



2023-2024 PARTICIPATION GUIDE FOR TEACHERS & DIRECTORS

HISTORY

The David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts' Broadway Star of the Future Program has been in existence since 2009 and until 2016 was awarded in conjunction with the Mainstage committee of the Florida State Thespians. In 2015, The Broadway League invited all member professional theaters to select representatives utilizing an adjudication model. This opened the door during the 2016-17 school year for the Straz Center to reconfigure the program providing an updated format recognizing regional high school productions and hosting its own regional awards ceremony. The first annual **Broadway Star of the Future Awards Showcase** was held on Sunday, June 4, 2017, and has been repeated annually.

GOALS

The Broadway Star of the Future Awards Program is an educational initiative of the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts. The goals of the Broadway Star of the Future Awards program are to:

1. Encourage, recognize, and honor excellence in high school theater performances through a constructive review process.
2. Provide high quality educational experiences in dance, theater, and music for high school students.
3. Provide professional development, networking and performance opportunities for students, directors, and school programs.
4. Engage local families and community members in a celebration of educational theater.
5. Grow audiences and arts advocates in the Tampa Bay area.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

High school theater educators/directors from the four-county region, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Manatee, submit an application and \$200 fee for their musical or \$150 for their play to be reviewed by a team of two-three reviewers who represent Tampa Bay area theater professionals, college faculty and industry experts. Each reviewer attends the performance, submits a completed ten-page review with comments regarding all aspects of the production and nominates for all categories of the Broadway Star of the Future Awards. The school receives reviewer comments and feedback within two weeks of the performance. Outstanding nominees in each category are announced as soon as possible and select categories are invited to perform at the Broadway Star of the Future Awards Showcase scheduled for **Sunday, May 19, 2024**.

The Broadway Star of the Future Awards program is the Tampa Bay area'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 theater owner and producer. The **Jimmy™ Award for Best Performance by an Actress and Best Performance by an Actor** is awarded annually based in New York City to two grand prize winners selected from a group of student performers representing participating professional theaters. In the Straz' case, these two representatives will be selected from our adjudication for Broadway Star of the Future Awards and Showcase performances. For more information on the Jimmy Awards, visit: www.nhsmta.com

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Qualifying high schools must be located in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco or Manatee Counties. Exceptions to the 4-county area are possible but require further approval and resources.
- Musical theater productions or plays should take place between **October 7, 2023-April 21, 2024**.
- While all musicals and plays are eligible for review through the BSF Program, only NHSMTA Qualifying Musicals will be considered for advancement to The Jimmy™ Awards. Review the list here: www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/
- Theater educator/director should apply and submit appropriate fees before program deadlines. Parents may submit on behalf of the school with director permission.

FEES

A \$200 application fee for musicals or a \$150 application fee for plays per high school production is required to participate. Double-cast productions who would like both casts reviewed must submit two separate applications and two fees (2 x \$200 for musicals and 2 x \$150 for plays).





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APPLICATION DEADLINE

To apply, please complete our digital application form found on our website and submit at least 3 weeks before performance dates and prior to **Friday, February 2, 2024**.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Provide up to six complimentary tickets at will-call under the name "Broadway Star of the Future Awards" per cast.
- Include Straz Center-provided inserts or digital graphics in your shows' program or playbill.
- Provide required documents such as cast lists, photos and music, as requested.
- Review and comply with guidelines of the BSF Handbook and NHSMTA Handbook if applicable.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Awards are given in the following categories: Best Performer Finalist in a Musical "Top 10" *; Outstanding Musical*; Outstanding Play; Outstanding Performer in a Musical; Outstanding Performer in a Play; Outstanding Dancer; Outstanding Supporting Performer; Outstanding Director, Outstanding Musical Director, Outstanding Choreographer; Outstanding Orchestra; Outstanding Technical Achievement; Outstanding Stage Manager; other scholarships and awards to be determined

* Invited to perform a selection from the production at the showcase performance

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM/STUDENT BENEFITS

- Thorough and concise ten-page written feedback from theater professionals
- Awards and recognition for outstanding performers, artistic and technical staff
- Scholarship opportunities
- Professional rehearsal process and performance opportunity at the Straz Center
- Professionally produced showcase performance on the Ferguson Hall stage
- Invitations to free workshops; Teens Take Broadway; and Broadway master classes (subject to availability)
- Special ticket offers to Straz Center events
- Access to Patel Conservatory faculty for free workshops and masterclasses at your school site upon request

BEST PERFORMER WINNER BENEFITS

- All-expenses paid participation in the Jimmy™ Awards
- Ten-day training, workshops, rehearsals, and master classes with Broadway professionals
- "Broadway debut" at the Minskoff Theater
- Opportunity to compete for the Jimmy™ Award, specialty awards, and scholarships
- Professional audition opportunities with Broadway casting and talent agencies
- Press and performance opportunities through the Straz Center and Patel Conservatory

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Application Fee Scholarships available for participating schools.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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