

10TH ANNIVERSARY  
**SPOTLIGHT**  
AWARDS

Nashville High School  
Musical Theatre Awards

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**2025-2026 SPOTLIGHT AWARDS**  
**PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK**  
**PART 5 – AWARDS AND ELIGIBILITY**

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Tennessee Performing Arts Center  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243

SpotlightAwardsNashville@gmail.com

Cassie LaFevor – clafevor@tpac.org  
Treysia Jackson – tjackson@tpac.org



# AWARDS LISTING

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Based on adjudicator feedback, panel selections and/or teacher nominations, schools and individuals will be nominated in specific categories to be recognized at the Spotlight Awards Ceremony. Details for each listed award category can be found on the following pages. Participation in the Spotlight Awards program does not guarantee nominations or awards.

## School Production and Design Awards

- Outstanding Cast Vocals
- Outstanding Orchestra
- Outstanding Music Direction
- Outstanding Small Ensemble
- Outstanding Large Ensemble
- Outstanding Costume Design
- Outstanding Hair and Makeup Design
- Outstanding Lighting Design
- Outstanding Set Design
- Outstanding Sound Operation
- Outstanding Design Concept
- Outstanding Choreography
- Outstanding Community Engagement (Director Nominated)
- Outstanding Direction (Faculty Only)
- Outstanding Musical \*

## Student Performance Awards

- Outstanding Dancer
- Outstanding Vocalist
- Outstanding Ensemble Performer
- Outstanding Supporting Role Performer
- Outstanding Comedic Performer
- Outstanding Dramatic Performer
- Outstanding Solo Performance
- Outstanding Scene Partner

## Student Design and Technical Awards (Director Nominated)

- Outstanding Technical Achievement
- Outstanding Stage Manager
- Outstanding Student Designer
- Outstanding Original Design Creation
- Founder's Award

## Director Selected Awards

- All-Star Cast – Directors will select 2 students to part of the All-Star Cast.
- All-Star Crew – Directors will select 2 students to part of the All-Star Crew.
- Outstanding Lead Performer\*\* (Optional) - Each participating school director may select 1 student for nomination in the Outstanding Lead Performer category. Directors may choose to waive their option to select and allow adjudicators to make the selection. All schools will have **at least 1 Lead Performer** nominee. Details on eligibility can be found on the following pages.

\* 10 Nominees for Outstanding Musical are invited to perform at the Spotlight Awards Ceremony.

\*\* All Outstanding Lead Performer Nominees are invited to perform the Closing Number at the Ceremony.

## Applause Awards for Special Recognition

The Spotlight Awards is a non-competitive program and wishes to honor schools for their work to the highest degree. Because of this, there is the possibility that a school could receive an honor not listed. If a Spotlight adjudicator finds a particular element of the production was outstanding or worthy of honorable mention, an Applause Award could be awarded for other special elements.

## Recognition Opportunities and Scholarships

Other recognition opportunities are provided during the year (not at the Awards Ceremony) such as Rising Star Scholarships (9<sup>th</sup> grade students audition based), Arts Leadership Scholarships (for graduating seniors who exhibit the highest level of excellence and leadership skills), the Impact Award (Educator excellence), and the Technical Design Symposium (student designer public gallery).

## Determining Nominees

To determine nominations and recipients of each award, the nominee selection panel considers a variety of factors, and looks at all eligible candidates with a fresh perspective by thoroughly reviewing the Adjudicator feedback, scoring, photos, and mandatory support material. The selection panel includes Adjudication Advocates, which combined will have viewed all performances and advocate for each school. Eligibility for awards is at the discretion of the Spotlight Awards administration, which reserves the right to amend rules, overrule adjudicators, or select additional nominees as necessary to maintain a fair process. All decisions of The Spotlight Awards administrators and nominee selection panel are final.

## ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES – SCHOOL PRODUCTION AND DESIGN AWARDS

*Outstanding Cast Vocals, Outstanding Orchestra, Outstanding Music Direction, Outstanding Small Ensemble, Outstanding Large Ensemble, Outstanding Costume Design, Outstanding Hair and Makeup Design, Outstanding Lighting Design, Outstanding Set Design, Outstanding Sound Operation, Outstanding Design Concept, Outstanding Choreography, Outstanding Direction, and Outstanding Musical*

- We encourage participating schools to use readily available school resources, faculty, and students.
  - Faculty is defined as any full-time or part-time staff member at the school who is paid by the school district on an annual basis.
  - One who is hired or volunteers to work on select productions or who is paid by the school in another manner, does not qualify as faculty.
- The use of a professional/guest/parent artist will disqualify the school from that specific category.
- School award scores are a combination of design/storytelling interpretation added to execution of the element and effectiveness of the design to the overall story and performance needs.
- School Awards (other than Direction) may be nominated for adult OR student work with the following stipulations:
  - Outstanding Direction is for adult faculty members only, no student nominations.
  - Putting students in leadership/design roles is encouraged when possible.
  - For positions run by faculty adults – In order to be eligible for adult-run School Award Categories, a **student is required to participate in some manner with the role** – shadowing, assisting, co-running, etc.
  - Most school awards are design focused – In most situations, if a faculty member or student created the DESIGN, the school is eligible for the category, even if there was additional help and guidance for the implementation.

### Originality Over Replication

A direct copy of another’s interpretation of a story is often not as powerful as an original approach, nor is it acceptable to use without proper credit. Every production should reflect the unique imagination of its designers, actors and directors who demonstrate creative use of resources and available talent. For instances that require replicating an element for an iconic dance scene, costume, set, etc. please ensure the appropriate credit is included in your playbill.



Spotlight Alumni Joseph Kent teaching a session on wig styling at the Spotlight Community Kickoff Celebration.

## ELIGIBILITY PER CATEGORY – SCHOOL PRODUCTION AND DESIGN

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### **Outstanding Cast Vocals – All Schools Eligible**

Scoring is based on musical technique combined with storytelling interpretation and emotional understanding.

### **Outstanding Small Ensemble / Outstanding Large Ensemble – All Schools Eligible**

Scoring is based on the full ensemble working as a cohesive group and used creatively to drive the story while actively engaging each individual character in the performance. The world of the play must be fully realized with all performers equally engaged, investing equal energy and demonstrating a universal understanding of the story's thematic structure. Casts of less than 35 performers are eligible for Small Ensemble nominations, while casts of 35 or more are eligible for Large Ensemble nominations.

### **Outstanding Orchestra**

To be eligible for this award, at least 75% of the orchestra musicians must be students and faculty members. Schools using more than 25% professional/guest/parent musicians are not eligible. Schools using tracks are not eligible.

### **Outstanding Music Direction**

Schools using live music accompaniment or tracks are both eligible for this award. Scoring is based on storytelling, balance and accuracy.

- Adults in this role must have a student shadowing, assisting or co-managing this area to be eligible.
- Schools using a professional/guest/parent musical director are not eligible.

### **Outstanding Sound Operation**

Scoring is based on the execution of sound - balancing all levels and implementing cues smoothly. Schools are eligible for this award if the execution during the show is done by students or faculty.

- Adults in this role must have a student shadowing, assisting or co-managing this area to be eligible.
- Schools using a professional/guest/parent in this role are not eligible.

### **Outstanding Costume Design**

Scores are a combination score of design/storytelling added to execution of the element for a total score. For this award, execution refers to the effectiveness of the design to the overall story and performance needs, and not to the quality of the costume construction.

- Includes all costumes, hats, and accessories. (*Wigs are included in Hair and Makeup Design.*)
- At least 60% of the costumes must be newly designed/created or changed from previous use versus pulled from stock/rented. Schools that rent, purchase as final product, or borrow more than 40% of costumes are not eligible.
- Schools are eligible for this award if the design is created by students or faculty. Schools using a professional/guest/parent designer are not eligible. Volunteers may help with construction/build of costumes, as long as the design is created by students or faculty.
- Schools which recreate a Broadway designed show are not eligible for this award and should credit the original designer.
- Adults in this role must have a student shadowing, assisting or co-managing this area to be eligible.

### **Outstanding Lighting Design**

Schools are eligible for this award if the design is created by students or faculty.

- Adults in this role must have a student shadowing, assisting or co-managing this area to be eligible.
- Schools using a professional/guest/parent in this role are not eligible.
- Volunteers may help run the lighting board during the show as long as the design is created by students or faculty.
- Projections may be included in Lighting Design scoring or Set Design scoring, depending on how it is used in the performance.

## ELIGIBILITY PER CATEGORY – SCHOOL PRODUCTION AND DESIGN (CONT.)

### Outstanding Choreography

Scores are a combination score of design/storytelling interpretation added to execution of the element for a total score. Execution refers to the effectiveness of the choreography to the overall story and performance needs, and appropriate movement based on student ability.

- Choreography must be created by students and/or faculty at the school. Schools using a professional/guest/parent choreographer are not eligible.
- Schools which recreate Broadway (or other) choreography for their show are not eligible for this award and should credit the original choreographer.
- Adults in this role must have a student shadowing, assisting or co-managing this area to be eligible.

### Outstanding Hair and Makeup Design

Scores are a combination score of design/storytelling added to execution of the element for a total score. Execution refers to the effectiveness of the design to the overall story and performance needs. Problems with application may be mentioned in written feedback but will not affect the design score.

- Includes makeup, facial hair, hair, and wigs. (*Hats and accessories are included in Costume Design.*)
- Schools are eligible for this award if the design is created by students or faculty.
- Schools using a professional/guest/parent designer are not eligible. Volunteers may help apply the designs during the show as long as the design is created by students or faculty.
- Schools which recreate a Broadway (or other) designed show are not eligible for this award and should credit the original artist.
- Adults in this role must have a student shadowing, assisting or co-managing this area to be eligible.

### Outstanding Set Design

All School award scores are a combination score of design/storytelling interpretation added to execution of the element for a total score. Execution refers to the effectiveness of the design to the overall story and performance needs, not to the quality of the actual construction.

- We do not have a separate school award for Props - they are included in scoring for Set Design. (*For original prop design and creation by a student, Directors may nominate them in the Outstanding Original Design Creation category.*)
- At least 60% of the set must be new or changed from previous use. Schools that rent, purchase as final product, or borrow more than 40% of their scenery are not eligible.
- Schools are eligible for this award if the design is created by students or faculty.
- Schools using a professional/guest/parent designer are not eligible. Volunteers may help with set construction long as the design is created by students or faculty.
- Schools which recreate a Broadway (or other) designed show are not eligible for this award and should credit the original designer.
- Adults in this role must have a student shadowing, assisting or co-managing this area to be eligible.
- Projections may be included in Lighting Design scoring or Set Design scoring, depending on how it is used in the performance.

### Outstanding Design Concept

Design Concept selections are made from the combination of adjudicator scores, based on the effectiveness of the overall show design concept included in the production detail and how well it is presented to the audience.

- Schools are eligible for this award if the design is created by students or faculty.
- Schools using a professional/guest/parent designer are not eligible. Volunteers may help apply the designs during the show as long as the design is created by students or faculty.
- Schools which recreate a Broadway (or other) designed show are not eligible for this award and should credit the original artist.

## ELIGIBILITY PER CATEGORY – SCHOOL – SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

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### Outstanding Community Engagement Award (Optional Director Nominated)

To be eligible for this award, school applications must demonstrate how they integrated their production and its theme/message in a meaningful way to make a difference in their community. This award challenges schools to use their musical productions to creatively make connections, provide services, or engage their community in other unique ways.

When designing a community engagement project, schools are encouraged to consider:

- Was the musical chosen to coincide with a social, economic or community initiative?
- How has positive change or learning come about as a direct result of working with the community?
- What will the impact of this production be after the show has closed?

To apply for this award, teachers should submit a written summary of your project, 2 photos of the project, and any supplementary materials that demonstrate its implementation. In your summary, please clearly articulate the project's goal, any partners and how it relates to the specific themes or messages of the show you produced. Nominations for this award are due to [education@tpac.org](mailto:education@tpac.org) by March 31.

### Outstanding Direction – Adult Faculty only

This category includes combined scores for: Direction Concept and Creativity, Staging & Movement, Pacing & Preparedness, Character Coaching/Ensemble Work, and Overall Experience.

- Schools using a professional/guest/parent director are not eligible. If faculty are part of a directing team, all members of the directing team must be made of students or faculty to be eligible for this award.
- Items of note in this category include but are not limited to - show choice, casting, run time requirements and transitions, original concept and cohesive storytelling.

### Outstanding Musical – Special Requirements

This category combines scores from several award categories (Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Cast Vocals, Outstanding Ensemble, and Outstanding Design Concept).

- These scores are used as an indicator, but final decisions are made by the nominee panel. Spotlight is a non-competitive program, and schools are not compared against each other during adjudication. *The 10 nominees for Outstanding Musical **are not** titled, or considered to be, the "Top 10"*. Nominations will include some of the top scoring schools as well as Judge's Choice selections.

Out of the 10 School Eligibility Limited Categories (*Music Direction, Direction, Lighting Design, Costume Design, Set Design, Sound Operation, Hair and Makeup Design, Orchestra, Choreography and Design Concept*) **schools must be eligible for at least 6 out of these 10 categories to be considered eligible for Outstanding Musical nominations.**

Outstanding Musical – Previous Year Winner Participation - The winner of "Outstanding Musical" from the previous year will still be eligible to participate the following year of the program, but they will NOT be eligible for the category of "Outstanding Musical". They WILL be eligible for all other award categories. This only applies for the first year after their production's win. Two years following their production's win, they will be eligible for all award categories.

*(Why? In order to foster equitable sharing across our participating schools, we want to ensure that the scholarships from our program do not go to the same school every year. The previous Outstanding Musical school from the year prior may also serve as a mentor to other schools the following year by being open to provide help and feedback to other directors or schools that reach out for advice.)*

## ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS – STUDENT PERFORMANCE AWARDS

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*Outstanding Vocalist, Outstanding Dancer, Outstanding Ensemble Performer, Outstanding Supporting Role Performer, Outstanding Comedic Performer, Outstanding Dramatic Performer, Outstanding Solo Performance, Outstanding Scene Partner*

- Eligible performers must be registered in grades 9-12. Roles performed by a professional/guest performer, faculty members and K-8 students are not eligible for award nominations, but do not affect the overall eligibility for the musical.
- Schools are permitted to present a co-production, share performers with another school, or cast homeschool students. However, students may only be nominated for their role in one musical.
- If a school has multiple casts performing the musical, the school must select one cast to be adjudicated and eligible for awards. The adjudicated cast should be clearly identified and labeled on all playbills and production notes.

### Individual Nomination for Awards

The Individual Student Awards will have 10-12 nominees and 2 award winners. While adjudicators will attempt to maintain an equal mix of genders in their nominations, it is not a required limitation to their selections.

### Adjudication Role Classification Notes

- **Lead Roles** include at least one solo song, appearances in more than one scene with spoken dialogue, and appear in both or all acts.
  - Not all Spotlight classified “Lead Roles” are eligible for Jimmy Awards Lead Performer classification. Roles included on the Jimmy Awards list of Qualifying Roles will be scored in the Outstanding Lead Performer category.
- **Supporting Roles** are scripted, named characters with either spoken or sung dialogue which help drive the action of the play forward.
  - Some Spotlight classified “Supporting Roles” may also be classified as Jimmy Awards Lead Performers, and therefore nominated for Outstanding Lead Performer as well. For example, the show *The Addams Family* has 10 Jimmy Awards Qualifying Roles. While the role of Pugsley is considered a Qualifying Role and would be scored in the Lead Performer category, this role is also often considered a Supporting Role within the story. Therefore, a performer in this role could be nominated in both a Supporting category and a Lead Performer category, as the classifications between Spotlight and Jimmy Awards differs.
- **Ensemble Roles** are named or unnamed characters with less than 5 lines of spoken or sung dialogue.
  - **For unnamed roles or named roles that are not identified within the text of the show – directors should provide additional information and names for easy identification.**
  - Some supporting roles may also be considered in the Ensemble Performer category if their role is smaller than other supporting roles or if a show doesn’t have a large ensemble.

In all cases, the role classification will be based on the show and role and determined on a case-by-case basis by adjudicator nominations.

## ELIGIBILITY PER CATEGORY – STUDENT PERFORMANCE AWARDS

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**Outstanding Ensemble Performer, Outstanding Supporting Role Performer, Outstanding Comedic Performer, and Outstanding Dramatic Performer categories** - Performer created authentic, unique, believable and consistent characters while maintaining a strong sense of their role, character relationships and understanding of the overall concept and themes. For more detailed information, look at the rubrics for each award.

### **Outstanding Vocalist (Lead or Supporting Role)**

Vocalists should exhibit outstanding vocal interpretation as well as accuracy and advanced performance execution.

- This category is based on vocals for the entire show, for Lead or Supporting roles that have multiple vocal moments throughout. For more detailed information, look at the rubrics for each award.

### **Outstanding Solo Performance - Any Role (Lead, Supporting, or Ensemble)**

- Focused on **an individual moment** - This category is focused on an individual solo performance that made a meaningful impact on the audience. It may be a full solo song, or a small solo within a song that stood out to judges. For more detailed information, look at the rubrics for each award.

### **Outstanding Dancer - Any Role (Lead, Supporting, or Ensemble)**

Outstanding Dancers should be precise and energetic, while sharing the character intentions and themes of the show. For more detailed information, look at the rubrics for each award.

### **Outstanding Scene Partner - Any Role (Lead, Supporting, or Ensemble)**

This award is specifically for work as an acting partner. The performer created authentic, unique, believable and consistent characters while maintaining strong character relationships through listening and reacting in the moment and understanding of the overall concept and themes of the show. For more detailed information, look at the rubrics for each award.



Photo by MA2LA Photography.

## DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS – STUDENT DESIGN AND TECHNICAL AWARDS

Any Director Nominations for awards requiring additional submissions are due by March 31, emailed to [education@tpac.org](mailto:education@tpac.org). Submissions will be reviewed by the nominee selection panel, and nominees will be identified for each award category on April 23, during the Nominee Announcement.

### Outstanding Technical Achievement (Director Nominated)

This award is intended to recognize a high school student who has given their time and talent in a backstage capacity (i.e., deck/set crew, board operator, dresser) for their current year’s musical. To recommend a student for this award, teachers should submit a Letter of Nomination discussing the student contribution to the production and to the school’s musical theatre program overall.

Teacher Letter of Nomination should include:

- How your musical theatre program benefits from the crew member
- 1 way the crew member contributed to this year’s musical technical implementation, flow and execution

### Outstanding Stage Manager (Director Nominated)

Behind every successful production is a skilled stage manager. This award celebrates the organization, dedication, and hard work of a student stage manager. Student stage managers must be involved in the entire production process including supporting auditions, assisting with rehearsal scheduling, and supporting all rehearsals and performances.

To recommend a student for this award, teachers should gather and submit the following:

- Letter of Nomination from director including examples of how the stage manager showed leadership, exemplified the goals of the Spotlight Awards program, and contributed overall to this year’s musical.
- At least 2 examples of production documents created by the student stage manager (Examples may include a page from a promptbook including blocking notation and technical cues, props list, costume change plot, rehearsal calendar, call sheets, rehearsal reports, scene change assignments, etc.)
- Written response (1-2 paragraphs) from the nominated student describing their personal techniques utilized to stay organized and ensure quality communication with all involved in the production, and any adjustments that were made during the performance process.



### Founder’s Award (Director Nominated)

*Presented by Lipscomb University’s College of Entertainment and the Arts*

Lipscomb University’s Founder’s Award is presented to a student who exhibits a strong sense of community and qualities that exemplify the goals of the Spotlight Awards program. To recommend a student for this award, teachers should submit a Letter of Nomination, as well as a Letter of Nomination from another student.

Letters of Nomination should answer the following topics including specific examples:

- How does the nominee demonstrate consistent dedication, motivation, positive attitude, collaboration, and enthusiasm? How does the nominee model respect and create a welcoming and supportive environment for those around them? How does the nominee exhibit community engagement in your school and the larger community?

## **DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS – STUDENT DESIGN & TECHNICAL AWARDS (CONT.)**

### **Outstanding Student Designer (Director Nominated)**

Teachers can nominate student designers by submitting a Letter of Nomination and providing up to 3 work samples that showcase their talents. Students can be nominated for ANY design area of your musical. *Student submissions to the Design Symposium may also count as a nomination for this award, and students nominated for this award will be included in the Design Symposium. Spotlight Administration may reach out to request any additional information needed for the Symposium gallery.*

Letter of Nomination should include:

- How the student designer contributed to this year’s musical, as well as a description of the design area and work done by the student designer, including how it fit into the Director’s Concept and vision and how its execution worked in the show.
- Sample Options: Work samples may include, but are not limited to, sketches, renderings, models, light plots, sound effects, ground plans, production photos, photos of finished pieces, drafting, research images, etc.

### **Outstanding Original Design Creation (Director Nominated)**

Students who created an original design and fully built the element are eligible for this nomination. If a student or student team design and build fully realized costumes, accessories, props, or set pieces, directors can nominate them by submitting a Letter of Nomination and providing up to 5 images showcasing their talents, including the original design, at least 1 image during the build process, and at least 1 image of the final product. *Student submissions to the Design Symposium may also count as a nomination for this award, and students nominated for this award will be included in the Design Symposium. Spotlight Administration may reach out to request any additional information needed for the Symposium gallery.*

Letter of Nomination should include:

- How the student(s) contributed to this year’s musical, as well as a description of the design area and work done by the student designer, including how it fit into the Director’s Concept and vision, and how it was executed.



Spotlight participants enjoy a workshop with the Wardrobe Supervisor from the Broadway tour of *Beetlejuice*.

## DIRECTOR SELECTIONS

Director Selections for All-Star Cast, All-Star Crew and Lead Performer will be made on the Production Detail Form. Teachers can choose to share these nominations with their students at any time or let them be surprised during the Nominee Announcement.

Photo by Caitlin McNaney for MA2LA Photography.



### All-Star Cast

The All-Star Cast will include 2 students from each school nominated by their teachers. The term “all-star” is defined as a group composed of outstanding performers, so nominations should be for 2 students with a standout performance. Members of the All-Star Cast can be in lead, supporting, or ensemble roles. All-Star Cast members will be given medals and are asked to stand at their seats to be acknowledged at the Awards Ceremony.

### All-Star Crew

The All-Star Crew will include 2 students from each school nominated by their teachers as deserving for demonstrating teamwork, a spirit of camaraderie and collaboration, leadership skills, and hard work.

All-Star Crew members will be given medals and are asked to stand at their seats to be acknowledged at the Awards Ceremony.

Additionally, All-Star Crew members will be highlighted at the Technical Design Symposium gallery in TPAC’s lobbies during the

Ceremony weekend and will be eligible for discounts and/or scholarships to TPAC’s summer TechShop workshop for technical students.

### Outstanding Lead Performer – Director Selection

Each participating school director has the option to select 1 student for nomination in the Outstanding Lead Performer category, regardless of gender, to participate in the Lead Nominee Intensive and perform in the Closing Number at the Awards Ceremony.

Directors who wish to waive their selection and allow adjudicators to select, may do so. All schools will have at least 1 lead performer nominee, no more than 4.

## ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS – LEAD PERFORMER NOMINEES

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All Lead Performer Nominees are invited to participate in the Lead Performer Intensive Weekend and to perform in the Closing Number at the Awards Ceremony. Detailed information for Lead Performer Nominees can be found in the **Lead Performer information packet** provided in late March.

### Outstanding Lead Performer Nominations

Outstanding Lead Performer nominations must be based on the National High School Musical Theatre Awards Qualifying Roles list. To view the full list, visit [www.jimmyawards.com](http://www.jimmyawards.com).

- Each participating school director may select 1 student for nomination in the Outstanding Lead Performer category, regardless of gender, to participate in the Lead Nominee Intensive and perform in the Closing Number at the Awards Ceremony.
  - **Directors should choose a student that most deserves this nomination, not relying on scores and adjudicators to select them.**
  - Directors have the option to waive this opportunity if they prefer the adjudicators select all of their school nominees. Every school is guaranteed at least 1 lead performer nominee whether they make the selection or waive the selection.
- Judges may select additional Lead Performer nominees from schools to participate as well (up to 4).
- The full listing of Lead Performer Nominees will be a combination of teacher selected students and judge selections, regardless of gender.

### Student Commitment and Scheduling

Please speak to your students about their options in regards to a Lead Performer nomination. The Lead Performer Intensive, closing number rehearsals and Awards Ceremony dates fall in the middle of proms, graduations, etc. Students should take time to consider their priorities for the month of May.

- If they have too many events on their calendar already, they may choose to decline the nomination – if they are the only nominee for your school, another student will be selected in their place.
- Students should not accept the nomination and agree to mandatory events, then proceed to miss or leave early. If they cannot commit to the requirements, it is understood and acceptable for them to decline and allow someone else to take their spot.

### Lead Nominee Announcement and Acceptance

Award Nominations will be announced on April 23. Directors will get an email after the announcement on the 23rd with information for Lead Nominees and their parents and should forward this information as soon as possible to them.

- Lead Performer Nominees need to accept their nomination by completing an online form by April 24 at 5:00 PM. Otherwise, an alternate candidate will be contacted. Nominees and a Parent/Guardian should complete the online form together.
- Nominees may opt out of their nomination on this form if they do not wish to participate or are not available for rehearsals.

### Next Steps for Lead Nominees

- ✓ All Nominees are invited to participate in the Lead Performer Intensive weekend and to perform in the Closing Number at the Spotlight Awards Ceremony.
  - Lead Performer Intensive will take place May 2-3, 2026, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM each day
  - Closing Number rehearsals will take place at the Intensive, as well as during the ceremony week. Nominees that are unable to attend the rehearsals will not perform in the ceremony.
- ✓ Nominees that wish to be considered for Semifinalist, Finalist and Award Recipient categories must submit an audition video by April 27 at 5:00 PM for review. Details on this can be found in the Lead Performer Guide. A video training on how to record and submit their self-taped audition will be provided ahead of time.

## OUTSTANDING LEAD PERFORMER DEFINED

### Outstanding Lead Performer **NOMINEE**

- ✓ Outstanding Lead Performer Nominees must be included on the Jimmy Awards Qualifying Roles list.
- ✓ The full list of Lead Nominees will include 1 teacher-nominated Nominee from each participating school. Additional Nominees may be added by adjudicator selection.
- ✓ All Nominees are invited to participate in the Lead Performer Intensive weekend and to perform in the Closing Number at the Spotlight Awards Ceremony.
  - *Nominees that wish to be considered for Semifinalist, Finalist and Award Recipient categories must submit an audition video by April 27 for review. Students will not be notified if they are a semifinalist until the Intensive weekend and should prepare for a possible live audition.*
  - *Nominees that do not wish to be considered for further opportunities can opt to attend the Intensive and perform in the Ceremony, without submitting an audition video.*

### Outstanding Lead Performer **SEMIFINALIST**

- ✓ **Nominees that wish to be considered for Semifinalist, Finalist and Award Recipient categories must submit an audition video by April 27 for review.** A large panel of professional artists will review audition videos. Semifinalists will be selected based on the submitted audition videos using the provided rubric.
- ✓ During the Intensive Weekend (May 2-3), Semifinalists will be announced at the end of the first day (May 2). They will perform in a live audition for panelists during the second day (May 3).

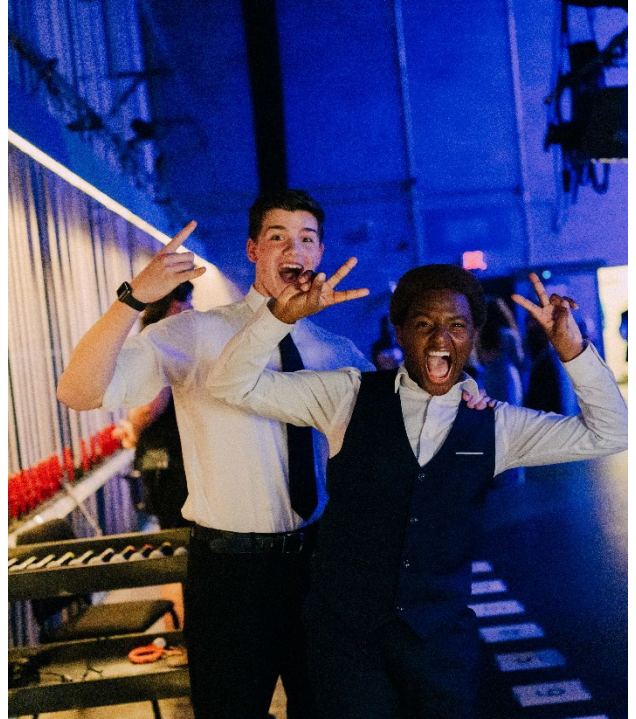


Photo by Caitlin McNaney for MA2LA Photography.

### Outstanding Lead Performer **FINALIST**

- ✓ Finalists will be selected from the live Semifinalist auditions during the Intensive weekend, using the provided rubrics.
- ✓ Students will be notified by Monday, May 4 if they are a Finalist.
- ✓ Finalists will perform a solo from their school's nominated role at the Spotlight Awards Ceremony.

### Outstanding Lead Performer **Award Recipients** – aka Jimmy Awards Nominee

- ✓ The Award Recipients will be announced at the end of the Spotlight Awards Ceremony.
- ✓ Two students are selected after Semifinalist auditions as the Award Recipients (no judging happens during the ceremony) but not announced until the end of the Awards Ceremony.
- ✓ These 2 students will continue to New York as Jimmy Awards Nominees the following month.

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### **PART 5 – AWARDS AND ELIGIBILITY**

*Awards Listing*

*Eligibility Per Award Category*

*Director Nominated and Selected Award Instructions*

*Lead Performer Nominee Overview*

### **PART 6 – A GROWTH MINDSET - GIVING AND RECEIVING FEEDBACK**

*Rubric Overview*

*Encouraging a Growth Mindset*

*Preparing Students to Receive Feedback*

### **PART 7 – RUBRICS BY AWARD CATEGORY**

### **PART 8 – SPOTLIGHT AWARDS CEREMONY**

*General Information and Ticketing*

*Performances*