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## Press Release

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### **Local High School Performers to be Recognized at the Tommy Awards Show in Madison**

WAUSAU, WI – June 1, 2017 - Student performers from local theater organizations are being recognized for their talents at the Tommy Awards Show in Madison this weekend.

The Tommy Awards were created by the Overture Center in Madison to recognize and encourage outstanding high school musical theater across the state of Wisconsin. Educators and industry professionals review each of the productions and provide written feedback for the schools. In addition to writing critiques, Tommy Reviewers nominate productions for awards in a number of categories, including performance, direction and design.

The program originated eight years ago in Dane County, and has since grown to include 87 productions, including nine in the North Central region. This is the first year The Grand has been involved with the Tommy Awards, and Executive Director Sean Wright is excited to recognize the talent in the area. “We are absolutely thrilled to be a part of the Tommy Awards,” he said. “Our first full year as a partner has seen amazing performances by students across our region, and we can’t wait to see what 2017-18 has in store.”

The Tommy Awards recognize high school theater productions for outstanding lead performances, supporting performances, youth performances, ensembles, orchestras, dance performances, direction, choreography, stage management, overall design, scenic design, costume design, lighting design, sound design, and the coveted Outstanding Musical award. One area production, Central Wisconsin Educational Theater Alliance's production of *Shrek the Musical* received an Award for Outstanding Musical.

Some of the students receiving Tommy Awards will be performing at the Tommy Awards Show, which will be held at the Overture Center in Madison on Sunday, June 11. The cast of CWETA's *Shrek the Musical*, will perform a number during the Awards Show, as well as the recipients of the Award for Outstanding Lead Performance, Supporting Performance, Dance Performance, Youth Performance, and the Spirit Award.

For more information on how to participate in the Tommy Awards, visit the The Grand's website at <http://www.grandtheater.org/education/tommy-awards> or call 715-842-0988.

### **Recipients:**

Below is a list of all of the recipients of Tommy Awards from the North Central region. Congratulations to all those receiving awards and all those nominated!

**Outstanding Musical:** *Shrek the Musical* – Central Wisconsin Educational Theater Alliance

**Outstanding Ensemble:** *Rock of Ages High School Edition* – DC Everest High School

**Outstanding Orchestra:** *Monty Python's Spamalot* – Marshfield High School

**Outstanding Leading Performance:** Abe Akey (Lord Farquaad) in CWETA's *Shrek the Musical*, Maisie Cramer (Lady of the Lake) in Marshfield's *Spamalot*, Noel Lange (Dorothy) in Wausau East's *The Wiz*, Audrey Lindemann (Belle) in Northland Pines' *Beauty and the Beast*, Isabella Mergen in CWETA's *Shrek the Musical* (Princess Fiona) and DC Everest's *Rock of Ages* (Sherrie), Colin Smith (Tinman) in Wausau East's *The Wiz*

**Outstanding Supporting Performance:** Cayli Ballenger (Dragon) in CWETA's *Shrek the Musical*, Molly Larson (Ethel Coats) in Lakeland Union's *Hello! My Baby*, Malcolm McCanles (Lumiere) in Northland Pines' *Beauty and the Beast*, Megan Peterson (Charlotte) in Wausau West's *Cinderella*, Meeghan Roesler (Pinocchio) in CWETA's *Shrek the Musical*, Noah Tolbert (Colonel Pickering) in Stevens Point Area High School's *My Fair Lady*, and Faith Webb (Mrs. Potts) in Northland Pines' *Beauty and the Beast*

**Outstanding Youth Performance:** Mansi Peters (Young Fiona) in CWETA's *Shrek the Musical*

**Spirit Award:** Jordan Garski (SPASH's *My Fair Lady*), McKensy Koran (Marshfield's *Spamalot*), Noel Lange (Wausau East's *The Wiz*), Maggie Laurence (Lakeland Union's *Hello! My Baby*), Clayton Lindbom (Northland Pines' *Beauty and the Beast*), David Livingston (CWETA's *Shrek the Musical*), Laura Niemeyer (Wausau West's *Cinderella*), Pia Spsychalla (Antigo's *The Addams Family*), Logan Wehmeyer (DC Everest's *Rock of Ages*)

**Outstanding Direction:** *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* – Northland Pines High School, *Monty Python's Spamalot* – Marshfield High School

**Outstanding Musical Direction:** *Hello! My Baby* – Lakeland Union High School

**Outstanding Stage Management:** *The Addams Family* – Antigo High School, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* – Northland Pines High School

**Outstanding Scenic Design:** *The Wiz* – Wausau East High School, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* – Northland Pines High School

**Outstanding Lighting Design:** *Rock of Ages High School Edition* – DC Everest High School

**Outstanding Costume Design:** *The Wiz* – Wausau East High School

**Outstanding Sound Design:** *Rock of Ages High School Edition* – DC Everest High School

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