



ABOUT BROADWAY STAR OF THE FUTURE

Since 2009, the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts' Broadway Star of the Future Awards program has celebrated the Tampa Bay area's outstanding achievement in high school theater. The program focuses much-needed attention on the meaningful work being done on and off the stage by dedicated teachers and students within their high school theater programs.

Up to 2016, the awards were given with the Florida State Thespians Mainstage Committee. For the awards in the 2016-17 school year, The Broadway League invited member professional theaters to select representative students using an adjudication model, opening the door for The Straz to recognize regional high school productions and host its own regional award ceremony. The first Broadway Star of the Future Awards Showcase was held June 4, 2017.

To participate, schoolteachers/directors apply to have their theater production reviewed by a qualified team of two-three reviewers who provide directors with valuable written feedback. During the spring of each review period, the Straz Center hosts an annual awards showcase to recognize the outstanding work presented by these high school theater productions.

Broadway Star of the Future at the Straz Center celebrates the area high school teachers, designers and students involved in musical theater programs and productions. A qualified team of adjudicators evaluate productions and students to provide directors with valuable written feedback. At the end of the academic year, the Straz Center hosts an awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding achievements of high school musical theater.

Modeled after the Tony Awards, the showcase features outstanding performances from participating high schools and celebrates their enthusiasm, dedication, and talent while encouraging participating schools to grow and continue improving their program. Outstanding nominees in each category are announced at the end of April and select categories are invited to perform at the Broadway Star of the Future Awards Showcase scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2025.

At the conclusion of the Broadway Star of the Future Awards ceremony, our panel of judges select two Broadway Star of the Future Award Outstanding Lead Performers in a musical to represent the Tampa Bay area in The Jimmy Awards competition held through The Broadway League in New York City at the end of June. The selected students will compete for the national title, while spending two weeks with Broadway professionals, producers, directors, and casting agents to further their knowledge and talent.

Purpose

The Straz Center's Broadway Star of the Future Awards program focuses much-needed attention on the meaningful work being done on and off the stage by dedicated teachers and students in their high school theater programs. By honoring individual artistry in vocal, dance and acting performance, and honoring theater educators' and administrators' commitment to performing arts education, the Broadway Star of the Future Awards seek to encourage excellence in the performing arts, engage families in the activities of their students, ignite a far-reaching partnership between the Straz Center and area schools and contribute to the development of future audiences for live performing arts in the Tampa Bay area.





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Community Instead of Competition

Broadway Star of the Future is designed to be celebratory and not directly competitive in nature. Participating schools are not directly competing but challenging themselves to continually grow and create the best possible work they can in their unique circumstances regardless of budget or production size. Different teams of adjudicators attend each production and are asked to provide valuable feedback, not in comparison, but in the hopes of celebrating each production's achievements and offering insights for strengthening future shows. Broadway Star of the Future strives to embody a spirit of camaraderie, diversity and inclusion, celebration for the arts, and a growth mindset. We hope each school will cultivate the arts community by supporting each other during the year and the ceremony.

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

Important Dates

1. **September 23, 2024** – adjudication period begins.
2. **April 27, 2025** – adjudication period ends.
3. **April 30, 2025** – nominations announced.
4. **May 4, 2025** – Outstanding Lead Performer (Musical) Reviewer Day
5. **Sunday, May 18, 2025** –BSF awards ceremony – OPTIONAL, but we would love for you to attend! (Reviewers will receive one complimentary ticket each. These tickets must be requested by contacting jacqueline.jansen@strazcenter.org and will be available at will call.)





Communication Policy

To maintain the integrity of our program's evaluation process, we have established a communication policy. All communication with BSF staff must be channeled through your registered school staff or director. This ensures that feedback, inquiries, or concerns are managed within the established channels.

While we value input from all participants and stakeholders, it is crucial to uphold the professionalism and expertise of our professional reviewers. They undergo rigorous training and adhere to strict evaluation standards. Therefore, we kindly request that all participants differentiate between personal opinions and professional evaluations.

We welcome constructive feedback that contributes to the enhancement of our program. However, any communication regarding BSF nominations, evaluations, or inquiries should be directed through your registered staff or director to BSF staff.

ADJUDICATION OVERVIEW

Adjudicators will evaluate each school independently based on how well a school is meeting or exceeding their own potential with their unique resources and challenges, regardless of budget or size of the production. Different teams of adjudicators attend each production, and are asked to provide valuable feedback, **not in comparison**, but rather in the hopes of celebrating the achievements of each production and offering insights for strengthening future shows.

The Adjudicator Role

- Thoughtful and Supportive: Your role is to encourage the students and directors by providing your expertise and guiding them toward constructive self-evaluation through feedback and helpful observations.
- Positive and Kind: You are the face of Broadway Star of the Future and the Straz Center. Everything you say and do should reflect our program goals to better the community and celebrate arts education.

Conflict of Interest

Adjudicators are required to alert the Broadway Star of the Future team immediately if there is a conflict of interest with a participating school. Adjudicators having a relationship, either professional or personal, with a particular school are not assigned to evaluate that school's production.

Confidentiality

Feedback and scoring will be submitted through a secure online form. Please note that adjudicators will not provide oral critiques after the performance, nor should schools expect scores verbally or written. Adjudicators must not discuss their opinions, evaluation, scores, or feedback with anyone, in any format. This includes faculty, staff, or students from participating high schools, other adjudicators, colleagues, reviewers, social media networks, etc. Please do not contact adjudicators with questions. All inquiries should be directed to the Broadway Star of the Future team.





ADJUDICATION REQUIREMENTS

Broadway Star of the Future adjudicators are entitled to a \$75 stipend per review completed and submitted.

Adjudicators

Each year, Broadway Star of the Future will be recruiting new adjudicators to ensure fresh perspectives. As well as retaining previously qualified individuals. BSF adjudicators are recognized as individuals carrying an incredible wealth of knowledge towards the entire theatrical production and implementation process. The Straz Center selects reviewers who represent Tampa Bay Area theater professionals, college faculty, and industry experts with backgrounds in music, theater, musical theater, dance, theatrical design, technical theater, and related fields to serve as reviewers for the Broadway Star of the Future Program.

Qualifications

Reviewers **MUST**:

- Attend reviewer training.
- Have professional theatrical experience.
- Have a clear understanding of the high school production process.
- Understand the current vs. desired performance level of high school productions and performers.
- Remain neutral regarding show titles, schools, and personalities involved.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding the review process and results.
- Be adept at providing relevant, constructive feedback.
- Provide a 150-word bio that will be available on our website and in BSF materials.
- Respond promptly to BSF emails and communication.
- Attend at least one high school performance in its entirety during the school year.
- **Attend our Final Review Day scheduled for Sunday, May 4, 2025. You will be compensated \$75 for your time.**

Training

Training for the Broadway Star of the Future adjudicators is mandatory once a year. The training includes extensive discussions and practice with rubrics, scoring, and written feedback.

Letter of Agreement

Participating adjudicators are required to submit a signed Letter of Agreement at the end of their training session.

Adjudication Documents

- Current W-9
- ACH banking information
- Copy of a void check
- **THIS INFORMATION IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PAYMENT**



REVIEW PROCESS

High school theater educators/directors apply for their musical/play to be reviewed by a team of two-three reviewers. Each reviewer submits a completed digital evaluation form (JotForm) with comments regarding all aspects of the production and includes nominations for Broadway Star of the Future Awards. The school receives the reviewer's comments and feedback within two weeks after the performance.

Reviewers use an evaluation rubric to evaluate how each high school musical/theatrical production is meeting or exceeding its potential. Each production is evaluated against itself for consideration, rather than against all other school productions, encouraging schools to create the best possible work for their unique circumstances and environment.

Scheduling with SignUpGenius

Reviewers are required to sign up to review productions online through the website SignUpGenius. Reviewers will receive a link via email to the SignUpGenius schedule of productions.

- When signing up for a slot, you will indicate the day/time you plan on attending the performance in the comments section of your submission. Reviewers can redeem two tickets for a given performance. If you would like to redeem two tickets, please still only sign up for one "slot," and indicate in the comment section if you would like one or two tickets.
- **ALTERNATES:** Where applicable, we ask that reviewers sign up for "Alternate" slots on SignUpGenius in case of emergency last-minute cancellations.
- Once a reviewer signs up, they will receive the following information during the school's production week:
 - o Link to the reviewer critique JotForm
 - o Completed Adjudication Form completed by the school with their cast lists and percentages of rented technical elements.
 - o Jimmy Awards Qualifying Roles List (for musicals only)
 - o Confirmation of the performance venue address and number of tickets reserved.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND RUBRICS

Adjudicators use a set of standard rubrics to review each school's production. Directors receive a copy of the rubrics prior to the school's production. The rubrics are used to review each production on its own merit and are not used to compare one production against another.

Adjudication Standards and Evaluation Rubrics can be found online here:

When assessing an element of performance, think "Which of these boxes comes closest to describing what has been seen or heard?"

If most of the criteria have been met, it is possible to use that level of achievement. Usually a performance at the "Developing" level demonstrates an attempt at basic mechanics, whereas a "Mastery" level performance is highly polished. Between those two levels are a myriad of achievements.

When reading across a set of criteria, there is a build from "Developing" to "Mastery" through additions or enhancements. The explanations are detailed and basically intend to establish a positive place to begin and a polished place to aim. The terminology used in the standards and rubrics has been gathered from professionals across the adjudicated areas (acting, technical theatre, music and dance) in addition to other RAPs. If you need further definition of a term, phrase or concept, please ask for clarification.





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Adjudicators evaluate students and school productions on the execution of various performance and production elements as applicable to the type of production, including:

ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

Overall performance execution of the ensemble.

SINGING* & ACTING

Overall performance execution and the quality of the singing and acting in the production.

CHOREOGRAPHY* & DANCING*

Overall quality of the choreography & dancing in the production.

MATERIAL

Overall appropriateness of the material for this group, including theme of show, complexity of material, show selection.

DIRECTION

Overall quality of the direction in the production and its execution.

MUSIC DIRECTION*

Overall quality of the musical direction of the production.

ORCHESTRA*

Overall quality of the orchestra in the production.

SET, COSTUME, LIGHTING, SOUND, MAKE-UP, PROPERTY, DESIGN ELEMENTS

Overall quality and execution of the production's design elements.

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Instructors submit a nomination form two weeks prior to opening night and overall demonstrated quality of the production's stage management and execution.

OVERALL PRODUCTION

1-5 star rating of overall quality of the entire production based on the school's budget and resources.

* Musical productions only





PROVIDING FEEDBACK

Critique Form

No more than **two weeks** after the production, adjudicators **must** have submitted their critique and nominations. We tell all schools to expect feedback within that two-week period after the production.

Each adjudicator is asked to focus their feedback in a positive way, with the goal of encouraging and growing the arts in our community in mind. Adjudicator feedback is meant to serve as an educational tool, for teachers and students to use these insights to make their next show even stronger. Please be **constructive, specific and objective** with your feedback.

Directors, students, and theater programs cannot control the budget of a production, the resources available to them or the support received from their administrations and communities. We understand these limitations, and it is our mission to support and celebrate each program to ensure an equitable experience for all. It is an evaluator's responsibility to keep this in mind when giving scores and feedback.

Non-Competitive Process

Adjudicators should not be comparing school productions to each other. Due to scheduling and availability, adjudicators could be assigned to evaluate the same show at different schools. Keep in mind that each school should be viewed and evaluated on its own production, not compared to any others. Your feedback, scoring and honors should always reflect the question, "What are they doing with what they've been given?"

Outstanding Work

Adjudicators are not required to nominate students in every individual category. That being said, there is something outstanding happening at every school. Whether a school has a budget of \$500 or \$50,000, or if a show has 75 students versus 15, students across the Tampa Bay area are creating admirable theater with the best resources they have available. Your critique forms should reflect that in your scoring, nominations, and written feedback.

SCORING

We use a rubric-based scoring system to determine eligibility for nomination for a Broadway Star of the Future award. Rubrics are available on our website and are provided to all reviewers.

For PLAYS to be recognized:

- **Outstanding Play:** The production must score a 5 in the Overall Production category.
- **Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role:** The performer(s) must achieve a combined score of at least 17 across the Acting, Singing, Movement/Dance, and Stage Presence/Natural Ability categories.
- **Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role:** The performer(s) must achieve a combined score of at least 17 across the Acting, Singing, Movement/Dance, and Stage Presence/Natural Ability categories.
- **Outstanding Direction of a Play:** The production must score a 5 in both the Direction and Overall Production categories.





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For MUSICALS to be recognized:

- **Outstanding Musical:** The production must score a 5 in the Overall Production category.
- **Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role:** The performer(s) must achieve a combined score of at least 9 across the Acting and Stage Presence/Natural Ability categories.
- **Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role:** The performer(s) must achieve a combined score of at least 9 across the Acting and Stage Presence/Natural Ability categories.
- **Outstanding Featured Dancer in a Musical:** The performer(s) must score a 4 in the Outstanding Dancer category.
- **Outstanding Direction of a Musical:** The production must score a 5 in both the Direction and Overall Production categories.
- **Outstanding Music Direction:** The production must achieve a combined score of 22 or above across the Music Direction category and the Singing categories in Lead, Featured, and Ensemble performances.
- **Outstanding Choreographer:** The production must achieve a combined score of 17 or above across the Choreography & Dance category and the Movement/Dance categories in Lead and Featured performances.
- **Outstanding Orchestra:** The orchestra must be at least 50% student-performed and must score a 5 in the Orchestra category.

For BOTH PLAYS and MUSICALS designs to be recognized:

- **Outstanding Scenic Design:** The production must score a 5 in the Scenic Design category.
- **Outstanding Costume Design:** The production must score a 5 in the Costume Design category.
- **Outstanding Hair and Makeup Design:** The production must score a 5 in the Hair and Makeup Design category.
- **Outstanding Lighting Design:** The production must score a 5 in the Lighting Design category.
- **Outstanding Sound Design:** The production must score a 5 in the Sound Design category.
- **Outstanding Prop Design:** The production must score a 5 in the Prop Design category.
- **Outstanding Stage Manager:** The student must score a 5 in the Stage Management category.

AWARD & RECOGNITION CATEGORIES

In addition to the production feedback, reviewers also make recommendations for our Broadway Star of the Future Award categories. To be considered for these awards, a student; show; designer; director or other personnel members must be nominated by the majority of the reviewers to see the production. (For example if two people see a production BOTH must nominate the same individuals, if three people see a production TWO of the three must nominate the same individuals).

Awards are given in the following categories:

- **Best Performance in a Leading Role in a Musical* (Jimmy Award Eligible)**
- **Best Musical****
- **Best Featured Role in a Musical*****
- **Best Featured Dancer in a Musical*****
- Outstanding Play
- Outstanding Musical
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a Play
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a Musical
- Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role in a Play





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- Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role in a Musical
- Outstanding Featured Dancer
- Outstanding Direction of a Play
- Outstanding Direction of a Musical
- Outstanding Musical Direction
- Outstanding Choreographer
- Outstanding Orchestra
- Outstanding Scenic Design
- Outstanding Costume Design
- Outstanding Hair and Makeup Design
- Outstanding Lighting Design
- Outstanding Sound Design
- Outstanding Prop Design
- Outstanding Stage Manager (Student)
- Other scholarships and awards to be determined

* The Best Performance in a Leading Role in a Musical (Jimmy Award Eligible) performers are determined on review day from the pool of nominees for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a Musical. The selected performer(s) will be invited to perform a selection from their production at the showcase and will receive a BSF Award trophy during the ceremony.

** These top-scoring productions that received an Outstanding Musical nomination will be invited to perform a selection from their production and participate in the Opening Number at the showcase. They will receive a BSF Award trophy during the ceremony. These productions will be notified after nominations are announced, based on their overall scores and written critiques by our panel of BSF team members.

*** These are the top-scoring performances nominated for Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role in a Musical and Outstanding Featured Dancer will be invited to perform in the Opening Number at the showcase and will receive a BSF Award trophy during the ceremony. They will be notified after nominations are announced, based on their overall scores and written critiques by our panel of BSF team members.

All "Outstanding" category recipients will receive a BSF Awards Certificate of recognition for their achievement, which will be available for pick-up in the ceremony lobby.

Featured Role Definition

A featured performance refers to a role that, while not the lead, is significant to the narrative and has a noticeable presence in the production. The actor in a featured role plays an important part in developing the plot or supporting the main characters, warranting recognition without overshadowing the lead roles.

Nomination Notification

Schools are notified of all Broadway Star of the Future nominations on **Wednesday, April 30, 2025**. Winners and scholarships are announced during the Broadway Star of the Future Awards ceremony.





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Outstanding Lead Performer in a Musical Review Day

Any student nominated for Outstanding Lead Performance in a Musical **must** attend Review Day on Sunday, May 4, 2025, for consideration to be sent to The Jimmys in New York City. Students are required to perform a 32-bar cut of their strongest solo piece from their nominated role. They will be scheduled in hour-long blocks and an accompanist will be provided. Our team of adjudicators will determine the Top Ten performers to be considered for the opportunity to be sent to the Jimmy Awards based on this pool of nominees.

Students participating in BSF can be nominated for multiple roles per adjudication season. However, those who receive multiple nominations for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a Musical can only be adjudicated on Review Day for one of their nominated roles. This means that each student must carefully consider their strengths, preferences, and aspirations before selecting a role for adjudication.

While two Best Performers, our Jimmy Award representatives, will be selected based on their overall performance in your musical, this day provides all reviewers the opportunity to experience your student(s). In addition, these performances will also be considered for potential scholarship opportunities.

WRITTEN FEEDBACK – KEY REMINDERS AND CHECKLIST

When in doubt – remind yourself that this is about the STUDENTS. They are young people, learning about the industry that we all love, and we want to help them grow on their educational journey. Always err on the side of higher scores and kinder comments.

Key Reminders:

- ✓ Keep in mind that your written feedback goes directly to the school and will be read by real people who put their heart and soul into the production.
- ✓ Celebrate students and directors wherever they are on their journey.
- ✓ Do not make comparisons to other shows, versions, YouTube videos, or versions you have (or would have) directed yourself
- ✓ Stay positive: Putting on a show is stressful. As theater practitioners, we know and understand this. Evaluations should be fair and contain useful language that furthers growth in the art form. Language should reflect what you saw and areas of growth but should be something that could be given to a student without editing.
- ✓ Honor the Director's expertise: The school team members are participating in this program because they care about their students and want them to have experiences in theater. They are experts in their classrooms and on their students. Honor this expertise and recognize that, especially as adults, learning something completely new can feel intimidating and uncomfortable at times.
- ✓ Respect the Director's workload: Receiving feedback is a skill. Learning a new skill and tackling outside opinions on top of an already rigorous school schedule and production experience can be a huge undertaking. Be mindful of their time and resources.





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Feedback/Comment Checklist

- ✓ Does my feedback celebrate something the students or team did well?
- ✓ Does my comment give insight into one or more areas to focus on for improvement?
- ✓ Does my comment reference at least one specific moment or example that illustrates the point(s) I am trying to make?
- ✓ Does my feedback include at least 3-4 complete, easy-to-read sentences?
- ✓ Does my "improvement needed" comment include a clear strategy for improvement?
- ✓ Is my feedback written in a positive tone and framed in an educational and helpful way?
- ✓ Is my feedback written in a clear and concise way?

Example Sentence Starters/Formats

Phrasing in terms of growth

- ✓ Keep working towards...
- ✓ Continue to work on...
- ✓ Consider...
- ✓ In the future, you might try...
- ✓ I loved when you...keep bringing that [energy/focus/etc.] to the rest of your performance...
- ✓ You did [this] well. To take your performance to the next level...
- ✓ Have you considered...?
- ✓ What would happen next time if...

Feedback to Avoid

- ✓ When giving a compliment, try not to write a positive followed directly by a negative. As an example, "You have great acting instincts, but I wanted more." Do not tie the two thoughts together with a conjunction. Instead let the positive stand alone as its own thought, then frame the areas to improve or things to take into consideration. Example, "You have great acting instincts. Consider digging deeper into your character's motivations."
- ✓ Avoid words like "awkward," "disappointing," "gangly," etc. Written feedback should always be appropriate for a high schooler to read. Additionally, please avoid using the word "outstanding" – this is the naming used for our wards and may be confusing.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS (NHSMTA)

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA) aka "The Jimmys™" is a national celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theatre recognizing individual artistry in vocal, dance, and acting performance, and honoring teachers and their schools' commitment to performing arts education.

Our panel of reviewers selects one Best Actor and one Best Actress winner of the Broadway Star of the Future Award to represent the Tampa Bay area in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards competition held in New York City in June. The selected students receive an all-expense paid trip including roundtrip airfare, room and board, and meals. In addition to competing for the national title, each student spends over a week with Broadway professionals, producers, directors and casting agents to network, expand their knowledge and further their skills. For more information on the NHSMTA, visit www.nhsmta.com.





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FAQs

Q) What is the reviewer's time commitment?

A) Reviewers must attend/watch the reviewer training, attend productions based on their availability, complete critique sheet(s), and attend the Best Performer Review Day (Sunday, April 28, 2024). There is no minimum number of productions they must attend. It takes about 30 minutes to complete and submit the critique.

Q) How much will I be paid?

A) Based on your employment status at the Straz Center, you are eligible to receive \$75 (minus payroll taxes) or mileage reimbursement per performance and submitted critique. Payment will be available bi-weekly on Straz Pay Day.

Q) How are the performances assigned?

A) We use the "SignUpGenius" website, which allows reviewers to select the shows they can attend and review.

Q) Can I review the critique form before I attend the performance?

A) Yes, a sample is included in this handbook. Reviewers will receive a link before they attend a performance and submit their critiques digitally through JotForm.

Q) Do I have to pay for the ticket to the performance I'm scheduled to review?

A) No, you are provided with the option of reserving, through SignUpGenius up to two complimentary tickets for the reviewed performance, so you may bring a guest as well.

Q) Is there training I must attend?

A) Accepted reviewers must attend a reviewer training before they attend a performance. They should also review the performing school's application and any additional information provided by Straz Education, prior to attending a performance.

