

THE JERRY AWARDS PROGRAM

The Jerry Awards program is a high school musical theater initiative from Overture Center for the Arts, Madison's downtown performing arts center. The awards are named after Jerry Frautschi, a fifth generation Madison native responsible for the creation of Overture Center with the largest single philanthropic gift to the arts. Overture Center is pleased to collaborate with Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in Milwaukee, The Grand Theater in Wausau and the Fine Arts Center at Viterbo University in La Crosse to expand the reach of the Jerry Awards program. Wisconsin Public Television is a program partner including the Jerry Awards in their Young Performers Initiative.

The Jerry Awards program has the following goals:

1. To visibly and powerfully impact area high school students, their school communities and their families by encouraging and recognizing student excellence in musical theater productions.
2. Support high school musical theater programs by providing educational opportunities and constructive feedback.
3. Advocate the importance of theater arts education in high schools.
4. Build a high school musical theater community.
5. Develop musical theater audiences.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Submitted musicals are reviewed by a team of three reviewers. The production is critiqued based on a pre-determined rubric. Each reviewer submits a completed critique form that also includes nominations for Jerry Awards. Reviewer comments are sent to the school. In the May, Overture Center announces the Jerry Awards recipients based on the nominations. As the program recognizes and honors excellence, multiple award recipients are selected in each category. The annual awards show features performances by outstanding musical and performers. More details on the awards show can be found on the [Jerry Awards Show](#) information page on our [website](#).

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Teachers or directors may complete the [Jerry Awards Application](#) for their schools. When Overture receives an application from you, we will confirm receipt and provide you with further details as quickly as possible.

Application Deadlines: (applications submitted after these deadlines are subject to program manager's approval)

- **September 14, 2018:** Musicals taking place between **July 1 and December 31, 2018**.
- **December 14, 2018:** Musicals taking place between **January 1 and May 5, 2019**.
- Productions taking place **after May 6** will be considered for the 2019/20 Jerry Awards.

Evaluation Option 1 (\$200) - Written Critique and Nominations:

- Written critique with nominations.
- Voucher for two (2) tickets to a performance at Overture Center, Marcus Center or The Grand Theater for fund-raising purposes.
- This is the only option for schools participating in the program for the first time

Evaluation Option 2 (\$100) - Nominations ONLY:

- This option is only available to those who have participated in the program in past years.
- Nominations only, no written critique.
- Voucher for two (2) tickets to a performance at Overture Center, Marcus Center, The Grand Theater or Viterbo University's Fine Arts Center for fund-raising purposes.

Teacher/Director Responsibilities

- Act as the primary liaison between Overture Center and your school's community
- Provide Overture Center with digital production photographs for use at the final awards show
- Distribute updates and information related to Jerry Awards to your students and community
- Respond to correspondence from Overture Center in a timely manner
- Be responsible for making production sheet music available to Overture Center, if requested
- Prepare students, if selected, to perform in the awards show

Student Liaison Responsibilities

- Act as a liaison between Overture Center and fellow students
- Distribute information, such as the Jerry Newsletter, to fellow students
- Assist the Teacher/Director with collecting student information needed for the Jerry Awards
- Attend informational meetings held at Overture Center during the year, if requested
- There are many opportunities for students throughout the year. See the "Student Participation Guide"

Parent Liaison Responsibilities

- Act as a liaison between Overture Center and the community
- Distribute information regarding the Jerry Awards program and awards show to fellow parents
- Attend informational meetings held at Overture Center during the year, if requested

TICKETS FOR REVIEWERS

Six complimentary tickets (two for each reviewer) are needed to performance dates selected by reviewers. The program manager will reserve reviewer tickets no later than two weeks before opening night. Tickets should be held at the box office for reviewers under the name "Jerry Awards." For schools with two casts 12 tickets will be required (three reviewers will be sent to review each cast)

JERRY AWARD CATEGORIES:

The categories are:

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| • Outstanding Musical | • Outstanding Choreography |
| • Outstanding Ensemble | • Outstanding Overall Design |
| • Outstanding Lead Performer | • Outstanding Scenic Design |
| • Outstanding Supporting Performer | • Outstanding Lighting Design |
| • Outstanding Dance Performer | • Outstanding Costume Design |
| • Outstanding Musical Direction | • Outstanding Sound Design |
| • Outstanding Direction | • Outstanding Stage Management |
| • Outstanding Orchestra | |
| • Spirit Award - peer-selected award given to the student who displays the spirit of the Jerry Awards; hard-working, inspirational to their fellow cast/crew mates, and encourage others. | |



PARTICIPATION GUIDE FOR TEACHERS & DIRECTORS

RULES AND GUIDELINES:

Eligibility

All high schools that produce a musical located within the following counties are eligible to participate in the program: Adams, Calumet, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, La Fayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oneida, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Price, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Vilas, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago and Wood.

If your school is not located within those counties but you would like to participate, please contact program manager Karra Beach at Kbeach@overture.org or 608.258.4455.

Eligible Productions – productions must meet one (or more) of the following criteria:

- A published musical, operetta or revue that is currently held by a licensing house or in the public domain.
- An original piece which features an original script, music and/or lyrics covered under a valid copyright.
- An original theatrical compilation of musical/text material from other sources that is presented with the approval or permission of the original creators and their representatives. This excludes show choir, choral or vocal jazz arrangements.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

Jerry Awards Show

The Jerry Awards program culminates in a show that recognizes and honors excellence in high school musical theater. *The 2019 Jerry Awards Show will be held on Sunday, June 9 and Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7PM.* The shows are filled with incredible performances including medleys from Outstanding Musical award recipients, solos featuring the Outstanding Lead Performers, and group numbers showing off the talent of the Outstanding Supporting Performers, Outstanding Dance Performers and the Spirit Award Recipients. See the [Awards Show webpage](#) for more information.

Live Talk Backs

Participating schools who are interested pay an additional fee to host a live talk back with the reviewers who critiqued their production. Talk backs are held after the production closes and involve reviewers traveling back to the school to meet with the cast, crew and production team to discuss the show. The format is question and answer based and allows reviewers to have a more in-depth conversation with the group to reflect on the production.

National High School Musical Theater Awards (The Jimmy Awards)

The Jerry Awards participates in the National High School Musical Theater Awards program. See the [Jimmy Awards webpage](#) for more information. Outstanding Lead Performer recipients are eligible to audition to be one of two representatives, one actor & one actress, sent to New York City for nationals. The National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA) is a celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theater. The week long experience includes rehearsals, master classes, private coaching and interviews with theater professionals



PARTICIPATION GUIDE FOR TEACHERS & DIRECTORS

leading up to the live awards show where the Jimmy™ Award for Best Performance by an Actor and Best Performance by an Actress are presented.