



2018-19 Center Stage High School  
Musical Theater Awards

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**PARTICIPATION GUIDE**



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

[foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com)

Updated July 2018



Dear Director,

Thank you for your interest in 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, a 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 four 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.

We wish you all the best with your productions this school year and we look forward to working with you. For questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Cassie Schwandt  
Education Programs Manger  
(920) 730-3764  
[cschwandt@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:cschwandt@foxcitiespac.com)

(note-will be out of the office until Sept. 24)

Amy Gosz  
Director of Programming & Community Engagement  
(920) 730-3738  
[agosz@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:agosz@foxcitiespac.com)

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## **PARTICIPATION**

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The Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards are open to public and private high schools producing musical theater. 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 2018-19 school year.

### **Number of Productions**

If schools perform more than one production during the school year, only one production may be registered for participation in the Center Stage program.

### **Production Dates**

The high school production must take place between **Monday, September 24, 2018** and **Monday, April 15, 2019**.

### **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

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Registration opens **August 6, 2018** and the application is available online: [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com). A director or teacher of the high school production must submit the 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 10, 2018** 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 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 showcase.
- Provide students with information pertaining to rehearsals and 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.
- Schedule rehearsals with your students prior to the showcase if they are performing or participating.
- Attend rehearsals at the Center for the showcase if your school is performing.
- Attend periodic informational meetings at the Center if requested.

## FORMS & DOCUMENTS

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### **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 2018-19 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.

### **Participation Statement**

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 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](mailto: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 when posting rehearsal photos, show photos or updates about your production. The Center will promote the participating schools on the Center Stage webpage and social media. We invite you to recruit as many students as possible to join the Facebook group: Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards where educational opportunities will be posted and students can interact with other students in the program.

## WORKSHOPS

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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-served basis. Registration will open approximately one month before each workshop opportunity. All workshops are at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton, Wisconsin.

Past workshop topics have included:

- Auditioning
- Costumes
- Theater/Jazz dance
- Vocal techniques
- Monologues
- and more...

**\*Workshop dates and topics for the 2018-19 Season coming soon.**



***An American in Paris Dance Workshop***

## **ADJUDICATION**

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A group of arts professionals will serve as 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 than against all the schools in the program. The purpose of the critique is to provide the school with educational 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 a learning tool, not as 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 adjudicator 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 approximately 2-3 weeks after the production has been evaluated.

### **Double-Cast**

If a show is double-cast, the school must determine which cast it would like adjudicated. The designated cast must perform at least two separate dates to allow for scheduling flexibility so all adjudicators may attend.

### **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. All Center Stage adjudicators receive annual training and attendance of Center staff at each production allows for monitoring and compliance. Adjudicators who do not meet the Center Stage standards are not invited to return.

### **Conflict of Interest**

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

### **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 stanchion off areas for adjudicators. It is also encouraged to not share with students which performance adjudicators are attending.

### **Tickets**

Three adjudicators plus a Center staff member will attend each production on behalf of the Center Stage program. Each school must provide Fox Cities Performing Arts Center with eight (8) complimentary tickets (two for each reviewer, plus staff) on the date(s) selected by Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. Tickets should be held at the box office for adjudicators 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.



**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, 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 feedback:

- Adjudicators have seven days to submit their forms following a show.
- Comments cannot be sent until all adjudicators in attendance have submitted their information.
- 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 Cassie Schwandt or Amy Gosz at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center – not adjudicators.**

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

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## SINGING & VOCAL MUSIC

### **Tone**

- Quality
- Resonance
- Projection

### **Accuracy**

- Pitch
- Rhythm
- Intonation

### **Technique**

- Breath Support
- Dynamics
- Posture
- Placement
- Phrasing

### **Diction**

- Articulation
- Vowel Shapes
- Consonants

## DANCE & 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

## AWARD CATEGORIES

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Participating schools will have their high school musical adjudicated by a panel of educators, theater experts and industry professionals. Based on adjudicators' comments and tabulations, productions and individuals that receive nominations in specific categories will be recognized and honored at a showcase held at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

### **Award categories for 2018-19:**

(Multiple schools/students may be recognized 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
- Rising Star

(A school or student will be selected from applications submitted by their directors and teachers)

- Community Engagement Award
- Backstage Spirit Award
- Achievement Award

### **Outstanding Musical Theater Production**

Schools recognized in this category have the opportunity to perform at the showcase. Awards 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 in this category and have the opportunity to perform at the showcase in a medley group. All awards will be based on adjudicators' scores. \*One male student and one female student will be selected from this category through an additional audition process to represent the Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards at the Jimmy Awards in New York in June 2019.

\*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 [www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/](http://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/) for more information.

### **Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role**

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

**Rising Star**

Defined as an underclassman in a featured role who is not eligible for a lead or supporting role nomination. A musical may not have more than one (1) Rising Star. Awards will be determined by adjudicators' scores.

**Backstage Spirit Award**

To celebrate the hard work and dedication of an individual or crew behind the scenes, one school will be recognized for exemplary teamwork in this category. Teachers may nominate students for this award through an application process available in the spring.

**Community Engagement Award**

One school will be selected based on the engagement of the community throughout the production run. Teachers may nominate their community engagement program for this award through an application process available in the spring.

**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. Teachers may nominate a student for this award through an application process available in the spring.

**Awards Notification**

Schools and students being recognized will be notified in spring 2019 after all productions are complete.

## SHOWCASE

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The Center Stage Awards culminates in a showcase on **Saturday, May 18, 2019** that honors and recognizes excellence in high school musical theater. In a red carpet experience that is modeled after the Tony Awards, participating schools are encouraged to invite faculty, friends and families to attend the showcase in support of their students. Throughout the evening, participants will be recognized with awards and performance opportunities. All schools and students receiving awards will receive special recognition at the showcase.

A male and female lead will be announced at the showcase to participate in the 2019 National High School Musical Theatre Awards program in New York City at the end of June 2019, all expenses paid.

### **Tickets**

The showcase is open to the public with tickets available in May 2019. Tickets will be available by calling (920) 730-3760 or in person at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center ticket office.

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 Center Stage.

### **Event**

The evening showcase celebrates and recognizes the hard work and dedication from the past year. During the evening, audiences will experience performances by:

#### **Outstanding Musical Theater Productions**

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 one male and one female student performer to join the 2018-19 Center Stage Ensemble. The Center Stage Ensemble will perform in an opening and closing number during the showcase. Awarded Supporting Actors and Actresses will be invited to participate in either the opening or closing number with this ensemble.

#### **Outstanding Actor/Actress Medley**

Students receiving Outstanding Actor and Actress awards will be invited to sing during a medley featuring their nominated 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.

### 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 approximately three 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.

Rehearsals with the band will be held the morning of **Saturday, May 18**, time slots to be determined. The showcase takes place Saturday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m.



**2018 Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards Showcase**  
*(photo credit Vanessa Cebulski)*

## **NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS (NHSMTA)**

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The Center Stage High School Musical Theater Awards program participates in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Jimmy Awards) in New York City. Our panel of adjudicators selects one 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. The selected students receive roundtrip airfare and room and board as they move on to participate at the national level. In addition to competing for the national title, each student spends a week with Broadway professionals, producers, directors and casting agents to further their knowledge and talent.

The Jimmy® Awards/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards™ (NHSMTA) program impacts more than 100,000 students who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by presenters of Touring Broadway productions throughout the United States. Presented by the Broadway League Foundation, the program sends a Best Actress and Best Actor winner from each of these competitions to New York for a week-long theater intensive of coaching and rehearsals with industry professionals in preparation for a one-night-only talent showcase on Broadway. Named for Broadway impresario James M. Nederlander, the program has been the catalyst for more than \$2,000,000 in educational scholarships.

For more information, please visit [www.JimmyAwards.com](http://www.JimmyAwards.com).

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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### **Dates as of July 27, 2018**

Registration Opens – Monday, August 6, 2018

Registration Deadline – Monday, September 10, 2018

Required Director Meeting – Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjudication Period Begins – Monday, September 24, 2018

Adjudication Period Ends – Monday, April 15, 2019

Showcase Rehearsals – Week of May 12, 2019

Showcase- Saturday, May 18, 2019

### **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 to provide visibility for the work that is already being produced, not to create additional work for directors and teachers. 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.