



SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

2026 - 2027



All information included in this handbook is subject to change with or without notice to participants.

UPDATED DATE: August 10, 2026

THE TALLULAH AWARDS 26-27 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

THE TALLULAH AWARDS MISSION

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.

BROADWAY THEATRE LEAGUE MISSION

The purpose of the Broadway Theatre League of Huntsville is to provide professional live theatre for citizens of the Tennessee Valley area. Broadway Theatre League also strives to offer a well-rounded educational and cultural program to students of the Tennessee Valley through the Student Outreach Program.

ABOUT BROADWAY THEATRE LEAGUE

Broadway Theatre League of Huntsville (BTL) was founded in 1959 by the Business Professional Women's Club with single evening performances of national touring Broadway Shows. Performances were presented at Huntsville High School through 1974. In 1975, BTL moved to the brand new Von Braun Center Concert Hall and has been presenting shows there ever since. In 1993, BTL began presenting five show performance weekends and now presents both full eight performance weeks and five performance weekends.

BTL STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

Founded in 2005, the program provides an educational theatre experience that includes a classroom visit in the weeks leading up to the show and a post-visit project. Each year, BTL presents at least two Student Outreach shows. Each includes two student/school performances during the day and a free community show in the evening, welcoming nearly 6,000 people per show. The Student Outreach Program also provides workshops for high school theatre students. These workshops are taught by cast members of the national touring Broadway shows when they are in Huntsville. Each workshop is for up to 40 students and includes the workshop, pizza, and a ticket to see the show.

ABOUT THE TALLULAH AWARDS PROGRAM

The Tallulah Awards is a recognized Regional Awards Program (RAP) of The Broadway League. The Tallulah Awards are a celebration and showcase of the hard work and talent of high school musical theatre programs in Alabama. The Tallulah Awards program provides adjudicating and feedback from qualified judges and results in recognition in various categories. The winners of Best Actor and Best Actress will have the opportunity to participate in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (Jimmy Awards) in New York City.

ABOUT THE JIMMY AWARDS

The National High School Musical Theatre 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 180,000 students annually. The Jimmy Awards are presented by

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The Broadway League Foundation. The Jimmy Awards take place in June of each year in New York City.

PROGRAM GOALS

Broadway Theatre League of Huntsville, Inc. has the following goals:

- Support high school musical theatre programs by providing educational opportunities, workshops for students, and constructive feedback for high school programs
- Grow, enhance, and promote high school musical theatre programs throughout Alabama
- Develop musical theatre audiences of tomorrow
- Advocate the importance of high school musical arts education in schools
- Grow audiences and awareness in the community for high school musical theatre

The Tallulah Awards are designed to be celebratory and not competitive. This program aims to recognize the hard work and dedication of students and faculty in theatre programs across our area. Participating schools are not competing against each other. They are challenging themselves to grow and enhance their programs. This program aims to celebrate the achievements of each production and for all programs to encourage, celebrate and support each other.

PROGRAM SPONSORS and FUNDING

The Tallulah Awards are made possible through support from the following:

OASYS, Inc.

Chandler Family Fund

Individual Broadway Theatre League Donors

Mac and Debbie McCutcheon

City of Huntsville Arts and Cultural Grant

Alabama State Council on the Arts

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HOW IT WORKS

Schools are invited to register for the program each fall. Once a school is registered, students and teachers receive access to the following learning opportunities:

- **Adjudication** – a team of performing arts professionals attend your musical to provide written feedback in all areas of design, performance, direction, tech, musical direction, choreography and more.
- **Awards** – your production will be considered for various awards and recognition as part of the adjudication process.
- **Ceremony** – The Tallulah Awards, held in May each year, is a celebration featuring student performances, awards, scholarships and more.
- **The Jimmy Awards** – winners of Best Actor and Best Actress will go on to compete at The Broadway League's Jimmy Awards in New York City (all expenses paid).
- **Workshops** – BTL will host workshops by cast members of national Broadway touring shows. Participating schools will be notified of opportunities.
- **Scholarships** – Participants in this program will be eligible to apply for scholarships administered by Broadway Theatre League.
- **Show Tickets** – participating schools will be notified when free or discounted tickets to Broadway touring shows are available.

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PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

- Public or Private schools located within one of the following 22 counties in Alabama: Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, Jackson, Colbert, Lawrence, Morgan, Marshall, Dekalb, Franklin, Marion, Winston, Cullman, Blount, Etowah, Cherokee, Lamar, Fayette, Walker, St. Clair, Calhoun & Cleburne. This includes any state schools located within these counties.
 - Note: Broadway Theatre League intends to expand the program through other areas of Alabama in future years.
- The school is producing a full-length musical production. This includes “School” or “Teen” editions but not Broadway Junior or TYA shows (see below for more details)

PRODUCTION ELIGIBILITY

- The production must be a qualified production by the High School Musical Theatre Awards Program (The Jimmy Awards). A list of qualifying productions can be found at www.jimmyawards.com > Participation > Qualifying Shows and Roles.
- The school is producing a full-length musical production. This includes “School” or “Teen” editions but **not** Broadway Junior or TYA shows.
- Participating casts and crew are made up of 65% or more majority of students in grades 9-12
- Schools with double cast productions may submit a registration for each cast and must pay the registration fee and fulfill all the requirements for each cast OR select which cast will be considered for this program.
- Participating programs must acquire proper licensing for their production and let the licensing house know they are participating in this program and provide a proof of license approval.
- The production must take place within the adjudication window of January 1, 2026 - May 2, 2026.
- If a high school produces more than one production during the adjudication window above, they are only eligible to submit one of the productions for consideration.
- **NOTE: Please plan for future years!**
 - **FOR 2027-2028 SEASON (Year 3 of The Tallulah Awards) PRODUCTIONS MUST TAKE PLACE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 16, 2028.**
 - **For the 2028-2029 SEASON (Year 4 of The Tallulah Awards) PRODUCTIONS MUST TAKE PLACE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 8, 2029.**

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OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

- Schools must pay a fee of \$200 to participate. If adjudication is required for multiple casts, the fee is \$400. If this fee creates a financial hardship, please reach out to Broadway Theatre League.
- Participating school's main point of contact must provide a signed declaration at registration that the handbook has been read and understood.
- Participating schools must commit to all dates and deadlines outlined in this handbook
- The Director of the production must participate in a meeting about The Tallulah Awards with Kip Driver and Megan Carter from BTL. These meetings will take place in late 2026.
- School must provide two (2) complimentary tickets to each of the 3 to 5 adjudicators attending the production, plus two (2) complimentary tickets for Broadway Theatre League (max total of 12 tickets)
- School must include a full-page playbill advertisement about participation in the program free of charge. The playbill advertisement will be provided by Broadway Theatre League
- School must provide at least 10 production photos to be featured in slideshows, social media, ceremony projections, etc.
- School must provide a show graphic sized 1080x1080 to be used on social media and on Broadway Theatre League's website and provide a link for the public to buy tickets.
- School must submit color headshots of students being considered for Best Actor and Best Actress (Jimmy Awards), Outstanding Lead Actor/Actress and Outstanding Supporting Actor/Actress
- School must select one student to be awarded The Spirit of The Tallulah Awards (due in the Spring)
- School must submit a completed Pre-Adjudication Production Form no later than three weeks prior to opening night
- School must submit a completed Post-Adjudication Form no later than one week after the production OR no later than May 8, 2026, whichever date is FIRST.
- School must designate at least two (2), and up to four (4) students to participate in the Tallulah Awards ceremony's opening and/or closing numbers. These names will be collected in the Spring.
- School must retain their production's orchestra and piano scores until BTL determines which productions will be performing a song or medley at The Tallulah Awards. the nominations are announced by BTL. At that time, BTL will inform schools of their need to retain their scores further. Advance arrangements will be made by BTL with all appropriate licensing houses for schools to retain their music until after the ceremony without additional cost.

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HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS

The participation of homeschool students will not disqualify a school when the following guidelines are met:

1. Homeschool students must be in grades 9-12 and their home residence must be within the school zone for the school in which they are participating.
2. Homeschool students may **not** be enrolled in any other high school or participate in any other high school productions at other schools.
3. No more than 10% of the cast and crew may be made up of homeschool students
4. Homeschool students, if all the above criteria are met, are eligible for individual performance and technical awards.
5. It is up to the school or district (not BTL) to decide to allow homeschool students to participate in productions.

VIRTUAL STUDENTS

The participation of virtual students will not disqualify a school when the following guidelines are met:

1. Virtual students must be in grades 9-12 and enrolled in a virtual school program within the same school district.
2. The virtual student's home residence must be within the school zone for the school in which they are participating.
3. Virtual students may **not** be enrolled in any other high school or participate in any other high school productions at other schools
4. Virtual students, if all the above criteria are met, are eligible for individual performance and technical awards.
5. It is up to the school or district (not BTL) to decide to allow virtual students to participate in productions.

MAGNET SCHOOL STUDENTS (HIGH SCHOOL)

The participation of district magnet school students THAT DO NOT HAVE A THEATRE PROGRAM at their magnet school will not disqualify a school when the following guidelines are met:

1. Magnet school students must be in grades 9-12
2. Magnet school students must **not** be enrolled in any other high school or participate in any other high school productions at other schools

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3. Two of the three criteria must be met between the student's magnet school and the participating school: same administrator, shared theatre program/teachers, same building/location
4. Magnet School students, if all the above criteria are met, are eligible for individual performance and technical awards.
5. If you have unique circumstances regarding magnet school students, please reach out to Broadway Theatre League for clarification and determination of eligibility.

DISTRICT-WIDE THEATRE PROGRAMS

District-wide theatre programs where there are no theatre programs in individual high schools are allowed to participate when the following guidelines are met:

1. High School students must be in grades 9-12 and enrolled in a participating high school in the same school district
2. The high school students may not participate in any other high school productions at other schools who are a part of The Tallulah Awards.
3. The district-wide theatre program is a recognized program by the school district
4. The district-wide theatre program is led by an employee of the school district
5. The program can be for school credit *or* an extra-curricular program
6. If you have questions about district-wide programs and eligibility, please reach out to Broadway Theatre League for clarification.

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REGISTRATION AND FEES

FORM AND DEADLINE

- Schools must fill out an ***Intent to Participate*** registration form no later than 5pm on October 30, 2026. Registration will open in September 2026.
- The ***Intent to Participate*** form will provide general information about your school and production, more detailed information will be required three weeks before the first performance via a ***Pre-Adjudication Form***.

FEES

- The participation fee is \$200 per production. If adjudication is required for more than one cast, the fee is \$400. If this creates a financial hardship, please reach out to Broadway Theatre League. Do not let this fee be the reason your school does not participate.
- The participation fee is due no later than January 15, 2027. BTL will be in contact with the school's point of contact to arrange payment.
- All participation fees are non-refundable.

PRIMARY & SECONDARY CONTACT

Each school must identify a primary Point of Contact on the ***Intent to Participate Form***. The primary contact must be a teacher or administrator at the school and should have regular access to phone and email as all major correspondence regarding the program will be directed to this person. In addition, schools must indicate a secondary contact. The secondary contact can be a teacher, administrator, booster club member or parent. This person should be someone that can assist if we are unable to get in touch with the primary contract on the day of a performance. It is the responsibility of the school to notify Broadway Theatre League if there is a change in primary or secondary contact. If your school system email server has stringent screening/blocking programs in place, it is highly recommended that the primary contact also provides a second, non-school email address as well. It would be helpful to also include cell phone numbers in case we need to contact you during busy show weekends.

STUDENT CONTACT

Each school must identify a Student Point of Contact on the ***Intent to Participate Form***. The student contact will be included in most (not all) correspondence regarding this program. The student contact will be responsible for submitting nominations for theatre educator of the year (if they choose to participate). It is the responsibility of the school to notify Broadway Theatre League if there is a change in student contact.

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WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM SCHOOLS

In order to best prepare educators, below is a list of required documents and what you can expect from Broadway Theatre League throughout the school year. ***To view a timeline, please refer to the last page of this document.*** This is a general scope and is subject to change as the year progresses. We will always communicate via email with all educators if any dates or deadlines change.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ***Intent to Participate*** Form (initial registration)
- ***Pre-Adjudication Form*** (3 weeks before opening night)
- 1080x1080 Show Graphic/Poster for BTL to use on social media (due with the ***Pre-Adjudication Form***)
- ***Post-Adjudication Form*** (1 week after production) that includes 10 production photos for use by Broadway Theatre League
- Program Feedback Form (Summer after awards ceremony)
- Schools performing in The Tallulah Awards will be required to submit additional information/forms (TBD)
- Spirit of The Tallulah Awards nomination
- Ticket Reservations – Schools will receive some complimentary tickets to The Tallulah Awards and will be able to purchase additional tickets before they go on sale to the public
- Students up for consideration for Best Actor and Best Actress (Jimmy Awards) will be asked to provide additional documentation.

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PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Broadway Theatre League (BTL) strives to enhance the visibility of the performing arts programs at all participating schools. Broadway Theatre League may post production photos and show information from participating schools on BTL's website and social media sites. BTL may also share show information with local media. Our goal is to promote school programs as much as possible!

All participating schools will be invited to promote their productions on Show and Tell with BTL, a local TV show produced and created by Broadway Theatre League.

We encourage you follow us on the following platforms:

Facebook: [@broadwayhuntsville](#)

Instagram: [@broadwayhuntsville](#)

YouTube: [@broadwayhuntsville](#)

You can also use our Bitly to view more information about Broadway Theatre League:
bit.ly/m/broadwayhuntsville

All participating schools are required to include BTL's official ***The Tallulah Awards*** participation ad in their printed program books. The ad will be emailed to the Primary Contact. It is the Primary Contact's responsibility to ensure this ad is included.

BTL also encourages schools to announce their participation in The Tallulah Awards in school newspapers, websites, social media sites, newsletter and other materials produced or distributed by the school. BTL will provide a social media graphic schools may choose to use.

PHOTO RELEASE

There will be times throughout the year when BTL will photograph or video students, staff and/or volunteers in association with The Tallulah Awards. By participating in this program, all involved are giving full rights and permissions to Broadway Theatre League for use of these videos and photographs. BTL may also use a school and/or student's name in press releases or other communications. Please inform BTL in writing as soon as possible if a particular individual's name and/or photograph may not be used and/or published.

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ADJUDICATION

ADJUDICATORS

Broadway Theatre League will select and train a team of performing arts professionals from across the southeast with backgrounds in education, music, theatre, dance, design, production, and related fields to serve as adjudicators to evaluate school productions. There will be specialized feedback that is focused on uplifting strengths and suggesting future areas of improvement. Theatre, performing and the arts are subjective, so we encourage teachers and students to use what is useful to their own growth.

Adjudicators will be required to attend a meeting that will provide an extensive orientation and training of the program and evaluation process. They will be provided with a rubric to use as a basis for their ratings and feedback. During adjudication, rating will consider each school's unique resources and challenges. Information provided by schools in the ***Intent to Participate*** and ***Pre-Adjudication*** documents, such as Director's Notes, budget information, facilities information and other information will all be considered by adjudicators.

Awards Criteria emphasize student achievement – not size, budget, or elaborateness of a production. The focus is on storytelling, creativity, clarity, and community.

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

- Adjudicators will not have a perceived conflict of interest or bias at the schools for which they are adjudicating.
- Three (3) to five (5) adjudicators will evaluate each school.
- Adjudication will only take place during a public performance, not a dress rehearsal or a school show.
- If a show is double cast, the school directors must specify the cast they want to be adjudicated and when those performances will take place.
- If a show is double cast and both casts are being considered for The Tallulah Awards, the school directors must provide a schedule of when each cast will be performing.
- Each school will be notified of the date(s) on which Adjudicators will be adjudicating their show.
- On each respective adjudication date, two (2) complimentary reserved tickets must be held at the school's box office under "Broadway Theatre League" for each of the 5 adjudicators. Please make sure these seats are in an appropriate location with clear sightlines to the stage. *Adjudicators should not be seated together.*
- Schools will not indicate who the judges are to the students or public or label seat holds.

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- Adjudicators may be scheduled at different performances.
- Following an adjudicated performance, each attending adjudicator will individually complete an official adjudication form. Each adjudicator will include detailed feedback and ratings for the award categories that are adjudicated. Adjudicators may provide feedback for all categories – even those for which a school is not eligible for.
- Schools should not expect any oral critiques or feedback following a performance attended by an adjudicator.
- Adjudicators will individually enter their respective ratings and feedback into an online system and submit their information to Broadway Theatre League staff to be compiled into one document.
- Best Actor and Best Actress semifinalists will be selected based on scores. It is possible that additional discussion will have to take place with adjudicators to select them. Best Actor and Actor winners will be based on a final adjudication round plus their initial adjudication in the production.
- All results will be calculated and kept sealed by Broadway Theatre League until the awards ceremony.
- Broadway Theatre League will send compiled packets to each school after The Tallulah Awards that will include adjudicator comments.
- All data is property of Broadway Theatre League.

ADJUDICATION FOR TECHNICAL AWARDS

The Tallulah Awards values you backstage as much as onstage!

- There will be a designated technical adjudicator that will observe your show from backstage and in the house. This person will spend Act 1 backstage with your crew observing and then will be in the house for Act 2, including checking in with your sound booth at some point and may watch some of the show from there.
- The tech adjudicator will arrive slightly more than 30 minutes before the show starts. They want to be there early so they can have the ability to be onstage prior to house opening. This allows them time to walk around the stage in better light and more freely. **This judge will need to be escorted backstage by a student director or stage manager. Ideally, this student will give a quick tour and explain the show.** The technical adjudicators are experienced in technical areas and know how to stay out of your way when the show starts.
- Schools competing in technical categories (scenic design, costume design, lighting design and/or stage management) should have a student from each of these areas ready to show their associated books/graphics and be ready to discuss these items. It would be best if the books can be left with the adjudicator to look at backstage on his/her own time as well.

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- The technical feedback may be helpful for schools when asking school administration for upgrades or improvement on their facilities. If you have a specific area you'd like the adjudicator to address, please let us know!
- There is a checklist at the back of this handbook that gives you an idea of what the technical adjudicator will be paying attention to.

NOMINATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENT

- Broadway Theatre League will make the following announcements on or around May 7, 2027:
 - o Nominees for Best Actor and Best Actress (Jimmy Awards)
 - o Schools invited to perform a number at The Tallulah Awards
- The number of Nominees for Best Actor and Best Actress and the number of schools invited to perform a number at the Tallulah Awards will be determined at the sole discretion of Broadway Theatre League.
- A confirmation of nominations will be emailed to all school contact after the public announcement has been made.
- All decisions will be final in all respects.
- Best Actor and Best Actress (Jimmy Awards): nominees will participate in a second adjudication on Monday, May 10, 2027 at 5:30pm at the Von Braun Center. Nominees must be prepared with at least two songs of their choice to perform for the adjudicators. They are welcome to sing from their nominated role or a different song of their choosing. The adjudicators in this process may or may not be the same adjudicators that saw and scores the performances in the productions. This final adjudication, along with scores from the production performance will determine the Best Actor and Best Actress winners and runner up. This process will also include a short interview with the candidate. BTL and adjudicators will be present.
 - o All nominees invited to the second round of adjudication should choose songs that they feel would best represent them if invited to perform a solo at The Tallulah Awards.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Feedback and scoring will be submitted through a secure online form. Adjudicators will not provide oral critiques following the performance, nor should schools expect to receive numeral scores. Adjudicators will not discuss their opinions, evaluations, ratings or feedback with anyone in any format. This includes, but not limited to faculty, staff and students from participating high schools, other adjudicators, colleagues, reviewers, social media networks, etc. Please do not contact adjudicators with questions or comments – all inquiries should be directed to Broadway Theatre League staff. Schools and Adjudicators that do not adhere to these confidentiality guidelines are subject to removal from the program.

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ADJUDICATOR ATTENDANCE

If an adjudicator fails to attend an assigned performance and no replacement was provided, The Tallulah Awards attempts to re-assign that adjudicator to another performance. If no performances remain, The Tallulah Awards averages the scores from the remaining adjudicators from that production. If a school believes an adjudicator did not attend as planned, please reach out to Broadway Theatre League.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If weather is inclement and/or a state of emergency exists in the area of the performing school for an adjudicated performance, it is required that the school contact BTL (Kip and Megan) as soon as possible. BTL will notify adjudicators of the change. Please notify BTL of any changes and decisions regarding your adjudicated performance. BTL will make every effort to re-schedule adjudicators for another performance.

ADJUDICATOR ASSIGNMENTS

As adjudicator assignments are made, every attempt is made to ensure non-partiality on the part of the adjudicators. Adjudicators with relationships, either professional or personal, are not assigned to evaluate at that school. The Tallulah Awards will make every effort to send Adjudicators skilled in various areas of theatre production to each school and will make every attempt to rotate the pool in subsequent years. Broadway Theatre League makes the final decision in these matters.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Directors are asked for a statement highlighting the unique aspects that make their departments/programs/productions special. This is included with the Pre-Adjudication Form. This will mean something different for every school and adjudicators are asked to consider this statement as part of their score for the overall production. We encourage you to include anything you want adjudicators to take into consideration. This is up to the director/school/student's discretion with what they are comfortable sharing but can include anything from information about the facilities, budget, timeline, support from community, support from school, challenges, adversity, etc.

ADJUDICATOR FEEDBACK/RATINGS

The purpose of The Tallulah Awards is to uplift, celebrate and provide growth and learning opportunities for theatre productions and programs in schools. Adjudicators will be asked to provide detailed and constructive feedback with the goal to uplift and also assist with continuous improvement of the program. Schools will receive descriptive, constructive written

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feedback for each evaluation area. The purpose of the written feedback is to focus on growth. It is an evaluation of current work plus areas to think about for future productions. Schools will never be compared to one another.

ADJUDICATOR CRITERIA AND RATING SCALES

Please refer to the back of this handbook for the following documents:

- Criteria and Rating Scales: Production (Performance)
- Criteria and Rating Scales: Production (Technical)
- Criteria and Rating Scales: Individual
- Tech Checklist

Broadway Theatre League retains the right to all decision-making in matters regarding interpretation of the above-stated rules and regulations and for special circumstances not directly addressed by the same.

Questions? Contact us!

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THE TALLULAH AWARDS 26-27 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

RECOGNITION CATEGORIES

The Tallulah Awards will recognize schools and individuals in the following categories:

Individual Performance Recognition	Best Actress (Jimmy Awards Representative) Best Actor (Jimmy Awards Representative) Outstanding Lead Actress Outstanding Lead Actor Outstanding Supporting Actress Outstanding Supporting Actor Spirit of The Tallulah Awards
Group Performance Recognition	Outstanding Ensemble Outstanding Dance Ensemble The Spotlight Award
Technical Recognition	Outstanding Scenic Design by Students Outstanding Lighting Design by Students Outstanding Costume Design by Students Outstanding Student Production Crew Outstanding Stage Management by a Student
Overall Production Recognition	Production of the Year <i>(This award may have two or more divisions)</i> Outstanding Production
Teacher Recognition	Theatre Educator of the Year

Other award categories and divisions may be added throughout the year. Winners in all award categories will receive special recognition at ***TheTallulahAwards*** on Sunday, May 16, 2027.

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RECOGNITION CATEGORY GUIDELINES

Broadway Theatre League does not encourage or discourage the use of professionals as part of the musical production experience. However, as the program focuses on high school student achievement, there are detailed rules regarding the use of professionals or non-high school students in certain roles, encouraging a higher percentage of student participation. The use of someone other than a faculty member and/or student may disqualify a school from the specific categories indicated below. If necessary, disqualification determinations regarding adult and/or professionals will be made on a case-by-case basis by Broadway Theatre League.

ADJUDICATED CATEGORIES

Performance Recognition: Individual

Faculty members, adults and any non-high school student performers are ineligible for nomination in ALL individual acting categories.

- **Best Actress and Best Actor (JIMMY AWARDS)**
 - It is highly recommended that students placed up for nomination in these two categories are aware of the time commitment that will be expected for the winners, including an all-expense paid, intensive 10-day experience in New York City for the Jimmy Awards in June 2027.
 - Awarded to students performing in a Jimmy Awards qualifying role and displays excellence in singing, acting, and dancing (if applicable) abilities.
 - Students placed up for consideration in this category must be in grades 9-12.
 - Students placed up for consideration in these categories must portray a role listed in the Jimmy Awards' "Qualifying Roles" list which can be found on the Jimmy Awards Website at Qualified Roles can be found here:
<https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>
 - A max of six (6) students per category may be placed up for consideration for this Jimmy Awards category.
 - **IMPORTANT:** BTL will reach out to schools in January 2027 to finalize names of students placed up for consideration in this category.
 - Per the NHSMTA program, students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role that they played. Students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select a category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of gender of the role) OR they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they played
 - Students placed up for consideration for this category may also be recognized in the areas of Outstanding Lead or Outstanding Supporting performers.

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- o The top scoring performers in this category will be considered a Semifinalist that will be announced on or around May 7, 2027. The Semifinalists for this category, must attend the following:
 - Individual Adjudication on Monday, May 10, 2027 at 5:30pm at the Von Braun Center/Broadway Theatre League. More details will be provided to the Semifinalists in this category.
 - Perform one or possibly two songs of their choice. It is up to them if they'd like to sing a song from their nominated show.
 - Nominees will be asked to submit sheet music for both songs within 48 hours of the announcement of becoming a Semifinalist OR they might be asked to be prepared with digital accompaniment tracks instead.
 - Nominees will be adjudicated by a panel of adjudicators that may or may not have seen the production.
 - This session will also include a short interview/Q&A session with the Semifinalist.
 - o Schools must provide color headshots for all students up for consideration for this award with their Pre-Adjudication Form.
 - o Schools must provide a resume for all students up for consideration for this award with their Pre-Adjudication Form.
 - o The winners of Best Actor and Best Actress will represent Broadway Theatre League and The Tallulah Awards at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, also known as the Jimmy Awards, in June 2027.
 - If the winners in these two categories cannot attend, the runners up will be invited to participate.
 - This is an all-expense paid opportunity. The trip is approximately 12 days in June 2027.
 - More information about the Jimmy Awards can be found at the end of this handbook.
- **Outstanding Lead Actress and Actor (THE TALLULAH AWARDS)**
 - o Awarded to students for their performance in a lead role and displays excellence in singing, acting, and dancing (if applicable) abilities.
 - o Students placed up for consideration in this category must be in grades 9-12.
 - o A max of six (6) students per category may be placed up for consideration by a school
 - o Per the NHTMTA program, students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role that they played. Students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select a category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of gender of the role) OR they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they played.
 - o Students in roles that are listed as a qualifying role for the Jimmy Awards who wish to be considered for the Jimmy Awards MUST also compete in the Best

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Actor or Best Actress categories. Students can be placed up for consideration for both Best Actor/Actress and Outstanding Lead Actress/Actor IF the role appears on the List of Qualifying Roles for the Jimmy Awards here:

<https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>

- o Students placed up for consideration for Outstanding Lead Actress or Actor may **not** be placed up for consideration for Outstanding Supporting Actress or Actor.
- o Recognition in this category will be given to top students in this category.
- o Broadway Theatre League will make the determination of how many students are recognized in this category.
- o Schools may be asked to provide color headshots of all students put up for consideration in this category with the Pre-Adjudication form.

● Outstanding Supporting Actresses and Actors

- o Awarded to students for their performance in a supporting role and displays excellence in singing, acting, and dancing (if applicable) abilities.
- o Students placed up for consideration in this category must be in grades 9-12.
- o Supporting Actress and Actor must be a named character and have at least ONE of the following:
 - A vocal solo longer than 30 seconds
 - A dance solo that significantly distinguishes them from an ensemble character
 - A monologue
- o Students in supporting roles that are listed as a qualifying role for the Jimmy Awards who wish to be considered for the Jimmy Awards MUST also compete in the Best Actor/Best Actress category. Students can be placed up for consideration for both the Best Actor/Actress and Outstanding Supporting Actress and Actor categories IF the role appears on the List of Qualifying Roles for the Jimmy Awards here:
<https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>
- o A maximum of six (6) per category may be placed up for consideration for Outstanding Supporting Actress or Actor per school.
- o Per the NHSMTA program, students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role that they played. Students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select a category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of gender of the role) OR they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they played
- o Broadway Theatre League reserves the right to request a cast member be removed from Supporting performer nomination if adjudicators report an inability to gauge a student's performance due to the size of the role.
- o Recognition in this category will be given to top students in this category.
- o Broadway Theatre League will make the determination of how many students are recognized in this category.
- o Schools may be asked to provide color headshots of all students put up for consideration in this category with the Pre-Adjudication form.

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- **Spirit of The Tallulah Awards**

- This award is given to one student per participating school.
- Students must be in grades 9-12.
- The primary Point of Contact at each school selects the recipient of this award and should be based on the student's enthusiasm, support, and overall impact on the production on a day-to-day basis both during rehearsals and during the show. Each school is welcome to develop methods internally to select this student (i.e. peer voting, faculty input, etc.)
- BTL will need a short paragraph about this student and a headshot.
- This is **not** a performance award – all cast and crew are eligible.
- It would be best if winners of this award do not know ahead of time, but we understand that it may be unavoidable as we hope the winners will be attending The Tallulah Awards. We will work with each teacher to ensure the winner has a ticket to the show if they are not already attending in another capacity.

Performance Recognition: Group

If a school chooses to cast adult performers in their production, they are doing so with the understanding that they may be disqualified from nomination and consideration in the categories affected by the casting, up to and including the Production of the Year. To be eligible for Group Performance Awards, the cast must be made up of 65% or more of students in grades 9-12.

- **Outstanding Ensemble**

- This award recognizes ensemble excellence and is awarded to productions with high ratings in this area.
- Ensemble refers to effective group dynamics, character development and backstories and the ensemble appear natural and comfortable onstage as well as appropriate volume, proper diction, pitch and tone
- The word “ensemble” is defined as the entire company working together to tell a story and NOT a group of individual performers outside of leads, supporting roles or other identifiable roles.

- **Outstanding Dance Ensemble**

- This award recognizes dance excellence in dance and is awarded to productions with high ratings in this area.
- This award focuses on the *execution of the choreography* by the student performers and how it fits into the story. The performance is adjudicated based on execution, technique, and character choices. The award does not focus on the design of the choreography, only the execution of it.

- **The Spotlight Award**

- This award will most likely change from year to year and will recognize a production that brings something special and unique to The Tallulah Awards and we will know what that is when we see it.

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- o For context purposes, Jemison High School won The Heart Award for their production of Seussical, based upon feedback given by one of the Technical Theatre Adjudicators.
- o Here is the feedback that inspired this award for last year: "While backstage I observed students being team players, helping with scenic changes, and overall being kind and respectful to everyone. If there was an award for a company with the most "heart," I would award it to all of you without a second thought."
- o The purpose of The Spotlight Award is to shed light on a production that displayed an Outstanding rubric in something that doesn't necessarily fit into one of the designated categories.

Technical Recognition

The Tallulah Awards values what happens backstage as much as onstage! The following awards are intended to celebrate the work of students in grades 9-12. The work and effort must be put forth by the student with a faculty member mentor. To be considered in the following categories, no outside contractors or volunteers that are not faculty members of the school will be allowed *unless specifically outlined below*.

● **Outstanding Scenic Design by Students**

- o This award recognizes student achievement in scenic design.
- o The technical adjudicator and show adjudicators will be providing rating and feedback for this category.
- o Broadway Theatre League will make the determination of how many schools are recognized in this category.
- o Schools competing in this category will receive special emphasis when in consideration for Outstanding Production and/or Production of the Year.
- o Required Materials
 - o Be prepared to show any documents/workbooks/illustrations at BTL's request before, during (for the technical adjudicator) or after a production takes place.
- o Schools will indicate if they are eligible in this category based on the eligibility criteria below.
- o Eligibility
 - o Design and execute a fully realized set for a musical production that will be adjudicated in The Tallulah Awards program in the same year.
 - o Student designer must be a 9-12 grade student enrolled at the school presenting the production or be eligible as a 9-12 grade student as a homeschool student, magnet school student, virtual student or other

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eligible student in the school's district as defined on pages 7-9 of this handbook.

- o Outside contractors or qualified volunteers are permitted to assist with ensuring the safety of a set construction through guidance and/or hands on help.
- o A faculty member mentor for the student designer team is allowed.
- o No more than 30% of the scenery or props may be rented, purchased as final product, or borrowed.
- o A student crew MUST be responsible for at least 50% of the construction labor to be considered eligible in this category.
- o Non-Eligibility
 - o Productions that use a professional scenic designer (someone other than a direct faculty member and/or student) are ineligible for the Outstanding Scenic Design category. Schools that rent, purchase as final product, or borrow more than 30% of their scenery or props are ineligible for the Outstanding Scenic Design category. Any outside design concepts included in the show must also be included in the 30%. Students MUST be involved in at least 50% of the design/construction labor to be considered eligible in this category.
 - o Note: Outside contractors or qualified volunteers are permitted to assist with ensuring the safety of a set construction through guidance and/or hands on help.

- **Outstanding Lighting Design by Students**

- o This program seeks to recognize student achievement in lighting design.
- o The technical adjudicator and show adjudicators will be providing rating and feedback for this category.
- o Broadway Theatre League will make the determination of how many schools are recognized in this category.
- o Schools competing in this category will receive special emphasis when in consideration for Outstanding Production or Production of the Year.
- o Required Materials
 - o Be prepared to show any documents/workbooks/illustrations at BTL's request before, during (for the technical adjudicator) or after a production takes place.
- o Schools will indicate if they are eligible in this category based on the eligibility criteria below.
- o Eligibility
 - o Design and execute a lighting design for a musical production that will be adjudicated in The Tallulah Awards program in the same year.
 - o Student designer must be a 9-12 grade student enrolled at the school presenting the production or be eligible as a 9-12 grade student as a homeschool student, magnet school student, virtual student or other

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eligible student in the school's district as defined on pages 7-9 of this handbook.

- o A faculty member mentor for the student designer team is allowed.
 - o A student crew MUST be responsible for at least 50% of the construction labor to be considered eligible in this category.
- o Non-Eligibility
 - o Productions that use a professional lighting designer (someone other than a direct faculty member and/or student) are ineligible for the Outstanding Lighting Design category. Students MUST be involved in at least 50% of the design/construction labor to be considered eligible in this category.
- **Outstanding Costume Design by Students**
 - o This award seeks to recognize student achievement in costume design.
 - o The technical adjudicator and show adjudicators will be providing rating and feedback for this category.
 - o Broadway Theatre League will make the determination of how many schools are recognized in this category
 - o Schools competing in this category will receive special emphasis when in consideration for Outstanding Production or Production of the Year.
 - o Required Materials
 - o Be prepared to show any documents/workbooks/illustrations at BTL's request before, during (for the technical adjudicator) or after a production takes place.
 - o Schools will indicate if they are eligible in this category based on the eligibility criteria below.
 - o Eligibility
 - o Design and execute fully realized costumes for a musical production that will be adjudicated in The Tallulah Awards program in the same year.
 - o Student designer must be a 9-12 grade student enrolled at the school presenting the production or be eligible as a 9-12 grade student as a homeschool student, magnet school student, virtual student or other eligible student in the school's district as defined on pages 7-9 of this handbook.
 - o No more than 30% of the costumes may be rented, purchased as final product, or borrowed.
 - o A student crew MUST be responsible for at least 50% of the construction labor to be considered eligible in this category.
 - o Non-Eligibility
 - o Productions that use a professional costume designer (someone other than a direct faculty member and/or student) are ineligible for the Outstanding Costume Design category. Productions that use a

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professional costume designer (someone other than a direct faculty member and/or student) are ineligible for the Outstanding Costume Design category. Students MUST be involved in at least 50% of the design/construction labor to be considered eligible in this category and no more than 30% of the costumes can be bought or rented.

- **Outstanding Stage Management by a Student**

- o Awarded to students displaying excellence in calling cues and providing evidence of efficient, organized and effective pre and post-production systems.
- o Schools may nominate one student who fulfilled the role of Stage Manager during the qualifying production.
- o The technical adjudicator and show adjudicators will be providing rating and feedback for this category.
- o Broadway Theatre League will make the determination of how many schools are recognized in this category
- o Schools competing in this category will receive special emphasis when in consideration for Outstanding Production or Production of the Year.
- o Required Materials
 - o Be prepared to show any documents/workbooks/illustrations at BTL's request before, during (for the technical adjudicator) or after a production takes place.
- o Eligibility
 - o Stage Manager from pre-production to post-production for a musical production that will be adjudicated in The Tallulah Awards program in the same year.
 - o Student must be a 9-12 grade student enrolled at the school presenting the production or be eligible as a 9-12 grade student as a homeschool student, magnet school student or other eligible student in the school's district as defined on pages 7-9 of this handbook.
 - o Schools may be considered if a faculty member is assisting the student. No outside contractors will be accepted.
- o Non-Eligibility
 - o Productions that use a professional stage manager or faculty member (someone other than a student) are ineligible for the Outstanding Stage Management by a Student category.

- **Outstanding Student Production Crew**

- o This award seeks to recognize student achievement all areas of the Production Crew
- o The technical adjudicator will be providing rating and feedback for this category.
- o Broadway Theatre League will make the determination of how many schools are recognized in this category.
- o Schools competing in this category will receive special emphasis when in consideration for Outstanding Production or Production of the Year.

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- o Schools will indicate if they are eligible in this category based on the eligibility criteria below.
- o Eligibility
 - o Student Production Crew must be made up of at least 80% students.
 - o A student crew MUST be responsible for at least 80% of the technical aspects of the production.
- o Non-Eligibility
 - o Productions that use professional or adults in the following roles are not eligible:
 - o Stage Manager
 - o Lighting Execution (running the board)

Overall Production Recognition

If a school chooses to cast adult performers in their production, they are doing so with the understanding that they may be disqualified from nomination and consideration in the categories affected by the casting, up to and including the Production of the Year. Cast must be made up of 65% or more 9-12 grade students to be eligible in these categories.

- **Production of the Year**
 - o This award recognizes overall excellence and awarded to schools with high ratings and best overall productions
 - o This category may be divided into 2 or more divisions. Fair and equitable divisions will be determined in Spring 2027.
 - o Generally, there will be one Production of the Year named in each division. Broadway Theatre League reserves the right to change this.
 - o Special consideration will be given to productions that use students in orchestra and technical areas.
 - o To be considered for Production of the Year, All roles listed as Qualified Roles for the Jimmy Awards MUST be performed by students and may not be performed by adults or by faculty members. The list can be found at the Jimmy Awards website at www.jimmyawards.com > Participation > Qualifying Shows and Roles.
- **Outstanding Production**
 - o This award recognizes overall excellence for a production
 - o Schools earning the highest ratings in several categories will be recognized in this category
 - o Special consideration will be given to productions that use students in Orchestra and Technical areas
 - o Broadway Theatre League will determine the number of productions earning Outstanding Production recognition using the adjudicator rubrics.

Questions? Contact us!

Theatre Educator of the Year

Theatre Educator of the Year will be awarded to one teacher from one of the participating schools. Nominations are submitted and by the designated school **STUDENT** contact. The student should coordinate the submission on behalf of the school. Each school may submit one nomination.

Submissions should be made by video. If schools do not have the resources to submit by video, please reach out to Broadway Theatre League, and we can help you. The production quality of the video WILL NOT be considered as part of the submission. Videos via cell phone are acceptable. The video should be no longer than 12 minutes and should contain the following:

1. Testimonials from two (2) student performers in the current production
2. Testimonials from two (2) student tech crew members working on the current production
3. Testimonial from one (1) adult faculty member or school principal

Broadway Theatre League will reach out to all student contacts with guidance on how to submit the nominations. The deadline to submit for this award is April 1, 2027.

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LINK FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEATRE

Scholarship information will be made available to educators in March 2027. Educators are responsible for sharing scholarship information with students. Students are responsible for submitting all required information for the scholarship application. Scholarship information will also be available at BroadwayTheatreLeague.org. High School Theatre Seniors enrolled in a participating school of The Tallulah Awards program are eligible to apply for scholarships.

ABOUT THE LINK FAMILY

The Link Family Fund is an endowment managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville. This endowment includes an annual gift to Broadway Theatre League. LTG James Link (Ret.), his wife Judy Link and their daughter Carey Link were very active in the Huntsville community and participated in many charitable and civic activities. They were long-time season ticket holders at Broadway Theatre League. They dedicated their time and support to several nonprofits around the community, including Broadway Theatre League.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

Broadway Theatre League intends to award several scholarships that support students pursuing careers in theatre, dance, music and/or technical careers.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

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
 - Singing
- TECHNICAL EDUCATION/PROGRAMS
- PERFORMING OR TECHNICAL ARTS EDUCATION

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THE TALLULAH AWARDS

Broadway Theatre League will present a ceremony and showcase to honor and celebrate participating schools and students. The Tallulah Awards will take place on Sunday, May 16, 2027, at 6:30pm at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. This event will celebrate the dedication, hard work and accomplishment of all the schools participating in this program.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

The Tallulah Awards gives students from all participating high schools the chance to perform at the VBC Concert Hall with directors, stage managers, choreographers, lighting and sound technicians, and musicians. Throughout the course of the evening, audiences will experience the following performances.

- Nominees for Production of the Year
 - Some schools will be invited to perform a number from their production during the ceremony. Broadway Theatre League reserves the right to make these decisions based on a variety of factors, including time limitations.
- Best Performance by an Actor and Best Performance by an Actress Finalists
 - The students who are named as Finalists in these categories will be invited to perform during the ceremony.
- Opening Production Number
 - An opening number for the production will be curated by the BTL production team and will include students from ***all*** participating schools. Each participating school will be represented by at least two students selected by the School Director. Broadway Theatre League will determine the number of students per school to perform based on program participation. Each school will have the same number of students in this number. These students should not be the same students participating in the Closing Number, if applicable.
- Closing Production Number (if applicable)
 - A closing number for the production will be curated by the BTL production team and include students from all participating schools. Each participating school will be represented by at least two students selected by the School Director. Broadway Theatre League will determine the number of students per school to perform based on program participation. Each school will have the same number of students in this number. These students should not be the same students participating in the Opening Number.

Questions? Contact us!

All participating schools will have the opportunity to select student representatives to participate in one of the ceremony's production numbers, regardless of nominations. BTL will reach out to the Primary Point of Contact in the Spring.

MUSIC

One week after schools have been adjudicated, Best Actor/Actress Nominees will need to select and submit their top three song choices to potentially perform at The Tallulah Awards. This is submitted through the ***Post-Adjudication Form***.

TALLULAH AWARDS PRODUCTION PREPARATION

- School Performances
 - Broadway Theatre League and The Tallulah Awards director will work with each school performing at The Tallulah Awards to prepare for the performance at The Tallulah Awards. This may consist of video submissions of the chosen song, submission of sheet music and a visit to the school.
- Best Actor and Best Actress Finalists (Jimmy Awards)
 - Broadway Theatre League will work with each Finalist to rehearse their song for the ceremony. Students should be prepared to submit sheet music and possibly rehearse during the evening at the Von Braun Center between May 11 and May 15th.
- Opening Production Number
 - Choreography and music will be provided to each school and each school is expected to prepare students participating in the opening number.
- Closing Production Number
 - Choreography and music will be provided to each school and each school is expected to prepare students participating in the closing number.

REHEARSALS

A detailed rehearsal schedule with specific call times will be provided in Spring 2027. There will be two in-person rehearsals. There will be one on Saturday, May 15, 2027 and a second one on Sunday, May 16, 2027. Sunday's rehearsal will be a dress rehearsal and will take place at noon. Students participating in the production numbers and/or singing solos **MUST** attend these rehearsals or they will not be allowed to perform at The Tallulah Awards. **THIS IS MANDATORY** and there are no exceptions.

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SECURITY

The Von Braun Center is a secure building with on-site security, first responder, and full time staff to ensure that all students participating in the program are safe and accounted for during their time at the performance venue.

MEALS

Performers at The Tallulah Awards will be provided with food, drinks, and snacks on Sunday, May 16, 2027.

WARDROBE

Schools performing a song from their production at The Tallulah Awards have the option of wearing their show costumes or they can wear show shirts, black pants and black shoes. No shorts or skirts. If a school does not have an official show shirt, please wear the same color shirt.

Students performing in the opening and closing numbers should wear the official Tallulah Awards shirts with black pants and black shoes. No shorts or skirts.

Finalists for Best Actor and Best Actor (Jimmy Awards) should wear something that reflects the nature of their role in the musical, but not a complete costume.

Official Tallulah Awards shirts will be provided to:

- Students performing in the opening and closing numbers
- Spirit of The Tallulah Award Winners
- Best Actor and Best Actress Finalists

All participating schools will have the opportunity to order official Tallulah Awards T-shirts. Information will be sent to each participating school in the spring.

RECOMMENDED DRESS FOR THE TALLULAH AWARDS

We like to think of The Tallulah Awards like a night out at the theatre or for those who wish to – like a night at the Tony Awards!

THE TALLULAH AWARDS TICKETS

The Tallulah Awards is open to the public. Students, faculty and staff from participating high schools, along with family and friends, are encouraged to attend this event. Tickets will be extremely affordable and will cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for students.

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THE TALLULAH AWARDS 26-27 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

Tickets go on sale in April 2027. Prior to tickets going on sale to the public, participating schools will be given the opportunity to purchase tickets as a group.

Our complimentary ticket policy for The Tallulah Awards 2026 are as follows:

- All participating schools will receive four (4) complimentary tickets.
- All participating schools will receive two (2) complimentary tickets for the school principal or other designee, regardless of if they are nominated for an award.
- All district Superintendents will receive two (2) complimentary tickets
- Students performing during The Tallulah Awards will have an assigned seating area and will not need tickets. This includes opening number, closing number, school performances and Best Actor and Best Actress Finalists.
- Students receiving scholarships will receive 2 complimentary tickets.
- Spirit of Tallulah winners not attending the ceremony in another capacity will receive two (2) complimentary tickets.
- In addition to these complimentary tickets, schools, students and parents/guardians will have the ability to purchase tickets during a special pre-sale period that will include discounted tickets.

Broadway Theatre League reserves the right to change the complimentary ticket policy at any time throughout the year, with or without notice.

Ticket reservation and distribution information will be provided in Spring 2027.

ESTIMATED RUN TIMES

Doors will open at 5:30pm. The house will open at 6:00pm and the show will begin at 6:30pm

Act 1: Approx. 70 minutes

Intermission: 20 minutes

Act 2: Approx. 70 minutes

Total Run Time: Approx. 2 hr. 45 min.

Please note that estimated run times are subject to change and are included in this handbook for planning purposes only.

AWARDS

Schools should designate no more than two (2) students to accept group awards at the ceremony. Different students may accept for different awards, but we ask that only two students per award, per school, accept the award.

Questions? Contact us!

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NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

Broadway Theatre League of Huntsville is proud to be a Regional Awards Program (RAP) as part of Broadway League's National High School Musical Theatre Awards™ (NHSMTA/The Jimmy Awards). ***The winners of Best Actress and Best Actor will represent Broadway Theatre League/The Tallulah Awards at the Jimmy Awards in New York City.*** They are referred to as Nominees in this section. The Jimmy Awards will take place in June 2027 at 7:30pm at Broadway's Minskoff Theatre in New York City.

MISSION

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®) is a celebration of student achievement in high school musical theatre across the country culminating in the annual Jimmy Awards® ceremony.

Objectives:

- Advance a national conversation about the importance of arts education
- Create a unifying platform for regional awards programs and advance their local school engagement efforts in a nationally recognized program that provides opportunities to connect to the Broadway industry
- Recognize outstanding individual artistry in vocal, dance, and acting performance
- Encourage an inclusive theatre community for all
- Honor teachers and their schools' commitment to performing arts education and connect local schools to a national network encouraging their arts education endeavors
- Provide nominees with the opportunity to learn from Broadway professionals on and off the stage and make industry connections
- Engage families in the artistic activities of their children
- Contribute to the development of future arts workers and audiences for live performing arts in communities across America.

HISTORY

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®), otherwise known as the Jimmy Awards®, was established in 2009 by Pittsburgh CLO and Nederlander Alliances, a division of The Nederlander Organization, to elevate the importance of theatre arts education in schools and reward excellence in student performance. Since then, the Jimmy Awards/NHSMTA has been the catalyst for more than \$9 million 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 Inc. Over the years, the Jimmy Awards/NHSMTA has grown to include 58 affiliated regional high school musical theatre awards programs in communities throughout the United States and impacts approximately 180,000 students from 2,600 high schools. Sponsored annually by presenters of touring Broadway, nominees selected by these regional competitions travel to

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New York City to participate in the national program, a rigorous theatre intensive that includes coaching sessions, training, and rehearsals led by some of Broadway's most accomplished professionals, culminating in an extraordinary, one-night-only talent showcase.

JIMMY® AWARDS

The NHSMTA week takes place annually in June in New York City leading up to The Jimmy® Awards showcase on Broadway. The award is named after James M. Nederlander, a 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 the participation Regional Awards Programs around the country. Website: <https://www.jimmyawards.com/>

WHAT JIMMY NOMINEES SHOULD EXPECT

Broadway Theatre League will work with the two Jimmy Awards nominees between The Tallulah Awards in May and their departure for New York City in June. The following list gives an idea of what to expect during that time.

- o Broadway Theatre League will provide coaching in acting, singing and dance to our two nominees to prepare them for The Jimmy Awards. Nominees should expect to meet several times between The Tallulah Awards and the trip to New York City.
- o Nominees will be in New York City for 11 days. While in New York City, Nominees will participate in a rigorous theatre intensive that includes coaching sessions, training, and rehearsals led by some of Broadway's most accomplished professionals, culminating in an extraordinary, one-night-only talent showcase.
- o This is an extremely intensive, very rewarding program. Most days will be 15-hour workdays. It is important that students be physically and mentally prepared for this schedule. Sleep and self-care are of utmost importance.
- o ALL nominees in The Jimmy Awards program perform at the ceremony on a Broadway Stage.
- o Nominees will live in dorms at Juilliard and there will be chaperones designated by The Broadway League in New York.
- o Nominees will need to provide the following forms and information (BTL will assist with gathering this information and sending it to The Jimmy Awards). This is a QUICK turnaround after nominees are chosen.
 - o Information Form
 - o Medical Form
 - o Release Form
 - o Headshot
 - o Measurements (for potential medley costume)

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- o Photos of Nominee in production
- o Resume
- o Essay
- o Bio
- o Topic Response Video (topic TBA)
- o Wardrobe Information Form and 360 Video
 - Wardrobe requirements are provided by The Jimmy Awards. Some examples include, black suit or black dress, knee length black dress, black dress shoes. Dresses must be knee length. Other suits or dresses that are a solid color (not black)
- o Song Selections from nominated role
- o Song Selections for Solo

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LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Broadway Theatre League offers learning opportunities throughout the year.

STUDENT WORKSHOPS

BTL hosts a student workshop for high school students for every season show. These workshops take place on a show day and include a class led by cast members from the Broadway touring show and includes a pizza meal and a ticket to the show. Workshops may focus on one or more area, such as dance, acting, and/or singing. Currently, workshops for weeklong shows will be held on Friday afternoons and weekend-only shows will be held on Saturday mornings. This is subject to change. Registration for workshops will be sent to theatre teachers to share with students. Workshops are *not* limited to schools participating in The Tallulah Awards.

GROUP TICKETING

Discounted group tickets are available through Broadway Theatre League. Most shows allow discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more and are available at most performances. Contact Megan Carter at megan@broadwaytheatreleague.org if you are interested in group tickets.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

There may be other opportunities that become available throughout the season. BTL will reach out to theatre teachers, as necessary.

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THE TALLULAH AWARDS 26-27 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

CRITERIA AND RATING SCALES

All criteria below will be evaluated on the following scale:

Outstanding Plus / Outstanding
Accomplished Plus / Accomplished
Established Plus / Established
Developing Plus / Developing
Emerging Plus / Emerging

LEVEL	MEANING
OUTSTANDING	This level shows a high degree of professionalism, talent and artistry. The performances at this level are nuanced and memorable. Outstanding Plus indicates they are ranked at the top end of the category.
ACCOMPLISHED	This level demonstrates a strong skill within the area being evaluated. There is noticeable training and experience evidenced and noted. These performances exceed expectations at the high school level. Accomplished Plus indicates they are ranked at the top end of the category.
ESTABLISHED	This is an established/solid high school level performance. All criteria were met and the story at hand was told in a clear way. This is the expectation we begin every evaluation with for every performance. This level indicates consistent, dedicated work. Established Plus indicates they are ranked at the top end of the category.
DEVELOPING	It is important to remember these are high school performances, and there should be areas of development for students as all are in the process of learning. Areas deemed developing are clear areas for goal setting in future performances. Developing Plus indicates they are ranked at the top end of the category.
EMERGING	These are areas that are hints of attempts at the criteria, but there is a need for significant study and growth. This may be a first experience within an area for students. Emerging Plus indicates they are ranked at the top end of the category.

THE TALLULAH AWARDS 26-27 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

CRITERIA AND RATING SCALES: PRODUCTION (PERFORMANCE)

All criteria below will be evaluated on the following scale:

Outstanding Plus / Outstanding
Accomplished Plus / Accomplished
Established Plus / Established
Developing Plus / Developing
Emerging Plus / Emerging

Category	Criteria
Ensemble	• Emotional understanding • Appropriate volume, proper diction, correct pitch and tone • Expression and artistry • Balance of vocal parts in order to appear as one group • Maintains clear, consistent characters • Listens to each other and reacts accordingly • Each member of the company shows evidence of character development and backstories • Ensemble exhibits focus and appears natural and comfortable onstage • Performs with energy
Dance Ensemble	• Effective use of patterns, formations, and space • Precision and synchronization • Stage presence, poise, and energy • Knowledge of routines and combinations • Level of difficulty
Student Orchestra	• Playing in tune • Balance between sections • Balance with performers • Appropriate dynamics • Clean entrances and endings • Adds to the performance, rather than distracts from it
Overall Production	• Performance is organized, fluid and cohesive with an appropriate tempo • Production exhibits originality and creativity • Storytelling is central to the production – the themes and message of the show are defined and delivered effectively to the audience • Production showcases diverse talent • Cast functions as a tight and well-aligned unit • Matches ability of the performers in a way to elevate them • Student understanding, involvement and ownership heightens the performance

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CRITERIA AND RATING SCALES: PRODUCTION (TECHNICAL)

All criteria below will be evaluated on the following scale:

Outstanding Plus / Outstanding
Accomplished Plus / Accomplished
Established Plus / Established
Developing Plus / Developing
Emerging Plus / Emerging

Category	Criteria
Scenic Design	• Enhances telling of the story • Strong construction and functionality, including the use of levels • Fleshed out with consistent details in build, paint, color palette and stylized details reflective of time and place • Enhances elements of the performances
Lighting Design	• Woven into overall concept working in tandem with choices of set, costumes, makeup and hair • Tailored to individual character choices that enhance the performances and collective storytelling • Story is fully realized through an arc of lighting as its own character/design element • Guides the audience experience in terms of mood, time of day, place and framing of where to focus • Highlights featured performers
Costume Design	• Effectively aids in character establishment • Accurately reflects time and place of the world of the musical • Enhances elements of the performance • Construction includes shape and color with attention to detail • Elevates the overall collective telling of the story
Production Crew	• Deck Crew: planning, knowledge, timing, and efficiency • Lighting Crew: execution of cues, use of follow spots when applicable • Sound Crew: execution of cues, volume and balance are consistent and appropriate • Safety: organization, cleanliness, fly system (if applicable) • All crew are dressed appropriately and exhibit proper behavior
Overall Experience (no rating scale)	This is an opportunity for adjudicators to provide written feedback on the overall experience of attending the production. This may include the lobby area, playbills, ushers, concessions, and any other special touches.

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CRITERIA AND RATING SCALES: INDIVIDUAL

All criteria below will be evaluated on the following scale:

Outstanding Plus / Outstanding
Accomplished Plus / Accomplished
Established Plus / Established
Developing Plus / Developing
Emerging Plus / Emerging

The actor should be real and natural in the role – they are extremely comfortable onstage and have completely taken on the character. As an audience member, we should become completely absorbed in the character. There is no sense of someone “playing” a character other than themselves.

Category	Criteria
Overall	● Storytelling ability ● Authenticity / believability ● Understanding of their character ● Creates a compelling character ● Understanding of the play - setting. Style, focus and pace ● Energy and pacing ● Understands the character’s backstory ● Overall stage presence
Acting	● Consistency of character ● Relationship to others ● Expressions and reactions ● Gestures and body language ● Diction and projection
Vocal	● Pitch, tone, and rhythm ● Song delivery – emotion and phrasing ● Diction, articulation, and projection ● Volume
Dance/Movement	● Execution of choreography / movement ● Physicality – connection to character

THE TALLULAH AWARDS 26-27 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

TECH CHECKLIST

- The Technical Adjudicator will arrive slightly more than 30 minutes before the show starts
- This adjudicator will spend Act 1 backstage and Act 2 in the booth and in the house
- Please designate a student (**NOT a parent or faculty member**) to greet the adjudicator and escort him/her backstage. Please have this student give a quick tour and explain the show.
- Please allow the adjudicator to see the stage

GENERAL

	ALL crew dressed in costumes or blacks. “bonus” for: • No logos • Long sleeve blacks • Long pants • Black shoes
	Stage Manager/Student Director communicating with lights/sound for show start
	Is there a “cue book”? What is the way crew can keep track of all that is happening?
	Are there running lists which are easy to read backstage and during the show?
	Quiet and focused backstage (no talking unless absolutely necessary)
	No food or drink backstage other than bottled water
	Cast/Crew stays clear of sight lines (think about taping sign lines on your floor for everyone)
	No cell phones in the backstage
	Props well organized and prepped well before show starts
	Is there a prop table marked for all props? Does everything have a clear place?
	What are quick change or costume scenarios like? Organized? Calm?
	Bonus: Crew managers communicate with lighting to signal “all clear” for scene changes
	Bonus: Crew managers use hand signals to communicate with backstage crew
	Bonus: Crew helps and supports cast with prop handoffs/costume changes, etc.

THE TALLULAH AWARDS 26-27 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

SAFETY FOR ALL BACKSTAGE CREW

These are industry standards that schools should follow

	All crew in appropriate closed-toed shoes (no bare feet or sandals)
	Some backstage lighting for cast and crew on each side and in crossing pathways behind the set
	Set/stage edges, and any tripping hazards, are glow taped (or painted with white edges and seen)
	Rolling wagons/carts have stage brakes installed and are used
	Large items are handled and moved by at least 2 cast/crew members
	Scene set changes are clearly spiked and planned
	Props taken care of after use and returned to tables or cleared
	No tools/clutter/garbage backstage... clean floor and well organized
	Fire extinguisher backstage
	Any cables on floor (mics, headsets) taped down or managed by a crew member
	Bonus: all crew moving sets are wearing gloves

FLY SAFETY (if used)

	Fly/rope operators wearing gloves
	Fly ropes/mechanism are all locked except when in use
	Fly/rope area is free of clutter and ropes are properly counter-weighted
	"All Clear" signal given before fly is raised or lowered and cast is kept clear

SOUND and LIGHTING CREW

	Lighting/soundboard area clear of food/drinks/clutter except for bottled water
	What is the lighting/sound cue book like? Is this created in a way that anyone could easily step in and run it if needed, or is it something only the operator understands?
	Follow spots – what is the procedure/process for easily getting their cues?
	Sound check done before show

STAGE MANAGEMENT

	Student Stage Manager has a Promptbook
	Student Stage Manager calling the show (light, sound, and backstage cues)

THE TALLULAH AWARDS 26-27 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday, September 9, 2026	26-27 Tallulah School Registration Opens
Friday, October 30, 2026	Registration Deadline
Thursday, January 14, 2027	Payment (\$200) due to BTL; \$400 if double cast
Fall 2026 and early 2027	Site visits or video calls with Schools: Kip and Megan
January 2027	Schools to provide list of students competing for Best Actor and Best Actress (Jimmy Awards)
Monday, February 2, 2027	Adjudication Period Begins
February 2027	Scholarship Applications Open
Sunday, May 2, 2027	Adjudication Period Ends
April 1, 2027	Scholarship applications due
April 1, 2027	Deadline to submit for Theatre Teacher of the Year
April 2027	Group Ticket and T-shirt Orders for The Tallulah Awards
Friday, May 7, 2027	Best Actor/Actress Semifinalists emailed to teachers
Monday, May 10, 2027	Best Actor and Best Actress Semifinalists (Jimmy Awards) Second adjudication 5:30pm at VBC
On or around May 7, 2027	Schools will receive information about performing at The Tallulah Awards
Saturday, May 15, 2027	Rehearsal
Sunday, May 16, 2027	Dress Rehearsal
Sunday, May 16, 2027	The Tallulah Awards at 6:30pm
Within 2 weeks of the conclusion of The Tallulah Awards	Schools will receive Adjudication Feedback
June 2027	2027 Jimmy Awards in New York City
July 1, 2027	Feedback Forms Due
3 weeks before production opening night	Schools submit <i>Pre-Adjudication Form</i>
1 week after production OR May 7, 2027 (whichever is FIRST)	Schools submit <i>Post-Adjudication Form</i>
February 2027 or two weeks prior to production (whichever is FIRST)	Schools will receive adjudicator attendance dates

Questions? Contact us!

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions? Comments? Need more information? Please reach out to us!

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VISIT US

Broadway Theatre League
Located in the Von Braun Center between the Concert Hall and Playhouse
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