SPOTLIGHT Awards

NASHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2019-2020 Spotlight Awards – Nashville High School Musical Theatre Awards

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR & OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTRESS

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ABOUT THE SPOTLIGHT AWARDS PROGRAM

The Spotlight Awards program is an education initiative which celebrates and supports the educational value, artistry and community of high school theatre programs while developing confidence, creativity, and collaboration among high school students in Tennessee. The Spotlight Awards strives to embody a spirit of camaraderie and celebration for the arts.

Program Overview

Each participating high school registers their school's musical for review by an adjudication team of arts professionals who will provide feedback for the performance. Each reviewer submits a completed rubric with comments regarding all aspects of the production within a few weeks after the performance. Teachers and students use these insights to make their next show even stronger. Outstanding nominees in each category are announced in April. In May, as a culmination of the program, all participants attend the Spotlight Awards Ceremony at TPAC, an annual showcase celebrating the outstanding achievements of participating high school musical theatre 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 TPAC Education performances and workshops, performance opportunities, workshops with industry professionals, and professional development for educators.

Program Goals

- To celebrate, support and advocate for high school theatre education by recognizing excellence in area high school theatre productions
- To provide high quality educational experiences in dance, theatre and music for students, directors, and school arts programs
- To build confidence, creativity and collaboration in students participating in the arts in our community
- To engage local families and community members in a celebration of theatre
- To grow and develop theatre audiences and arts advocates in Tennessee by building a high school theatre community

The Spotlight Awards program is Nashville's regional awards program affiliated with the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA) (also known as the Jimmy™ Awards, named in honor of James M. Nederlander, legendary Broadway theatre owner and producer). The Jimmy™ Award for Best Performance by an Actress and Best Performance by an Actor is awarded annually to two grand prize winners selected from a group of student performers representing participating professional theatres. For more information on the Jimmy Awards, visit: www.jimmyawards.com

2019-2020 DATES AND EVENTS – Oustanding Lead Actor and Actress

Important Dates and Deadlines

Nominee Announcement – April 24, 2020

Outstanding Lead Nominees Submit Performance Detail Form Online – due April 28, 2020 by 12:00 p.m.

Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress Audition Sessions

- May 2, 2020, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
  50 Nominees attend a dance call, workshops, and first round auditions

- May 3, 2020, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
  Up to 16 Nominees attend Call-Back auditions

Spotlight Awards Ceremony – May 16, 2020

The Spotlight Awards Ceremony will take place May 16, 2020, 7:00-10:00 pm in TPAC's Jackson Hall (505 Deaderick Street, Nashville).

- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Closing Number Rehearsal for 50 Outstanding Lead Nominees (Return at 6:00 p.m. with your school)
- 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. Outstanding Lead Finalists Sound Check
- 2:15 – 4:30 p.m. Outstanding Musical nominees Sound Check
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Finalists Dress/Dinner
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- 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Finalists meet the host, photos, press
- 6:00 p.m. Finalists join their school to be seated
- 6:00 – 6:15 p.m. All schools are seated
- 6:20 p.m. School Welcome
- 6:30 p.m. Doors open to the public
- 7:00 – 10:00 Spotlight Awards Ceremony
- 10:00 – 11:00 p.m. Award Recipients for Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress, and their Parents - Photos, Interviews, Meet Chaperone/Sign forms

DOCUMENT SUBMISSIONS

All nominees will be announced on April 24, including the 50 Nominees for Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress. Once this has been announced, any updated requirements will be sent to the director and students as necessary.

OLA Audition Information Form – Due April 28
This online form includes provides information about the audition session on May 2-3. All 50 students who are nominated for Outstanding Lead Actor or Outstanding Lead Actress will submit this form online by April 28.
(Online Form - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OLANomAuditionInfo)

Audition Session Submissions – Due May 2
Printed copies of the following items will be submitted by each nominee **when they arrive to the audition session on May 2**.

- Headshot for the nominee – must be high-res jpg files (8"x10 at 300 DPI)
- Resume for the nominee – one (1) page (preferred format can be provided)
- Nominees are also required to provide a track for their audition, no accompanists will be used for audition sessions.

Performance Information Form – Due May 8
This form includes information about the performances during the awards ceremony. The 3 Outstanding Lead Actress Finalists and 3 Outstanding Lead Actor Finalists will submit this online form by May 8.
(Online Form - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CeremonyPerformance2020)

Required Submissions – Due May 16
The following items will be submitted by the 6 Outstanding Lead Finalists **when they arrive to TPAC on May 16**. Items should be submitted as digital files on a jump drive (that will be returned).

- Essay – one (1) page, double-spaced, describing their experience participating in this year's musical
- Headshot for the finalist – must be high-res jpg files (8"x10 at 300 DPI)
- Resume for the finalist – one (1) page (preferred format can be provided)
- Bio – no more than 200 words, written in complete sentences and in third person format
- 3 production photos from your school performance

Additional submissions required from the Spotlight Award recipients of Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress
The award recipients of the Spotlight Award for Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress will continue to the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, aka the Jimmy Awards, in New York. Additional submissions will be required of these students immediately following the Spotlight Awards, as detailed on Page 7.

**Note – Guidelines may change as the NHSMTA updates their requirements. If the guidelines change, finalists will be notified of the changes after the nominee announcement.*

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR AND ACTRESS AUDITION SESSION

On May 2 from 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM, 50 Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress Nominees will visit TPAC for workshops and auditions, with Call-Backs for up to 16 nominees on May 3 from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Audition Process
On April 24, nominees for all Spotlight Award categories will be announced. At this time, 50 students will be selected as Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress nominees. All 50 Outstanding Lead Nominees will attend an audition session on May 2. After the First Round of Auditions, up to 16 Outstanding Lead Nominees will be selected to attend the Call-Back Auditions on May 3.

Following the Call-Back Auditions on May 3, the 3 Finalists for Outstanding Lead Actor and the 3 Finalists for Outstanding Lead Actress will be notified. These Finalists will perform solos at the Awards Ceremony on May 16. Two students will be selected from the Finalists as the Spotlight Award recipients for Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress and will continue to the national competition in New York.

Judging Panel
Students will audition for and receive valuable feedback from industry professionals. Our panel of judges is filled with representatives that have substantial education, experience, and passion for the performing arts, and includes professional theatre artists, lead adjudicators and Spotlight administration that will have cumulatively attended every school performance.

Dress
Nominees will participate in a group dance call prior to their audition sessions. They should dress for movement, while maintaining a professional appearance for the auditions. A short break will take place prior to the audition time in the event that students wish to change clothes, but this is not required.

Audition Session Submissions
Printed copies of the following items will be submitted by each nominee **when they arrive to the audition session on May 2**.

- Headshot for the nominee – must be high-res jpg files (8”x10 at 300 DPI)
- Resume for the nominee – one (1) page (preferred format can be provided)

Nominees are also required to provide a track for their audition, no accompanists will be used for audition sessions.

Audition Content
Finalists should prepare 2 songs for their audition sessions, providing a track for each according to these guidelines:

1. 32 bars of a song from their nominated role - **This should be the same selection that the Nominee will perform during the Spotlight Awards Ceremony if they are selected as a Finalists.**
2. One solo song of their choice, no more than 2.5 minutes in length from the Jimmy Awards Library of Approved Solo Song Selections.

**Nominees are strongly encouraged to have additional options prepared in case panelists ask to see something different.

Scoring for Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress Awards
Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress nominations must be based on the National High School Musical Theatre Awards Qualifying Roles list. To view the full list, visit www.jimmyawards.com.

Scores from adjudicators attending school performances will determine the top 15 nominees for each of these 2 categories. Additionally, 10 more spots in each category will be filled by wild card selections from each of the remaining schools, for a total of 50 Nominees. To determine the final award recipients, the adjudicator score will count for 80% of the final score and the panel scores at the audition session will provide the remaining 20% of the score.

Determining Finalists and Award Recipients
In order to determine the finalists and recipients of each award, The Spotlight Awards administration considers all eligible candidates with a fresh perspective, focusing on the auditions on May 2 and 3, while thoroughly reviewing and considering the Adjudicator feedback, scoring and support material provided.

Criteria and Tools used:

- Rubric scoring and panelist feedback for the live auditions on May 2 and 3
- Cumulative observations of each nominee during school performances, live audition sessions, dance call and workshops
- Ballots submitted by adjudicators, including rubric scores, comments, and adjudicator nominations
- Required forms and support material submitted by the nominees
- Experience and accumulated musical theatre knowledge of The Spotlight Awards administration

The Spotlight Awards administration brings a variety of factors into consideration in reaching their decisions. In some cases, this may lead to the office overriding the Adjudicators, but this is only done when deemed necessary. All decisions of The Spotlight Awards administrators are final.

Tentative Schedule Audition Sessions and Call-Backs

<u>May 2, 2020</u>

8:30 a.m. – Check in, Closing Number tracks and lyrics presented

9:00 a.m. – Group Dance Call

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Workshops provided for all nominees

12:00 p.m. – Lunch break (provided)

12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Workshops provided for all nominees

2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Auditions (First Round)

7:30 p.m. – Call-Back lists posted

<u>May 3, 2020</u>

12:00 p.m. – Up to 16 Call-Back Nominees arrive, give interviews, and receive basic information about the process, what needs to be turned in, video needs, forms, Jimmy Awards info and schedule, etc.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Auditions (Second Round/Call-Backs)

6:00 p.m. – 6 Outstanding Lead Finalists posted

SPOTLIGHT AWARDS CEREMONY AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Spotlight Awards Ceremony is a community celebration of local arts education that acknowledges outstanding achievement and artistry in high school musical theatre and provides an opportunity for students to share their art with each other.

Awards Ceremony Attire / Costumes
The Spotlight Awards Ceremony is a red-carpet-style event based on the Tony Awards. The dress for this event is formal. For the performance, costume accessories and hand-held props that can be easily transported and kept by the student in their seat may be utilized to suggest character, time, and place if needed.

Outstanding Lead Nominee Rehearsal and Closing Number Performance
The 50 Outstanding Lead Nominees are invited to perform the closing number of the Awards Ceremony with the Host of the event. Nominees will be given tracks and lyrics to the closing number at the audition session on May 2 and will attend a rehearsal on May 16 from 10:00-12:00 at TPAC.

Outstanding Lead Finalists Sound Check and Solo Performance
The 6 Outstanding Lead Finalists will each perform a solo from their nominated role during the awards ceremony. Solos should be 32 bars (approximately 1.5-2 minutes in length). Sound checks for Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress Finalists will take place from 1:30-2:15 p.m. If you will be using a track, this should be given to TPAC ahead of time. If you have an accompanist with you, they need to arrive at TPAC by 1:30 pm for sound check as well.

Finalists will have a dressing room at TPAC where they can relax and get ready for the ceremony after sound check. The 6 Outstanding Lead Finalists will be provided with lunch and dinner at TPAC. Please let TPAC staff know immediately if a Finalist has any allergies or dietary restrictions.

Accompaniment
A piano will be available on stage (Upstage Left) for your use and will not be moved during the event. Schools may choose to supply a musical track, provide their own accompanist, or to pay an additional fee to use the Spotlight in-house accompanist. School-provided accompanists will need to be present for sound checks as well as for the ceremony.

Schools that elect to use the Spotlight in-house accompanist are required to hold at least 1 rehearsal with the accompanist at their school prior to the Awards Ceremony for a $150/hour fee. The in-house accompanist will be present at the sound checks and ceremony for no additional cost to the school. Spotlight Awards administration will provide the in-house accompanist for the Closing Number performance.

Microphones
Wireless mics will be given to students Stage Right. These microphones will be returned to a stagehand Stage Left when exiting. There will also be four "shotgun" microphones on the DS edge, in the event that a wireless mic goes out.

Adult Guests
Students are not required to have an adult with them, but it is allowed if a director, accompanist or parent would like to stay with nominees during rehearsal or backstage with Finalists. Please let TPAC staff know as soon as possible if an adult guest will be joining them.

Seating
Finalists will be reunited with your school around 6:00 pm in the lobby when all schools arrive. All nominees will be seated near the aisles in Jackson Hall to provide an easier transition to the stage and may not be with the rest of their school group.

AWARD RECIPIENTS - ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS

The recipients of the Spotlight Award for Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress will continue to the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, aka the Jimmy Awards, in New York. Additional submissions will be required immediately following the Spotlight Awards. In the event the selected students cannot attend the Jimmy Awards, the second-place finalists will continue to the Jimmy Awards.

**Note – Guidelines may change as the NHSMTA updates their requirements. If the guidelines change, finalists will be notified of the changes after the nominee announcement.*

Award Recipients
When the Awards Ceremony ends, the recipients of the Spotlight Award for Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress will remain backstage for additional media opportunities.
Parents/Guardians/Teachers are asked to wait by the stage for a staff member to lead them to the students.

Additional Form Submissions
Award Recipients will submit the following items for the Jimmy Awards by May 19.

- Signed Personal Release/Waiver Form
- Parental Release Form
- Medical Information Form
- Music Submission Form - Finalists will list 2 of the most prominent songs from their winning performance and provide the song titles and key. In addition, they will select 2 solo musical theatre songs to prepare for solo work with the vocal coaches during their week in New York. Selections should include one ballad and one up-tempo, NOT from their winning performance, but from a show on the Qualifying Show List.

Video Submissions
The recipients of the Spotlight Award for Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress will return to TPAC on May 18 or 19 to film 2 videos for submission to the Jimmy Awards – A Topic Response Video, and an Audition Video.

Please dress in basic clothing, with basic hair and makeup – nothing distracting.

Topic Response Video – Finalists will select from a list of topics provided by the Jimmy Awards to answer on video. Topics will be provided to school directors immediately following the nominee announcement. Responses should be between 3-5 minutes in length and are intended to show the personality of the finalist. *Past topic examples include - What or who first sparked your interest in musical theatre? Why is musical theatre meaningful to you? What is something you are passionate about besides theatre? Who is one person you would like to meet, living or not, and why? What was your funniest or most awkward audition experience?*

Audition Video – Finalists will perform 32 bars of one song from their nominated role and one solo song of their choice, no more than 2.5 minutes in length from any show on the Qualifying Roles list. Finalists will need to provide a track or a live accompanist during their filming time.

All video submissions become the property of NHSMTA. These submissions may affect what performance group nominees are placed in at the Jimmy Awards. Planning ahead is encouraged for those in Qualifying Roles so they are represented in the best way possible if they become finalists. Students should choose songs that best showcase their talent.

THE JIMMY AWARDS – The National High School Musical Theatre Awards

Jimmy Awards

The Jimmy Awards will take place in June, with the 2 students and a chaperone visiting New York for a week before the ceremony to rehearse and work with Broadway artists. Detailed information and schedule will be given to the Finalists as soon as it is available.

Travel to New York

Student travel to and from New York is covered by TPAC as part of the program. After the ceremony, TPAC will contact the students and their parents to confirm dates and times for travel. The chaperone and students will travel to New York together. Return flights may be scheduled with the chaperone or with a parent.

Chaperone

TPAC will provide a Chaperone to travel with the students and be present to take care of their needs during the week in New York. The chaperone will be confirmed by May 1. A meeting time will be set up in early June for the students, parents, and the chaperone to get to know one another before the trip takes place.

About the Week

Students attending the Jimmy Awards will participate in a week of intensive workshops, auditions, rehearsals and coaching provided by Broadway professionals. This week allows students to network with other talented students, connect with industry professionals in a meaningful way, and perform to a sold-out Broadway theatre.

Schedule for the Jimmy Awards

The Jimmy Awards schedule changes slightly each year, and we will not have the current schedule for this year until the end of May. The following is an example of a few days from a past schedule for your reference.

Wednesday, June 21st		
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Founders Hall
8:00 am – 8:30 am	Walk to Judson	
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Stage/Rehearse Opening & Closing	Judson Gym
9:30am – 10:00 am	Walk to Tisch	
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Medley Vocals / Coaching Session 1	Tisch Building
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Staggered Lunch *(Nominees at Tisch, Chaperones in Dining Hall)* 12:30 – Medley 3 & Production Group 1:00 – Medleys 1, 2, & 4	Tisch Building
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Medleys 3 & 4 & Production Group Vocals (Medleys 1 & 2 released to be walked back to Founders) (Medley 3 released at 3:00pm to be walked back to Founders)	Tisch Building
4:00 pm	Medley 4 & Production Group released to be walked back to Founders	Founders Hall
5:00 pm	Bus to Sardi's departs Founders	Founders Hall
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner at Sardi's	Sardi's
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Photos at Duffy Square	Duffy Square
8:00 pm	Broadway Show *Come From Away* / Schoenfeld Theatre	
10:30 pm	Bus to Founders Hall	Founders Hall

Thursday, June 22nd		
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Founders Hall
8:00 am – 8:30 am	Walk to Judson	
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Stage/Rehearse Opening & Closing	Judson Gym
9:30am – 10:00 am	Walk to Tisch	
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Medley Staging / Coaching Session 2 *(Chaperone Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 in Dining Hall)*	Tisch Building
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Nominees Lunch	Tisch Building
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Medley Staging / Coaching Session 3	Tisch Building
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Medley Groups Dinner & Dress Parade Production Group Vocal Rehearsal	Tisch Building
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Production Group Dinner	Tisch Building
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Production Group Staging	Tisch Building

Friday, June 23rd		
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Founders Hall
8:00 am – 8:30 am	Walk to La Mama	
8:30 am – 12:30 pm	Opening & Closing Rehearsal, present for Press	La Mama
	9:00 am – 10:30 am Chaperone Event in Studio 6	La Mama
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch & Walk to Tisch	NYU Dining Hall
1:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Medley & Production Number Rehearsals/Coaching Session 4 (Staggered Dinner)	Tisch Building

Saturday, June 24th		
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Founders Hall
8:00 am – 8:30 am	Walk to Judson	
8:30 am – 10:30 am	Rehearse Opening & Closing	Judson Gym
	9:00 am – 10:30 am Chaperone Event in Judson Assembly Room	
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Walk to Tisch	
11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Girls Audition Solo Rehearsal *(Boys rest, lunch in Dining Hall 12:00-1:00)*	Tisch Building
2:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Boys Audition Solo Rehearsal *(Girls rest, lunch in Dining Hall 2:00-3:00)*	Tisch Building
5:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Production Number & Medleys in Costume (Staggered Dinner)	Tisch Building
	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm – Production Group Dinner & Change *6:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Medleys Dinner & Change*	Tisch Building

Sunday, June 25th		
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast	Founders Hall
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Walk to Judson	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Physical & Vocal warmup	Judson Gym
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Rehearse All Show Material	Judson Gym
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Medley Group Lunch & Rest	NYU Dining Hall
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Production Group walk to Tisch, Lunch, & Change	Tisch Building
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Production Group Judging Session	Tisch Building
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Staggered Dinner	Tisch Building
6:15 pm – 10:00 pm	Medley Group Judging Session	Tisch Building