

THE National High School Musical Theatre Awards JIMMY AWARDS

Long Description

The Jimmy® Awards/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards™ (NHSMTA) was established in 2009 to elevate the importance of theatre arts education in schools and reward excellence in student performance. Following its continued success, the NHSMTA has grown to accommodate 37 regional awards programs that feature more than 1,000 high schools, impacting over 50,000 students who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by presenters of Touring Broadway productions throughout the United States. Each year, winners of these regional programs travel to New York City to participate in the national competition.

The ninth annual Jimmy® Awards ceremony will take place on Monday, June 26, 2017 when over 70 students will make their debut on a Broadway stage competing in the showcase at the Minskoff Theatre. During this one-of-a-kind event, a panel of judges will choose two students for the coveted awards of Best Performance by an Actor and Best Performance by an Actress. Participants in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards™ will be in New York City from Monday, June 19, 2017 through Tuesday, June 27, 2017. In addition to performing in the awards ceremony, students will participate in master classes, and training and preparation with Broadway coaches and accomplished professionals.

Since its inception, NHSMTA has been the catalyst for more than \$1,000,000 in educational scholarships awarded to deserving young performers. Named for Broadway impresario James M. Nederlander, this year-round program is administered by The Broadway League Foundation, The Broadway League's charitable arm. Its mission is to enlighten and increase the public's knowledge, appreciation and awareness of the theatrical arts and to provide a forum for the discussion of issues relating to the preservation and promotion of live theatre as a vital and culturally significant artistic medium.

Thanks to the support of its participating League member theatres and donors, NHSMTA continues to grow. In 2012, the program inspired preeminent broadcaster WGBH Boston to produce a 3-part documentary series called "Broadway or Bust," which followed students on a journey from their hometown competitions to their debut at the Minskoff Theatre. The series premiered in September 2012 and was showcased in 100% of PBS's Top 50 strategic markets, ranking as one of their most highly rated programs. It remains popular viewing at www.pbs.org.

The depth, scope, and education-centric mission of NHSMTA coupled with its extensive television and media exposure has made participating in the program an aspiration for a growing number of high schools. Based on feedback from participating theatres, school administrators are now directing both human and financial resources to improve the quality of theatre arts education in their districts. This renewed enthusiasm for the performing arts in schools is already helping to invigorate local theatres and the communities they serve.

For more information, please visit www.JimmyAwards.com.