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**NEW YORK**

## AIDS, war and funny Mormons pull in the Tonys

THIS year's Tony Awards honoured *The Normal Heart* for its passionate look at the AIDS crisis. It also bestowed Tonys on *War Horse*, a play that showed the horror of the battlefield. But the night's biggest prize went to a musical that mocked both.

The *Book of Mormon* took home nine Tonys on Sunday, including the prize for best musical, propelled by a "so-offensive-it's-funny" look at two naive missionaries who arrive in Uganda and find misery, gun-toting warlords, villages infected with HIV and people considering having sex with babies as a cure.

It is as mischievous as Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* is a heartfelt polemic and *War Horse* is charmingly simplistic. The fact that Broadway had room for all three views in the same season says something wonderful about theatre in New York.

*War Horse*, a World War I

tale about horses told with puppets and actors won five Tonys, including the best play award. The revival of *The Normal Heart* and *Anything Goes*, both won three a piece.

Trey Parker, Matt Stone and Robert Lopez found themselves with a haul of awards when they collaborated to gently mock Mormons and send-up Broadway itself in *The Book of Mormon*.

Mark Rylance won the best acting award for a play for his powerful role of Johnny "Rooster" Byron in Jez Butterworth's *Jerusalem*. Just as he did three years ago when he won for *Boeing-Boeing*. Norbert Leo Butz won for best actor in a musical. Butz, who plays a frumpy FBI agent hot on the heels of a con man in *Catch Me If You Can* took home his second Tony. His previous win was in 2005 for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

— AP