



ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL
MUSICAL **THEATRE** AWARDS



2026-2027

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 aims 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 180,000 students annually. The Jimmy Awards are presented by The Broadway League Foundation and take place in June of each year in New York City.

The 2027 Jimmy Awards will take place in June at Broadway's Minskoff Theatre in New York City. We will be sending two students as our nominees, 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 categories

CEREMONY

- The Tallulah Awards event 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 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.

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 Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) shows
- 65% of cast and crew is made up of students in grades 9–12
- Acquire proper licensing
- Takes place on or before May 2, 2027
- FUTURE YEARS
 - 27–28: Production takes place no later than April 16, 2028
 - 27–28: Production takes place no later than April 8, 2029



OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS

- \$200 Fee (due Jan 15, 2027). If requesting adjudication for two different casts, fee is \$400.
- 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 or video call with Kip and/or Megan
- 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 and resume for students being considered for Best Actress and Best Actor for The Jimmy Awards
- Students to participate in Opening and Closing Numbers at The Tallulah Awards
- Submit all required paperwork
 - Registration: Opens September 9th. Deadline October 30th
 - Pre-Adjudication Form: Due 3 weeks before opening night
 - Post-Adjudication Form: Due one week after last performance



STUDENTS NOT ENROLLED IN YOUR SCHOOL

Homeschool

- Must be in grades 9–12 and reside in the school's district
- Students may not be enrolled at any other high school or participate in any other high school's program
- Cast and crew cannot be made up of more than 10% homeschool students
- It is the 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
- Students 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 65% 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
- The program must be 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.



ADJUDICATION

- Performing arts professionals and educators
- 3–5 show adjudicators
- 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



TALLULAH TIMELINE

FALL 2026

Oct 30: Deadline to Register

Ongoing: Meetings with Kip & Megan (scheduled with each school)

WINTER/SPRING 2027

January: Deadline to pay registration fee and submit list of students for consideration for Jimmy Awards

February: Scholarship applications open

February/March: Schools notified of adjudicator attendance dates

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

May 7: Best Actor/Actress Semifinalists (Jimmy Awards) emailed to teachers

May 10: Best Actor/Actress Semifinalists (Jimmy Awards) Second adjudication

May 15: The Tallulah Awards rehearsal

May 16: Dress rehearsal & The Tallulah Awards

By May 28: Adjudicator Feedback sent to schools

SUMMER 2027

June: Jimmy Awards in NYC

Deadlines based on production dates

3 weeks before production: Pre-Adjudication forms due

1 week after production (No later than May 7): Post adjudication forms due



CATEGORIES / RECOGNITION

Criteria for each category can be found in the handbook

OVERALL

Production of the Year

(This award may have two or more divisions)

Outstanding Production

JIMMY AWARDS REPRESENTATIVES

Best Actor

Best Actress

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE

Outstanding Lead Actress

Outstanding Lead Actor

Outstanding Supporting Actress

Outstanding Supporting Actor

Spirit of The Tallulah Awards

Outstanding Stage Management

by a Student

TECHNICAL (by students)

Outstanding Scenic Design & Outstanding Lighting Design

Outstanding Student Production Crew

Outstanding Costume Design

GROUP PERFORMANCE

Outstanding Ensemble Outstanding Dance Ensemble The Spotlight Award

FACULTY AWARD

Theatre Educator of the Year

Outstanding Plus / Outstanding

Accomplished Plus / Accomplished

Established Plus / Established

Developing Plus / Developing

Emerging Plus / Emerging



THE JIMMY AWARDS[®]

(Best Actor and Best Actress Awards)

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

- 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
- Semifinalists will be announced on May 7, 2027
- Semifinalists will go through a second round of adjudication on May 10, 2027, at the VBC
 - First Song of choice (from nominated role if preferable)
 - Second Song of choice (if asked)
 - Interview
- Finalists will perform an approved song at The Tallulah Awards on May 16, 2027
- Winners will be announced at The Tallulah Awards (one actor and one actress)
- 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 in June of 2027 at Broadway's Minskoff Theatre



PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: INDIVIDUAL

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
- 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 Up to 6 students per category can be placed up for consideration
- BTL will decide the number of students recognized in this category



PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: INDIVIDUAL (cont'd)

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, 2027
- Theatre Educator of the Year will be announced at The Tallulah Awards



PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION: GROUP

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

Outstanding Ensemble

Outstanding Dance Ensemble

The Spotlight Award



TECHNICAL RECOGNITION

Be prepared to provide documents/workbooks at BTL's request before, during or after performance takes place

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

Lighting Design by Students

- No professional lighting designers
- Students must be involved in at least 50% of the design/construction labor.

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

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 consideration for productions that use students in orchestra and technical areas

Production of the Year

- One school per division
- There may be 2 or more divisions based on production budget and/or school size
- Special consideration for 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 Tallulah Awards Ceremony

Sunday May 16, 2027

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 or around May 7th
- The number of schools performing will be determined by BTL
- Recognition in the various awards categories
- Jimmy Awards finalists will each perform one song
- Our Jimmy Awards representatives announced
- Scholarship recipients announced

Rehearsals

- Saturday May 15th at the VBC (9:30am through 5:30pm – varied call times)
- Dress Rehearsal at 12pm on Sunday May 16th at the VBC
- Opening and Closing Number choreography/accompaniment will be provided to each school
- These rehearsals are MANDATORY! You will not be able to perform at The Tallulah Awards if you aren't available for these rehearsals
- Jimmy Awards finalists may have separate rehearsals



ADJUDICATOR FEEDBACK

- Adjudicator feedback packets will be provided to all schools within 1–2 weeks after The Tallulah Awards.
- Feedback will be constructive and not compared to other schools
- The purpose of the feedback is to celebrate but also to help strengthen programs and empower students
- Great educational opportunity for students to learn about interpreting feedback in a positive way



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Link Family Scholarship Program

- Applications will be released in February 2027
- Deadline to apply: April 1, 2027
- 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
- Voice

TECHNICAL THEATRE/PROGRAMS

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 to 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

Broadway Theatre League

Megan Carter

megan@broadwaytheatreleague.org

256-683-7146

Kip Driver

kip@broadwaytheatreleague.org

256-518-6154

Andrew Willmon

andrew@broadwaytheatreleague.org

256-551-2264

<https://broadwaytheatreleague.org/tallulah>