

2017 Arts Award – Professional John Tomlinson

John has been an active member of the Performing Arts community in Lake County for over a decade. He has acted and directed with the Lake County Theatre Company and the Arts Council as a volunteer, but has also contributed to the community a professional arena.

With a master's degree in theater, John is certainly an expert when it comes to entertaining an audience. He started his own production company, New Vintage Productions, several years ago. Under John's leadership and direction, New Vintage brought the Night at the Speakeasy and Romeo and Juliet to the Soper Reese Theatre. The importance of being Earnest to the historic schoolhouse museum in Lower Lake, Romantic Fools to the East Lake Grange, and The Floating Door to the Moose Lodge. Aside from his work with New Vintage Productions, John has also worked as drama, film, and speech instructor for Mendocino College. Most Notably, John worked with the college, the Lake County Theatre Company, and the City of Lakeport to bring us the first annual Shakespeare by the Lake production in Library Park last summer.

John's tireless efforts over the better part of a year resulted in the most spectacular production in Lake County has ever seen. Nearly a thousand spectators flocked to the park to take in the acting, singing, costumes and sets that made A Midsummer Night's Dream a truly magical cultural experience.

He already has the wheels set in motion for the 2nd annual Shakespeare by the Lake performance, and he hopes to continue to bring the bard to life every July, right here in Lake County. John's professional contribution as an actor, director, producer and teacher have truly enriched the Lake County performing arts scene, and will continue to do so for years to come.