

BEYOND BRUCE

RADIO SOMEWHERE

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member is your last chance to vote for this year.

Last year, the New Jersey Hall of Fame's Voting Academy — made up of experts ranging from university professors, scientists, editors and authors — nominated Bruce Springsteen and five others in each category.

Betcha thought the 'votin' was over! Well, sister, not here in New Jersey, where the Hall of Fame is still accepting ballots for its second annual honor roll of the best the Garden State has to offer, from presidents to poets, in the categories of Historical, Arts and Entertainment, Sports, Enterprise and General. But don't delay, the last day of No-

Springsteen. This year one of the nominees is Jon Bon Jovi, a Sayreville native.

From the Enterprise category, radio historians may want to vote for nominee Guglielmo Marconi or David Sarnoff, one of Marconi's "telegraph boys" whose name can still be seen from U.S. Highway 1 near Princeton, emblazoned across the research center named for him.

Sarnoff, a general manager of Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in the 1920s, had a plan to take Marconi's discoveries and create a "radio music box." Sarnoff went on to lead RCA into radio under Radio Broadcast Central and TV, with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), InfAge, the think tank at Camp Evans near

New Jersey Hall of Fame nominees await your vote

the border of Wall and Belmar, is pulling for Marconi, the "Father of Radio," to win this year.

(We can avoid the Nicola Tesla dispute over who invented radio technology this time, says Hall of Fame's executive director Don Jay Smith, since Tesla's labs were in Manhattan.)

Also nominated this year are Abbott and Costello, who formed a popular radio show long before their hit TV show aired. Bud Abbott is from Asbury Park and Lou Costello is from Paterson. The two went from vaudeville to radio, movies and TV. Count Basie, who hailed from Red Bank, is also nominated this year. It was Basie's jazz appearances on radio live from the

Meadowbrook Inn, in Pompton Plains, that first introduced him to a wide audience, says Smith. The theater named for him on Monmouth Street in Red Bank just underwent a major renovation. It would be nice timing to see the Count win.

For you sports fans, check out Phil Rizzuto's nomination. The legendary

Yankees shortstop from Hillside never realized the play-by-play recording he was making was to end up immortalizing him in a famously racy rock song by Meat Loaf. Rizzuto died in 2007.

Begun in 2005, the Hall of Fame operates on a bit of a shoestring, with a cyber rather than physical home. But mobile museums and satellite exhibits

are planned for spots around the state, says Smith. One is earmarked for the NJ Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, where Smith expects to have a Sinatra exhibit and possibly show Springsteen's guitar. The Hall of Fame was created by the state's Sports and Exposition Authority.

This year's inductees will walk a red carpet into NJPAC's stunning theater while movie and TV cameras and radio microphones report the spectacle for all to share. Check out all the nominees and don't forget to vote at www.njhalloffame.org.

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