Best Musical Performance** Imelda

Staunton (inset), *Gypsy*

**Newcomer in a Musical:** Gemma

Arterton, *Made in Dagenham*

**Evening Standard Radio 2 Audience**

**Award for Best Musical (voted for by**

**the public)** Kinky Boots

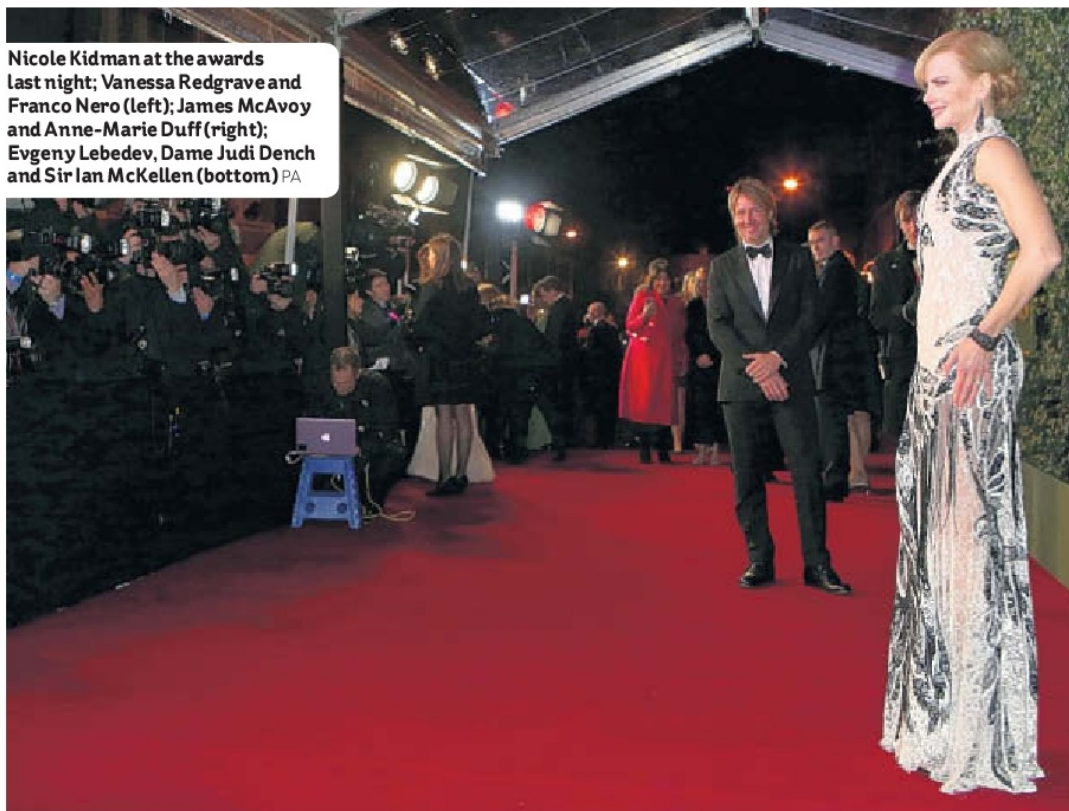
**Beyond Theatre** Alexander McQueen:

*Savage Beauty*



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**Editor's Award** Vanessa Redgrave



Nicole Kidman at the awards last night; Vanessa Redgrave and Franco Nero (left); James McAvoy and Anne-Marie Duff (right); Evgeny Lebedev, Dame Judi Dench and Sir Ian McKellen (bottom) PA

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