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**Press Release**

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## The Grand Theater Joins The Tommy Awards Program to Recognize Excellence in High School Musical Theater.

WAUSAU – The Grand Theater is the newest partner of the Overture Center’s Tommy Awards program to give high school musical theater groups in the region a new opportunity starting this season.

Founded by the Overture Center and named for Wisconsin native and Broadway star Tom Wopat, the Tommy Awards encourage, recognize and honor excellence in high school musical theater. Educators and industry professionals review productions at more than 70 high schools in 23 counties and provide valuable feedback to the students and faculty.

Not only are the shows reviewed, but school and student achievements are honored and featured in the annual Tommy Awards show held at the Overture Center in June. The show recognizes outstanding achievements in 16 different categories and features a full evening of the best performances from throughout the state, later televised on Wisconsin Public Television. Two outstanding performers are also announced, advancing to The National High School Musical Theater Awards competition in New York City. Students at participating high schools have other opportunities they can take advantage of including; participating in the Tommy Performance Ensemble, becoming a Student Critic and attending workshops with Broadway tour performers.

Tommy Award recipient, Tatyana Lubov, recently landed her first major role in a Broadway tour as the leading lady in the newly revamped Rodgers & Hammerstein's CINDERELLA. The recent University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

graduate participated in the Tommy Awards through Monona Grove High School for two years and received awards for "Outstanding Leading Performer" each year. The Tommy Awards Program encourages excellence in musical theater and provides participants with feedback that can help performers reach their goals.

"We are absolutely thrilled and honored to collaborate with the Overture Center to bring the Tommy Awards to North Central Wisconsin," said Sean Wright, Executive Director of The Grand Theater. "It is a remarkable program that will have great benefits for students and teachers alike. To be one of just two collaborating organizations in the state is a real tribute to the quality of high school theater productions being done in our region and we look forward to helping expand the program."

For more information on how your school can participate in the Tommy Awards Program or if you are interested in becoming a performance reviewer, contact the Grand Theater at 715-842-0988 or visit them online at [www.grandtheater.org](http://www.grandtheater.org).

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