

Arts, Briefly

Compiled by STEVEN McELROY

Published: August 13, 2007

Julie Halston, Host for Awards

Two years ago, at the inaugural New York Innovative Theater Awards, which honor achievement in Off Off Broadway theater, the host **Charles Busch** coerced one of the evening's presenters — his friend the actress and comedian **Julie Halston** — to stay onstage and serve as his co-host for the rest of the evening. She complied. This year Ms. Halston is taking over completely and will be the host of the third annual presentation, scheduled for Sept. 24 at the Haft Auditorium at the [Fashion Institute of Technology](#). Among the presenters who have agreed to participate in this year's event are **Christine C. Quinn**, the City Council speaker; the lighting designer **Natasha Katz** ("Tarzan," "The Little Mermaid"); and the director **Leigh Silverman** ("Well"). Receiving this year's artistic achievement award, presented to "an individual who has made a significant artistic contribution to the Off Off Broadway community," will be **Doric Wilson**, one of the first playwrights to present work off Off Broadway at the Caffe Cino. His comedy "And He Made a Her" opened there in 1961 with **Jane Lowry** and **Paxton Whitehead** playing the lead roles.