



2017 -18 Center Stage High School Musical Theater
Awards

PARTICIPATION GUIDE

**Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
Education Program**

400 W. College Ave. | Appleton, WI | (920) 730-3782



ABOUT THE CENTER STAGE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATER AWARDS PROGRAM

The Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards program is an education initiative from the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center which celebrates and supports the achievements of high school theater programs while developing confidence, creativity and collaboration among high school students in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Each high school located within 45 miles of the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center is eligible to register their school's musical for review by an adjudication team of arts professionals who will provide feedback and critique of the performance. At the culmination of the program, an annual showcase will celebrate the outstanding achievements of participating high school musical theater productions and students.

Throughout the season, students and directors will be invited to participate in learning opportunities in connection to the performing arts. These opportunities may include, but are not limited to: discounted tickets (when available) to Fox Cities P.A.C. performances, performance opportunities, workshops with industry professionals and professional development for educators.

Program Goals

The Center Stage program has three main goals:

1. To recognize area high school students, their school communities and their families by encouraging and celebrating student excellence in high school musical theater productions.
2. To highlight and advocate for the importance of performing arts education in high schools.
3. To provide high quality educational experiences in dance, theater and music for high school students.
4. To build confidence, creativity and collaboration in students participating in the arts.

PARTICIPATION

The Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards are open to public and private schools producing musical theater productions. To be eligible for review and participation, a school must meet the following criteria.

Location

Schools must be within a 45-mile radius of the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 West College Ave., Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.

Affiliation

In order to qualify, school programs may not participate in another NHSMTA/Jimmy Awards regional program during the 2017-18 school year.

Production Dates

The high school production must take place between **September 25, 2017** and **April 16, 2018**.

Production Type

- A published musical, operetta or revue (currently held by a licensing house or in the public domain) presented with the approval or permission of the original creators, publishers or representatives.
- An original piece (which features an original script, music and/or lyrics and which is covered under a valid copyright) that is presented with the approval or permission of the original creators or their representatives.
- An original theatrical compilation of musical/text material from other sources that is presented with the approval or permission of the original creators and their representatives.
- Is the standard or school edition/version; the following editions/versions are not eligible: 101 Collection. Broadway Jr., G2K (Getting to Know Series), Young Performers Edition and Young@Part. Concert versions are not permitted.

REGISTRATION

Registration opens **August 1, 2017** and is available online: www.foxcitiespac.com. A director or teacher of the high school production must submit the online application to participate. Participating schools are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is strongly encouraged. Deadline for registration is **September 8, 2017** or until filled.

Application Fee

A \$150.00 registration fee is required to participate in the program. A school will not be considered a participant until this payment is received. After submitting the online registration form, a confirmation email will be sent as an invoice. Schools will have 30 days to send in payment. Checks should be made payable to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

Contact

Each school will need to identify a primary contact for the program. This contact must have access to phone and email and be able to serve as the liaison between the Center and school.

Responsibilities:

- Serve as the primary liaison between the Center and school during the program.
- Provide the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center with digital versions of production photos to be used in marketing materials and at the final awards showcase.
- Provide students with information pertaining to rehearsals and awards showcase.
- Respond to correspondence with the Center in a timely and efficient manner.
- Be responsible to return all forms by the deadline indicated on each form.
- Share information about discounted tickets and special learning opportunities with students when available.
- Attend rehearsal for the showcase ceremony.
- Schedule rehearsals with your students prior to the awards showcase if they are performing or participating.
- Attend periodic informational meetings at the Center if requested.

FORMS & DOCUMENTS

Photography Release & Informed Consent

During the course of the program, there may be times when Fox Cities Performing Arts Center will photograph/videotape students, faculty, and other staff and volunteers. Please be aware that by participating in the program, teachers and students are giving full rights and permissions to Fox Cities Performing Arts Center for the use of such video and photos. Please also be aware that Fox Cities Performing Arts Center may use a school's name and students' names in any press releases associated with the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards.

Please note that students under the age of 18 will need to obtain the signature of their parent/guardian to complete the form. Teachers will only need to submit one completed form for each student for the entire 2017 -18 Season. Releases will be sent to the school contact upon acceptance in the program.

Production Information

Following the receipt of your application, Center education staff will send the production information form to be completed by the school's primary contact. Each participating production will need to have a completed production information form which includes information show dates, times and cast lists that will be shared with adjudicators. There will also be space for schools to share supplementary information on their productions including: resources available to school or theater department, director's notes, rationale of artistic choices and specific areas the school is requesting feedback on. Center education staff will send this form to participating high schools. Completed forms will need to be returned no later than **3 weeks** before the show opens.

Please note: The Center Stage staff is 100% dependent upon your school's production information form for accurate information regarding spelling for the students and faculty involved. Please make sure this information is correct before submitting.

Awards Logo

All schools participating in this program are required to feature the Center Stage logo and participation statement as part of their printed program books. Inclusion of this information serves as the school's statement of endorsement of this program. The awards logo will be available for download online.

Publicity

All media interview or appearance requests regarding the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards are required to go through the Center's marketing department contact Trisha Witt. If a school receives any requests directly from a journalist, please direct them to: twitt@foxcitiespac.com. Schools are not permitted to speak on behalf of the Center Stage program or market the program without contacting the Center first.

The Center encourages high schools to announce their participation in the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards in school newspapers, websites, social media sites, newsletters and other materials produced by the school. Please tag #CenterStageAwards in your program related posts. The Center will promote each participating school's performances on the high school musical theater website and social media platforms. We invite you to recruit as many students as possible to join the Facebook group: Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards.

ADJUDICATION

A group of arts professionals will serve as a team of adjudicators charged with the task of evaluating how well each high school musical theater production is meeting or exceeding its potential. Each participating school is evaluated and critiqued against itself for consideration, rather against all the schools in the program. The purpose of the critique is to provide the school with valuable feedback in hopes of celebrating the notable achievements of each production and offering suggestions on how better to improve areas of development. This critique is to serve as an educational tool, not only a review of the production.

A team of three adjudicators are assigned to review each submitted musical and are selected by the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. The production is critiqued based on a predetermined rubric with each reviewer submitting a completed critique form that also includes nominations for the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards. Adjudicators' comments are compiled into one document and provided to the primary contact teacher approximately 2-3 weeks after the production has been evaluated.

Qualifications

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center has selected a qualified group of arts professionals to serve as adjudicators in this program. Adjudicators have backgrounds in the field of music, dance, theater, design or in another related field to serve as a valuable resource for schools in the 2017-18 Season. All Center Stage Adjudicators receive extensive training. Evaluator performance and compliance is closely monitored by the Center Stage Awards staff and the effectiveness of their responses is assessed each year. Adjudicators who do not meet the Center Stage standards are not invited to return.

Production Attendance

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center education staff will contact schools to confirm which performances will be attended by adjudicators. Once the dates are confirmed, schools should reserve 2 complimentary tickets per adjudicator under the name "Center Stage." Please do not label seats or sanction off areas for adjudicators. It is also encouraged to not share with students which performance adjudicators are attending.

Tickets

Three reviewers will attend each production on behalf of the Center Stage program. Each school must provide Fox Cities Performing Arts Center with six complimentary tickets (two for each reviewer) on the date(s) selected by Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. Tickets should be held at the box office for reviewers to pick up before the performance under the name "Center Stage Awards." Please note that adjudicators assigned to your show may or may not attend the same performance.

Conflict of Interest

Reviewers are required to alert the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center immediately if there is a conflict of interest with a participating school.

Confidentiality

Adjudicator feedback is submitted through a secure online form. Please note that adjudicators will not provide oral critiques following the performance, nor should schools expect to receive scoring. Adjudicators are not allowed to discuss the results, evaluations, scores or feedback with anyone in any

format. This includes, but is not limited to: faculty, staff and students from participating high schools, other adjudicators, colleagues, reviewers, social media networks, etc.

The Center Stage Awards strives to provide a copy of Adjudicator comments as soon as possible following your show. Evaluations are sent on a rolling basis. Please note some factors when considering the timeliness of your school's report:

- Adjudicators have seven days to submit their review forms following a show.
- Comments cannot be sent until all Adjudicators in attendance have submitted their reviews.
- A majority of schools hold their musical in November or March. Due to the sheer volume of schools producing during those months, schools producing during those times may expect a delay in receiving their evaluation forms.

All questions or comments should be directed to Center staff – not adjudicators

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Singing & Vocal Music

Tone

- Quality
- Resonance
- Projection

Accuracy

- Pitch
- Rhythm
- Intonation

Technique

- Breath Support
- Dynamics
- Posture
- Placement
- Phrasing

Diction

- Articulation
- Vowel Shapes
- Consonants

Dance and Movement

Execution of Movement

- Choreography
- Blocking
- Motivation
- Commitment

Technical Skills

- Footwork
- Musicality
- Rhythm
- Precision

Stage Presence

- Confidence
- Energy
- Focus

Acting

Voice

- Projection
- Volume
- Pace
- Diction
- Dialect (*if applicable*)

Physicality

- Stage presence
- Gestures
- Facial expression
- Stage presence
- Energy

Believability

- Character Relationships
- Motivation
- Commitment
- Emotion
- Preparedness

Interpretation

- Character development
- Goals & Objectives
- Story

AWARDS

Participating schools will have their high school musical reviewed by a panel of educators, theater experts and industry professionals. Based on reviewers' comments and tabulations, productions and individuals that receive nominations in specific categories will be recognized and honored at a ceremony held at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center on Saturday, May 19, 2018. Multiple awards are presented in each category.

Award categories for 2017-18:

(Multiple schools/students will be recognized in each category as performances merit.)

- Outstanding Musical Theater Production
 - Outstanding Ensemble (performance, singing and acting)
 - Outstanding Performance by Lead Actor
 - Outstanding Performance by Lead Actress
 - Outstanding Performance by Supporting Actor
 - Outstanding Performance by Supporting Actress
 - Community Engagement Award
 - Backstage Spirit Award
 - Achievement Award
 - Rising Star
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Outstanding Musical Theater Production

Schools awarded from this category and have the opportunity to perform at the Annual Awards Showcase. Winners will be determined by adjudicators' score.

Outstanding Ensemble (performance, singing and acting)

Ensemble numbers will be recognized in this category and will be determined by the top ranking adjudication scores from both the Overall Ensemble and Outstanding Ensemble Number.

Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role

Multiple performers will be recognized as winners in this category and have the opportunity to perform at the showcase. All awarding will be based on adjudicators' scores. One male student and one female student will be selected from this category to represent the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards at the Jimmy Awards in New York in June 2018.

Please note: In order for Outstanding Actor and Actress nominees to be considered for the NHSMTA/Jimmy Award program, they must meet the criteria for a Qualifying Role. Visit jimmyawards.com for more information.

Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role

Multiple performers will be selected and recognized for this award. Winners will be determined by adjudicators' scores.

Backstage Spirit Award

To celebrate the hard work and dedication of crews behind the scenes, one school will be recognized for exemplary teamwork in this category. Teachers are responsible for nominating student crews for this award.

Community Engagement Award

One school will be selected based on the engagement of the community throughout the production run. Teachers are responsible for nominating their community engagement program for this award. Winners will be determined through an application process.

Achievement Award

Each participating school may nominate a student who has demonstrated outstanding dedication in the face of difficulty. This award will celebrate the strength and commitment it takes to reach for ones' dreams.

Rising Star

Defined as an underclassman in a featured role who is not being nominated eligible for a lead or supporting role. A musical may not have more than one (1) Rising Star.

Awards Notification

Award-winning schools will be notified in spring 2018.

AWARD SHOWCASE

The Center Stage Awards culminates in a ceremony on **Saturday, May 19, 2018** that honors and recognizes excellence in high school musical theater. Participating schools are encouraged to invite faculty, friends and families to attend the ceremony in support of students. Throughout the evening, participants will be recognized with awards and performance opportunities. All schools and students receiving awards will receive special recognition and an award at the Showcase.

A male and female lead will be announced to participate in the 2018 National High School Musical Theatre Awards program in NYC at the end of June 2018, all expenses paid.

Events

The evening showcase celebrates and recognizes the hard work and dedication from the past year. There will be multiple winners in each category and they will be honored onstage throughout the showcase. During the evening, audiences will experience performances by:

Award-Winning Production

The schools receiving awards for Outstanding Musical Theater Production will be invited to perform one number from their award winning musical.

Center Stage Ensemble

All participating high schools are invited to select two student performers to join the 2017-18 Center Stage Ensemble. The Center Stage Ensemble will perform in both an opening and closing number during the Awards Showcase. Awarded Supporting Actors and Actresses will be invited to participate in either the opening or closing number with this ensemble.

Outstanding Performer Medley

Students receiving Outstanding Actor and Actress award will be invited to sing during a medley featuring their specific role.

Music

Each participating school is strongly encouraged to retain copies of their conductor/piano scores for the production until after nominees are announced in case they are awarded. The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center has secured agreements with licensing houses and representatives for all participating musicals to ensure that the schools are not responsible for additional fees associated with showcase performances. Each school invited to perform in the Showcase will need to submit the arranged music from their award-winning production. Performers will be accompanied by a live band during the showcase.

Center Stage Showcase Performers and Rehearsal Schedule

All showcase performers are required to attend rehearsals at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center as scheduled.

High schools invited to perform as part of the showcase will have three to four weeks to select and prepare numbers, solos and/or medleys from their reviewed productions. Performers are required to attend rehearsals at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center during the week prior to the showcase. Most rehearsals are scheduled during the evening.

- Outstanding Overall Production winners are invited to perform a number from their award winning production.
- Any student winning an Outstanding Lead Actor or Actress Award is invited to perform a 1.5 minute solo from the nominated show and is also invited to perform in the finale.
- Any student winning an Outstanding Supporting Performer Award is invited to perform in the opening or finale number of the awards ceremony.
- One male and one female student are invited to perform during the showcase as part of the Center Stage Ensemble. They will perform in the opening and closing number.

Rehearsals with the band will be held the morning of **Saturday, May 19**, time slots to be determined. The performance takes place Saturday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets

The awards showcase is open to the public with tickets available spring 2018. Tickets will be available online, by calling (920) 730-3760, or in person at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center ticket office in May 2018.

Award winning students performing in the showcase will have a designated sitting area and will not need a ticket. In addition to performing students, each participating school will receive up to 10 complimentary tickets to use as desired. Additional tickets may be purchased. Two complimentary tickets are available for the primary contact who organized their school's involvement with the CSHSMTA.

Release Forms

A signed release form is required for all students participating in the showcase and rehearsals. This form is also available for download on our website. If students also plan to participate in workshops or any other Center Stage education activities, please distribute copies of the informed consent and photo release for completion.

WORKSHOPS

An important component of this program is the educational workshops* exclusively available for students participating in the Center Stage program. Each workshop can hold approximately 30 students and is open on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration will open one month before each workshop opportunity. All workshops are held at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton, Wisconsin.

DIABOLO | Movement Workshop | October 2017

Waitress | Audition Workshop | November 2017

American in Paris | Dance Workshop | February 2018

Les Miserables | Vocal Workshop | March 2018

Broadway's Next Hit Musical | Improv. Workshop | April 2018

*Workshop titles and topics are subject to change. Additional workshops may be added to the season as they become available.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS (NHSMTA)

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA) are a national celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theater recognizing individual artistry in vocal, dance and acting performance and honoring teachers and their schools' commitment to performing arts education. NHSMTA focuses much needed attention on the meaningful work being done by dedicated teachers and students with wide ranging talents on and off the stage, engages families in the activities of their children, ignites new partnerships between theaters and the schools in their area, and contributes to the development of future audiences for live performing arts in communities across America.

The Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards program is participating in the 2018 National High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Jimmy Awards) in New York City. The program is designed to connect promising young performers to the professional theater industry and is the culmination of over 30 regional awards programs across the country.

Approximately 50,000 students in about 1,000 schools participate in the program nationally and 74 regional finalists competed in 2017.

The coveted Jimmy TM Award is awarded for Best Performance by an Actress and Best Performance by an Actor. Each recipient is awarded a \$10,000 check to further his/her education and is eligible for a four-year merit and need-based scholarship to attend the New Studio on Broadway, NYU Tisch School of the Arts Department of Drama, contingent upon acceptance into the program. Four runners-up receive \$2,500 scholarship to aid their future education. Additional awards are also presented.

Our panel of adjudicators selects on Lead Actor and Lead Actress to represent the Center Stage Awards at the National High School Musical Theater Awards competition held in New York City at the end of June 2018. The selected students receive roundtrip airfare and room and board as they move on to participate in the awards. In addition to competing for the national title, each student spends a week with Broadway professional, producers, directors and casting agents to further their knowledge and talent.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration Opens – Tuesday, August 1, 2017

Registration Deadline – Friday, September 8, 2017

Adjudication Period Begins – Monday, September, 25, 2017

Adjudication Period Ends – Monday, April 16, 2018

Awards Showcase Rehearsal – Week of May 15, 2018

Awards Showcase- Saturday, May 19, 2018

TIME COMMITMENT

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center knows that many hours of hard work go into preparing a high school musical theater production. One of the goals of the program is not to create additional work for directors and teachers, but to provide visibility for the work that is already being produced. During the school year, there is little additional time commitment required of the directors/teachers other than communicating pertinent information. However, if your show or students are selected to receive a Center Stage Award, it may require additional time committed to brushing-up, staging or solo performance rehearsals.