



2023-2024 CAPA Marquee Awards

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**  
for Best Actor/Actress in a  
Leading Role-Eligible Performers

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## About the CAPA Marquee Awards

The CAPA Marquee Awards celebrates the accomplishments of area high school teachers and students by recognizing achievements in productions by participating Columbus area high schools. To participate, schools register to have their productions reviewed by a qualified team of adjudicators, who then provide directors with valuable feedback. During the spring, CAPA will present an Awards showcase to recognize the outstanding achievements of high school productions and students. Modeled after the Tony Awards®, the showcase features outstanding performances from participating high schools and celebrates their enthusiasm, dedication, and talent while encouraging participating schools to grow and continue improving their programs.

### Purpose

The CAPA Marquee Awards and Awards Showcase are designed to **celebrate**, **support**, and **advocate** for high school musical theatre education throughout the central Ohio community.

### Goals

1. To recognize, honor, and encourage excellence in high school musical theatre through a constructive review process of nominated productions by qualified adjudicators;
2. To deliver educational workshops and advancement in dance, voice, acting, and stagecraft for high school students locally, regionally, and nationally;
3. To offer professional development and networking opportunities for students, directors, and school programs;
4. To give students an opportunity to perform on a CAPA stage;
5. To create positive attention for theatre arts and music departments at local schools and school districts; and
6. To showcase the importance of theatre arts education in our schools.

### Diversity, Equity, Access & Inclusion

The CAPA Marquee Awards believe to enrich the artistic experience, educational theatre must make room on the stage, around the production table, in the orchestra, behind the scenes, and through the adjudication process for those with different backgrounds, sexual orientation, identification, cultures, and abilities. We believe that we are enriched by the unique perspective all people bring to the arts.

The CAPA Marquee Awards recognizes that there are cultural and systemic barriers that prevent complete inclusivity and equity. We are committed to identify those barriers and intentionally adapt our practices, demonstrate our efforts, and measure the results to promote inclusion and equity.

### Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in The Jimmy Awards®, the Best Actor and Best Actress winners must have played a NHSMTA®-recognized leading role in their school's production. For this reason, only students playing a NHSMTA®-recognized leading role in their high school's production will be eligible for the CAPA Marquee Awards' Best Actor and/or Best Actress in a Leading Role. ([To view click here.](#))

#### Actor / Actress

For the purposes of the CAPA Marquee Awards and the Jimmy Awards®, students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role they are playing. *(For example, a female-identifying student recognized for a performance in the role of "Tevye" from FIDDLER ON THE ROOF will be nominated in the Best Actress in a Leading Role category).*

## Non-Binary and Gender-Fluid Performers

For the purposes of the CAPA Marquee Awards and the Jimmy Awards®, students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select the category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of the gender of the role) OR they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they played.

## Evaluation Criteria for Adjudicated Musical Production Performance

Adjudicators will evaluate students on the execution of the following performance elements displayed within the production:

### Acting

- **Believability:** relationship with other characters; motivation; consistency; commitment to role
- **Characterization:** presence of clear and distinctive vocal and physical choices to create a dynamic and compelling character
- **Interpretation:** presence of active objectives and goals

### Singing

- **Accuracy:** pitch; rhythm; intonation
- **Tone:** quality; resonance
- **Diction:** articulation; vowel shapes; appropriate use of consonants
- **Technique:** breath support; posture; placement; phrasing

### Movement & Dancing

- **Choreography:** footwork; body position; energy; precision; rhythm/tempo
- **Physical Choices:** artistic expression within choreography; intention; facial expressions; gestures
- **Execution:** preparedness; natural integration of blocking; motivation of movement; confidence

### Stage Presence

- **Energy:** control over nerves; focused energy; ability to be seen and heard
- **Adaptability:** the ability to “think on feet” and stay in the moment; flexibility to accommodate present circumstances
- **Presence:** fully engaged and present in the world created; strong understanding of role in the greater story

## Panel Audition

Due to the nature of the award, the Best Actor and Best Actress in a Leading Role finalists and winners will be determined by both a **production** and **audition score**. Eligible students receive a **production score** from the adjudicators that attend their school productions. The adjudicated score will count as 65% of the total score.

Based on the eligible performers’ production scores, we will announce our 20-30 semifinalists on **Monday, April 17**. The final number of semi-finalists will be based on the number of total eligible roles.

Semifinalists will be invited to attend a panel audition on **Saturday, April 27** from **10am-3pm** at the Ohio Theatre. The panel audition will consist of a song and dance audition. The scores from the panel audition will count as 35% of the total score (the song as 25% and the dance as 10%) and will be combined with each semifinalist’s production score to determine our finalists and winners.

Participation in the panel audition is mandatory to be eligible as a finalist for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role.

## Required Participation Forms

To participate in the Panel Audition, semifinalists must complete and submit the following digital forms by **NOON on Friday, April 12**. All forms will be available on our website beginning **Monday, March 4**.

1. [23-24 Intent to Participate Form](#)
2. [23-24 Audition Form](#)
3. [23-24 Media Release Form](#)
4. [23-24 Emergency Medical & Release Form](#)

The **23-24 Intent to Participate Form** must be submitted to acknowledge eligibility and to accept the terms and conditions of the program spelled out on our website. If a student is unable to participate or does not wish to participate in the program, they *will not* be eligible to be nominated for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role, although they may still be eligible to participate in the overall Awards program as a member of their school's ensemble, opening/closing number, and/or Best Musical Production number.

The **23-24 Audition Form** must be submitted to provide information about your song selection.

The **23-24 Media Release & Virtual Learning Form** and the **23-24 Emergency Medical & Release Form** is required for all BA/BA in a Leading Role-eligible performers.

*Note: If you already submitted the 23-24 Media Release & Virtual Learning Form and/or the 23-24 Emergency Medical & Release Form for a previous workshop or activity this school year, you are not required to submit it again.*

## Song Audition

- Students should select an audition song (ballad or up-tempo) from the 2024 Jimmy Awards® Qualifying Shows list. ([To view click here.](#))
- The song may not be from the same musical as your CAPA Marquee Awards-eligible role.
- The song should not exceed 2 ½ minutes. If the song is longer than 2 ½ minutes, appropriate cuts must be made. *You may be issued a score penalty if the song goes over time allotted.*
- For the audition, students should bring clearly marked sheet music that includes the piano accompaniment *in the correct key*. An accompanist will be provided. Students are not permitted to sing acapella.

### Evaluation Criteria for Song Audition

Adjudicators will evaluate students on the execution of the following elements for the song audition:

#### Singing/Vocal Technique

- Enunciation, Diction, Intonation
- Breath control, support
- Quality of Tone

#### Acting/Character Development

- Clear given circumstances and song environment established
- Portrayal is believable, truthful
- Character arc, discovery

#### Movement

- Specific physical details and choices utilized
- Ease and freedom of movement
- Appropriate posture

### Overall Presentation

- Appropriate energy and focus
- Ownership of the material
- Commitment
- Professionalism

## Dance Audition

- Students will be taught a short dance piece. After learning the piece as a group with the choreographer, students will be asked to perform the piece in small groups in front of the adjudicators.
- Students should wear clothing appropriate for a dance audition. Clothing should allow for a full range of movement. If you wear a dress or a skirt, you must have tights on underneath. Footwear must be worn and must be closed-toed and closed-heeled and appropriate to dance in. Tennis shoes or character/jazz shoes are preferred. Dancing in sandals, flipflops, socks, or bare feet will not be permitted in our facilities.

### Evaluation Criteria for Dance Audition

Adjudicators will evaluate students on the execution of the following elements for the dance audition:

#### Ability to Pick Up Choreography

- Basic steps are learned
- Performer is adept at accentuating their strengths as mover/dancer

#### Ability to Portray Characterization through the Choreography

- Clear character choices are being made and communicated through movement
- Facial expressions are effectively used
- Characterization is consistently presented throughout the choreography

#### Overall Stage Presence & Energy

- Appropriate energy and focus
- Ownership of the material
- Commitment
- Professionalism

## Panel Audition Prep Workshop

On **Saturday, February 24** from **11am-1pm**, CAPA Marquee Award students who are performing in a NHSMTA®-eligible leading role during the 2023-2024 CAPA Marquee Awards season and plan to participate in the Panel Audition if they are chosen as a Semi-finalist are invited to attend a Panel Audition Prep Session on Zoom. Sign-ups will open on our website on **Monday, February 5**. *While participation is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged.*

## Finalist Announcement

The ten finalists (5 Best Actor and 5 Best Actress) will be announced on **Monday, April 29** at **3pm** and will be invited to perform a solo from their nominated role at the Awards Showcase as part of the Best Actor and Best Actress numbers.

## CAPA Marquee Awards Showcase Rehearsals

Finalists for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role will be required to participate in the CAPA Marquee Awards Showcase. If a student is unable to participate or does not wish to participate in the Showcase, they will not be eligible to be nominated for the award for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role. Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role rehearsals for the 2024 CAPA Marquee Awards are currently scheduled from 4-9pm on

Monday, May 20-Thursdays, May 23, 4-9pm on Tuesday, May 28-Thursdays, May 30, 4-10pm on Monday, June 3, 4:30-10:30pm on Wednesday, June 5, and a call time of 4:30pm for the showcase performance on Thursday, June 6. *All dates/times are subject-to-change.* The Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role finalists need to be available for the entire rehearsal period.

***Please note: There are no excused absences permitted for the entirety of the rehearsal period. Attendance at all required rehearsals is mandatory for participation in the 2024 CAPA Marquee Awards and the 2024 Jimmy Awards.***

## Performance Opportunities

Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role semi-finalists and finalists may participate in a variety of Showcase numbers. These numbers include:

### **Opening Number**

Semi-finalists for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role will be invited to perform in the Opening Number along with two student representatives from each CAPA Marquee Awards school.

Finalists for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role are required to perform in the Opening Number along with two student representatives from each CAPA Marquee Awards school.

### **Closing Number**

Semi-finalists for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role will be invited to perform in the Closing Number along with two student representatives from each CAPA Marquee Awards school.

Finalists for Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role are required to perform in the Closing Number along with two student representatives from each CAPA Marquee Awards school.

### **Best Musical Production Numbers**

Each of the five (5) high schools receiving nominations for Best Musical Production will be invited to perform one (1) five-minute ensemble production number from their show during the 2024 Marquee Awards.

### **Best Actor in a Leading Role Number & Best Actress in a Leading Role Number**

The five Best Actor in a Leading Role finalists and the five Best Actress in a Leading Role finalists will perform an excerpt of a song from their leading role during the Best Actor and Best Actress numbers at the 2024 CAPA Marquee Awards.

**Song Selection & Submissions for Number:** Final song selection and arrangement will be determined by the CAPA Marquee Awards Director and Music Director. You will need to submit your selection and sheet music at the Panel Audition on **Saturday, April 27.**

## Attire

**Song Audition:** Please wear clothing appropriate for a musical theatre audition.

**Dance Audition & Showcase Rehearsals:** Please wear clothing that allows for a full range of movement. If you wear a dress or a skirt, you must have tights on underneath. No dancing in jeans will be permitted. Footwear must be worn and must be closed-toed and closed-heeled and appropriate to dance in. Tennis shoes or character/jazz shoes are preferred. Dancing in sandals, flipflops, socks, or bare feet will not be permitted.

## Showcase Performance—Opening/Closing Number

**Male-Identifying Performers:** Black pants (no jeans), a solid, colorful shirt (no black or white), black shoes. Tie optional. **Footwear:** Black tennis, black character, or black dress shoes for men. All footwear must be closed-heeled and closed-toed and appropriate to dance in.

**Female-Identifying Performers:** Black pants (no jeans) or black skirt and a solid, colorful top (no black or white) OR a solid-colored dress or jumper (black is permitted if wearing a dress or jumper). If a skirt or dress is worn, nude or black tights must be worn. **Footwear:** Black tennis shoes, black or nude character, jazz, or dress shoes with no heel or a low heel (2 inches or less). All footwear must be closed-heeled and closed-toed and appropriate to dance in.

**Non-Binary Performers:** Select from any of the above attire and footwear options.

## Showcase Performance—Best Musical Production Number

Students performing as part of the Best Musical Production numbers will wear costumes decided on by their productions' directors.

## Showcase Performance—Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role Number

Students performing in the Best Actor/Actress Lead Number should plan to wear either a character costume or "red-carpet" attire. *Note: Makeup, costume, and wig assistance will not be provided by CAPA.*

## Announcement of Winners

The winners of Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role and the 2024 Jimmy Awards® nominees will be announced live at the CAPA Marquee Awards Showcase on Thursday, June 6 at 7:30 pm at the Ohio Theatre.

## Winners of Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role

On Friday, June 7 from 11am-12pm, the winners of Best Actor in a Leading Role and Best Actress in a Leading Role will be required to report to the Ohio Theatre to record the required interview for participation in the 2024 Jimmy Awards®. At this meeting, winners will also be responsible for turning in all required documents for the 2024 Jimmy Awards®, including their resume, required essay, bio, music submissions for their two audition pieces, medical information form, and their release/waiver form and parental release form.

## The National High School Musical Theatre Awards®.

The Jimmy Awards® / The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®) program was established in 2009 and impacts more than 140,000 students annually who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by presenters of Touring Broadway productions throughout the United States. Presented by the Broadway League Foundation, the program invites two winners from each of these regional ceremonies to participate in a theatre intensive including coaching and rehearsals with Broadway professionals in preparation for a one-night-only talent showcase. The program has been the catalyst for more than \$4,000,000 in educational scholarships. For more information, please visit [www.JimmyAwards.com](http://www.JimmyAwards.com).

In June 2024, the two CAPA Marquee Awards student nominees will join top musical theatre students from across the country in New York City where they will experience private coaching, master classes and rehearsals in preparation for a special showcase performance and the chance to compete for scholarships and the national title. These students must be fully available and conflict-free from Friday, June 14-Tuesday, June 25, 2024.



The 2024 Jimmy Awards® will be performed on Broadway at the Minskoff Theatre on Monday, June 24 at 7:30 pm.

## 2023-2024 Important Dates to Remember

Saturday, February 24, 2024	Best Actor/Actress Panel Audition Prep Session, Zoom, 11am-1pm
Monday, May 20, 2024	Awards Showcase Rehearsals (BA/BAs only), Ohio Theatre, 4-9pm
Tues, May 21-Thurs, May 23, 2024	Awards Showcase Rehearsals, (Ensemble & BA/BAs), Ohio Theatre, 4-9 pm
Fri, May 24- Mon, May 27, 2024	<b>NO REHEARSALS</b>
Tues, May 28-Thurs, May 30	Awards Showcase Rehearsals, (Ensemble & BA/BAs), Ohio Theatre, 4-9 pm
Fri, May 31-Sun, June 2, 2024	<b>NO REHEARSALS</b>
Monday, June 3, 2024	Awards Showcase Tech Rehearsal (Ensemble & BA/BAs), Ohio Theatre, 4-10 pm
Tuesday, June 4, 2024	Best Musical Production Tech Rehearsals, Ohio Theatre, 4-10pm
Wednesday, June 5, 2024	Awards Showcase Dress Rehearsal (ALL Performers), Ohio Theatre, 4:30-10:30 pm
Thursday, June 6, 2024	<b>Awards Showcase @ Ohio Theatre, 7:30 p.m.</b>
Friday, June 7, 2024	Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role Jimmy Auditions, Ohio Theatre, Time 11am-12pm
Fri., June 14-Tues. June 25, 2024	Jimmy Awards Experience for BA/BA in Leading Role Winners
Monday, June 24, 2024	The 2024 Jimmy Awards®, 7:30pm, Minskoff Theatre, New York City