



ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL
MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2025-2026



THE TALLULAH AWARDS

a program of Broadway Theatre League of Huntsville

The Tallulah Awards recognizes, honors, and celebrates student achievement in high school musical theatre programs in Alabama and spotlights the importance of arts education in schools.

This program is meant to be celebratory and not competitive. We aim to recognize the hard work and dedication of students and teachers. Programs are not competing against each other. They are challenging themselves to grow and enhance their programs. Programs should aim to encourage, celebrate and support each other.



The Jimmy Awards®

The Tallulah Awards are a recognized Regional Awards Program (RAP) of The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (the Jimmy Awards®). The Jimmy Awards are a national celebration of outstanding student achievement, recognizing individual artistry in vocal, dance, and acting performance and elevating the importance of theatre arts education in schools. The program impacts more than 150,000 students annually. The Jimmy Awards are presented by The Broadway League Foundation. The Jimmy Awards take place in June of each year in New York City.

The 2026 Jimmy Awards will take place on Monday, June 22nd at the Minskoff Theatre in New York City. We will be sending two students as our nominees, the very first from Alabama!



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

ADJUDICATION

- Performing arts professionals attend your musicals and provide written feedback in all areas

AWARDS

- Productions will be recognized in various awards areas

CEREMONY

- The Tallulah Awards is a celebration of musical theatre and student achievement

THE JIMMY AWARDS

- Two students will be selected to represent Alabama at The Jimmy Awards in New York City

WORKSHOPS

- BTL presents workshops by national touring Broadway cast members.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- BTL will administer theatre scholarships each year

SHOW TICKETS

- BTL will notify participating schools of any discounted ticketing opportunities



SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

Public or Private schools located within one of the following Alabama counties: Colbert, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan. This includes any state schools located within these counties.

Broadway Theatre League intends to expand into other areas of Alabama in future years.



PRODUCTION ELIGIBILITY

- Recognized as a qualifying musical by the High School Musical Theatre Awards Program (The Jimmy Awards)
- Must be a full-length musical production.
 - “School” and “Teen” editions allowed
 - NOT Broadway Junior or TYA shows
- 70% of cast and crew is made up of students in grades 9-12
- Acquire proper licensing
- Takes place on or before May 3, 2026
- FUTURE YEARS
 - 26-27: Production takes place no later than April 18, 2027
 - 27-28: Production takes place no later than April 16, 2028



OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- \$200 Fee (due December 1, 2025)
- Provide one primary Point of Contact who is responsible for all communication with BTL and be timely in responses
- Retain all rights to your production until after The Tallulah Awards
- Commit to the rules outlined in the School Participation Handbook
- One onsite meeting with Kip and Lisa
- Provide production photos and a show logo/graphic
- Provide complimentary tickets to adjudicators and their guests
- Include The Tallulah Awards playbill ad in your production's playbill
- Submit color headshots for students being considered for Lead and Supporting Actor/Actress Roles and The Jimmy Awards
- Submit resume for students being considered for The Jimmy Awards
- Designate students to participate in Opening and Closing Numbers at The Tallulah Awards
- Submit all required paperwork
 - Registration: Opens September 10th. Deadline October 31st
 - Pre-Adjudication Form: Due 3 weeks before opening night
 - Post-Adjudication Form: Due one week after last performance
 - Feedback Form: Due in Summer 2026



STUDENTS NOT ENROLLED IN YOUR SCHOOL

Homeschool

- Must be in grades 9–12 and reside in the school's district
- Student may not be enrolled at any other high school or participate in any other high school's program
- Cast and crew can not be made up more than 10% homeschool students
- School's decision to include homeschool students

Virtual

- Must be in grades 9–12 and enrolled in a virtual school program in the same district
- Student may not participate in productions at more than one school

Magnet

- Must be in grades 9–12 and enrolled in the same school district
- Two of the three must be met: same administrator, same building, same teacher/program

Middle/Elementary

- Cast and crew must be made up of at least 70% in grades 9–12

District-wide Programs

- For programs where high schools don't have individual theatre programs
- Students must be in grades 9–12 and be enrolled within the school district where the program takes place
- Must be program recognized by the school district

Adults

- Use of adults as cast members – productions may be disqualified if adult performers are used to perform critical roles of the musical.



TALLULAH TIMELINE

FALL 2025

Oct 31: Deadline to Register

December 1: Deadline to pay registration fee

Onsite meeting with Kip & Lisa

SPRING 2026

January: Submit list of students for consideration for Jimmy Awards

February: Scholarship Application Opens

February: Schools notified of adjudicator attendance dates

April 1: Scholarship applications due & Theatre Educator of the Year applications due

May 8: Nominations announcement

May 11: Jimmy finalists second adjudication

May 16: Rehearsal

May 17: Dress rehearsal and The Tallulah Awards

By May 24: Adjudicator Feedback sent to schools

June 2026: Jimmy Awards

SUMMER 2026

July: Feedback forms due

Deadlines based on Production Dates

Three weeks before
production:

Pre-Adjudication Form due

One week after production
(OR MAY 8, whichever is first):

Post-Adjudication Form due



ADJUDICATION

- Performing arts professionals and educators
- 3-5 adjudicators (whole show)
 - Criteria and Rating Scales are in Handbook
- One Technical adjudicator (will be backstage and observe the booth and house)
 - Tech checklist is in Handbook
- They will only attend public performances (not school performances)
- They will NOT discuss anything with you at the production
- Please do not label their seats or seat them together
- They will provide constructive feedback and ratings for your production
- They will not have a perceived bias or conflict of interest at the school for which they adjudicate

All criteria will be adjudicated on this scale

Outstanding: 90-100% of the time (always)

Accomplished: 75-89% of the time (consistently)

Established: 60-70% of the time (usually)

Developing: 40-60% of the time (sometimes)

Emerging: Below 40% of the time (rarely)



RECOGNITION CATEGORIES

TECHNICAL

Outstanding Scenic Design by Students
Outstanding Lighting Design by Students
Outstanding Costume Design by Students
Outstanding Student Production Crew

OVERALL

Production of the Year
(This award may have two or more divisions)

Outstanding Production

GROUP PERFORMANCE

Outstanding Ensemble
Outstanding Dance Ensemble
Outstanding Student Orchestra

INDIVIDUAL

Outstanding Lead Actress
Outstanding Lead Actor
Outstanding Supporting Actress
Outstanding Supporting Actor
Spirit of The Tallulah Awards
Outstanding Stage Management by a Student

JIMMY AWARDS REPRESENTATIVES

Best Actor
Best Actress

FACULTY AWARD

Theatre Educator of the Year

Criteria for each category can be found in the handbook



PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: INDIVIDUAL

(NOT Best Actor/Actress: JIMMY Awards)

Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress

- Must be in Grades 9-12
- Must be performing in a Jimmy Qualifying Role
- Up to 6 students per category can be placed up for consideration
- Students can be put up for this and for Best Actor or Actress (Jimmy Awards)
- BTL will decide the number of students recognized in this category

Outstanding Supporting Actor and Actress

- Must be in Grades 9-12
- Must have at least one of the following:
 - Vocal solo more than 30 seconds
 - Dance solo
 - Monologue
- Up to 6 students per category can be placed up for consideration
- Students can be put up for this and for Best Actor or Actress (Jimmy Awards) **IF** the role appears on the list of Jimmy Qualifying roles
- BTL will decide the number of students recognized in this category



PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: INDIVIDUAL

Spirit of The Tallulah Awards

- Must be in grades 9-12
- Nominated by the School/Director
- Enthusiasm, support and overall impact on the production
- Can be cast or crew
- One student per school will be recognized at The Tallulah Awards

Theatre Educator of the Year

- One nomination per school
- Must be submitted by designated Student Point of Contact
- Video submission: includes 2 performers, 2 crew members and 1 other faculty member
- Deadline April 1, 2026
- Theatre Educator of the Year will be announced at The Tallulah Awards



PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: GROUP

Outstanding Ensemble

Outstanding Dance Ensemble

Student Orchestra (if applicable/eligible)

- Must be 60% made up of students in grades 9–12
- School alumni or faculty are not considered students
- Adult conductor is OK

Multiple schools will be recognized

Ensemble is defined by the entire company working together to tell a story and NOT a group of individual performers outside of the leads, supporting roles or other identifiable roles



TECHNICAL RECOGNITION

Scenic Design by Students

- No more than 30% of scenery or props may be rented or purchased as final product
- Student crew must be responsible for at least 50% of the construction labor
- Ok to use adults for safety reasons
- Be prepared to provide documents/workbooks at BTL's request before, during or after performance takes place

Lighting Design by Students

- No professional lighting designers
- Students must be involved in at least 50% of the design/construction labor
- Be prepared to provide documents/workbooks at BTL's request before, during or after performance takes place

Costume Design by Students

- No professional costume designers
- No more than 30% of costumes can be borrowed or rented
- Students must be involved in at least 50% of the design/construction of labor
- Be prepared to provide documents/workbooks at BTL's request before, during or after performance takes place

Stage Management by a Student

- Student must be in grades 9-12
- No professional or faculty or adult stage manager

Outstanding Production Crew

- 80% of the crew must be students
- Productions that use professionals or adults for lighting *execution* or stage management are ineligible



OVERALL PRODUCTION RECOGNITION

Outstanding Production

- Multiple Schools will be recognized
- Special emphasis to productions that uses students in orchestra and technical areas

Production of the Year

- One school per division
- There will be 2 or more divisions based on production budget and/or school size
- Special emphasis to productions that use students in orchestra and technical areas
- All roles listed as Jimmy Qualifying must be played by students (no adults, no faculty)



THE JIMMY AWARDS © (Best Actor and Actress)

- Schools will submit a list of students to be considered for The Jimmy Awards in January
- Must be performing in a Jimmy Qualifying Role as outlined by the National High School Musical Theatre Awards
- Finalists will be announced in early May
- Finalists will go through a second round of adjudication on May 11, 2026 at the VBC
 - Song from their role
 - Song of choice
 - Interview
- Finalists will perform all or part of a song from their role at The Tallulah Awards
- Winners will be announced at The Tallulah Awards (one boy and one girl)
- Winners will receive an all expense paid 10-day intensive workshop in New York City in June and will participate in The Jimmy Awards
 - The Jimmy Awards will be held on Monday, June 22, 2026 at 7:30pm at the Minskoff Theatre
 - Students arrive in NYC on Friday June 12th
 - Students depart NYC on Tuesday, June 23rd

More information about The Jimmy Awards can be found in the School Participation Handbook



The Tallulah Awards Event

Sunday May 17, 2026 at 6:30pm at the VBC

- Opening Number (2-3 students per participating school)
- Closing Number (2-3 students per participating school)
- Schools will be selected to perform one song from their musical
 - This will be announced on our around May 8th
 - BTL will determine the invitations to perform
- Recognition in the various awards categories
- Jimmy Awards finalists will each perform one song
- Our very first Jimmy Awards representatives announced
- Scholarship recipients announced

Rehearsals

- Saturday May 16th at the VBC
- Dress Rehearsal early on Sunday May 17th at the VBC
- Opening and Closing Number choreography will be provided to each school
- Jimmy Awards finalists may have separate rehearsals



ADJUDICATOR FEEDBACK

- Adjudicator feedback packets will be provided to all schools within five days after The Tallulah Awards. Our goal is to send them the next day.
- Feedback will be constructive and not compared to other schools
- The purpose of the feedback is to celebrate but also help strengthen programs and empower students
- Great educational opportunity for students to learn about interpreting feedback in a positive way



SCHOLARSHIPS

Jim and Judy Link Scholarship Program

- Applications will be released by February
- Deadline to apply: April 1st
- Recipients will be notified before The Tallulah Awards and presented their scholarships at The Tallulah Awards

Scholarships will be awarded to students in the following areas.
Other areas may be added or modified before the final scholarship application is finalized.

PERFORMING ARTS

- Musical Theatre
- Dance
- Acting

TECHNICAL EDUCATION/PROGRAMS

PERFORMING OR TECHNICAL ARTS EDUCATION



PLEASE REMEMBER!

- This program is educational, not competitive
- Having a growth mindset is important
- We expect a sense of collaboration, community and celebration from the schools
- Schools should not be comparing themselves against each other
- Be open to the feedback and use it to set goals for future years
- Celebrate all achievements!
- Receiving feedback is not the same as being criticized. Help students learn the difference and how feedback can be used to grow
- Storytelling and audience connection can be achieved from anywhere, with any budget



THE TALLULAH TEAM

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