



PRESENTED BY PROVIDENCE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

2025-2026 OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS HANDBOOK



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ABOUT THE OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS

The Providence Performing Arts Center Ocean State Star Awards celebrates the achievements of area high school teachers, designers, and students involved in high school musical theatre programs. To participate, schools register to have their musical theatre production reviewed by a qualified team of adjudicators who provide directors with valuable written feedback. During the spring of each review period, the Providence Performing Arts Center hosts an award showcase to recognize the outstanding achievements of high school musical theatre productions, students, directors, designers, and orchestras. Modeled after the Tony Awards®, the showcase features outstanding performances from participating high school students and celebrates their enthusiasm, dedication, and talent while encouraging participating schools to grow and continue improving their programs.

The Ocean State Star Awards program provides participants with additional opportunities through the touring Broadway shows that come through our venue, student ticket packages for touring Broadway performances (upon request), awards for artistic excellence in performance and technical theatre/design, feedback from industry professionals, opportunities to learn about non-performance careers in the arts, tours, performance training workshops, and much more. To learn more about the Ocean State Star Awards visit www.ppacri.org/oceanstatesstarawards.

Our panel of judges selects two Outstanding Lead Performers from the Ocean State Star Awards winners to represent the state of Rhode Island in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards® competition held in New York City on Monday, June 22, 2026. The selected students receive roundtrip travel accommodations, room, and board, as they move on to participate in The Jimmy Awards®. In addition to competing for the national title, each student spends a week with Broadway professionals, producers, directors, and casting agents to further their knowledge and talent.

PURPOSE

The Ocean State Star Awards program is designed to **celebrate, honor, support, and advocate** for high school musical theatre education throughout Rhode Island. The program celebrates high school musicals, students, and teachers by formally recognizing the extraordinary achievements of our region's high school productions. The Providence Performing Arts Center supports participating high schools by providing high-quality learning, performing, and creative experiences for students.

GOALS

1. To recognize, honor, and encourage excellence in high school students' musical theatre performances through a constructive review process.
2. To provide additional opportunities to high school students through the touring Broadway shows that come through our venue.
3. To provide professional development and networking opportunities for students, directors, and school programs.
4. To further develop audiences for the Providence Performing Arts Center.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Dana Brazil
Director of Education, Outreach & Engagement

(401) 574-3132
dbrazil@ppacri.org

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

The Ocean State Star Awards program is open to public, homeschool and private high schools producing musical theatre in Rhode Island and parts of Massachusetts. To be eligible for participation for the 2025-2026 season, a school should meet the following qualifications:

SCHOOL LOCATION

Schools must be located within the state of Rhode Island OR within a 20-mile radius of the Providence Performing Arts Center, located at 220 Weybosset Street, Providence, RI 02903, if in Massachusetts.

CAST CONFIGURATION

At least 60% of cast members must be in high school.

PRODUCTION DATES

High school musical theatre productions should take place between September 28, 2025, and March 21, 2026.

PRODUCTION TYPES

Musical theatre productions should fall into one or more of the following categories:

1. A published musical, operetta, or revue (either currently held by a licensing house or in the public domain) presented with the approval or permission of the original creators, publishers, or their representatives.
2. A new or unpublished musical, operetta, or revue (featuring an original script, music, and lyrics) presented with the approval or permission from the original creators or their representatives.
3. An original musical theatre compilation featuring excerpts or scenes from a variety of sources (either currently held by a licensing house or in the public domain) presented with the approval or permission of the original creators or their representatives.
4. For students to be considered for The Jimmy Awards®, their high school musical productions must be listed with the National High School Musical Theatre Awards® at <https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>.

REGISTRATION

To register, please complete and return an application form, including the registration fee, no later than Monday, December 1, 2025, OR 6 weeks prior to the musical's opening night, whichever comes first. Applications are available online at www.ppacri.org/oceanstatestarawards.

* Please note that if you register AFTER December 1, 2025, we CANNOT guarantee your school a spot until we are able to confirm adjudicators for your production. If you are accommodated, a **\$150 late fee** per production (inclusive of double casting) is due in addition to the cost of registration. *

All schools must be paid, registered, and have submitted their production application at least 4 weeks prior to their production. Once the application has been submitted, any changes to first performance dates must be clearly communicated as soon as possible to Dana Brazil.

We encourage schools to register early so that they are included in all of the special opportunities offered to participating schools (i.e., master classes, special ticket deals, etc.).

FEES

A **\$400 registration fee** per high school production cast is required to participate. Once you submit your registration form and payment, you will receive a confirmation email. This email will act as your receipt. If you need an invoice to process payments, please contact us and we will provide one. **Checks should be made payable to the Providence Performing Arts Center.**

If this registration fee presents a hardship for your school, you are welcome to apply for a participation scholarship by downloading an application at www.ppacri.org/oceanstatestarawards.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION PACKET

Within 2-3 weeks of registering, the Providence Performing Arts Center education team will email the production information packet to the primary contact teacher. This packet asks directors to provide cast lists and other information that will be shared with adjudicators. You will also have the opportunity to share supplementary information on your production, including the resources available to your school and theatre department, director's notes, the rationale behind artistic choices, and specific areas on which you would like feedback. (These forms are also available on our website.)

Production information packets should be emailed to dbrazil@ppacri.org or mailed to Dana Brazil at least four weeks prior to the opening night of your specified production.

Providence Performing Arts Center
Attn: Dana Brazil, Ocean State Star Awards
220 Weybosset Street
Providence, RI 02903

A NOTE ON DOUBLE CASTING

If a school decides to double cast one or more roles, the school must select one set of cast members to be adjudicated. **Please specify each cast and their performance dates on the Registration Application and Production Application for the adjudication panel.** It will not be possible to adjudicate multiple students for the same role. However, you can submit two applications and double the payment if you would like to have both casts adjudicated and considered for awards. At least 40% of lead and/or supporting roles MUST be double cast if your school is submitting two applications for adjudication.

MULTIPLE SHOWS

Schools who produce more than one musical per year are able to register multiple productions. We do not limit schools.

PUBLICITY

All participating schools are required to mention their involvement with the Providence Performing Arts Center Ocean State Star Awards in their show programs/playbills. This information serves as an endorsement of your school's participation in the program. The Providence Performing Arts Center encourages high schools to announce their participation and encourage ticket sales for the Ocean State Star Awards in school newspapers, school or department websites, social media sites and newsletters. The Providence Performing Arts Center will post promotional information on each participating high school musical on our website and social media outlets.

PPAC will require show posters from all participating schools 4 weeks prior to their opening night so that each school's production can be posted on PPAC's social media channels. The formats are as follows:

- Facebook: 1080x1080 px OR 1200x630 px
- Instagram: 1080x1350 px

PPAC will also require:

- 2-line synopsis of the production
- Name of your school's theatre company (if applicable)
- School and/or theatre company's Instagram and Facebook handles (if applicable)
- Information on how to purchase tickets
 - o Link to ticketing site
 - o Box Office number (if applicable)

INFORMED LIABILITY & MEDIA RELEASE FORMS

The liability & media release form will be emailed to you once you are registered. It is required for all students participating in the awards showcase and other PPAC activities offered throughout the year. This form is mandatory for participation from each student and adult from every production registered. If students plan on participating in any additional Ocean State Star Awards opportunities or any other Providence Performing Arts Center activities, please distribute copies of the informed consent and photo release form for completion.



ALL MEDIA RELEASE FORMS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE THE OPENING NIGHT OF YOUR PRODUCTION. Failure to turn these in could result in your production being removed from consideration for an Outstanding Musical award due to inability to follow timeline and/or rules.

Completed forms must be submitted in alphabetical order by last name, with a cover sheet listing all names (cast, crew, musicians, etc.) in alphabetical order by last name for reference. Forms may be emailed to Dana Brazil at dbrazil@ppacri.org or mailed to:

Providence Performing Arts Center
Attn: Dana Brazil, Ocean State Star Awards
220 Weybosset Street
Providence, RI 02903

ADJUDICATION

Adjudicators will be responsible for evaluating how each high school musical theatre production is meeting or exceeding its potential. **Each production is evaluated against itself for consideration, rather than against all other school productions, encouraging schools to create the best possible work for their unique circumstances and environment.**

ADJUDICATOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Providence Performing Arts Center selects up to 40 performing arts professionals with backgrounds in music, theater, dance, design, and related fields to serve as adjudicators for the Ocean State Star Awards.

PRODUCTION ATTENDANCE

The Providence Performing Arts Center team will contact schools to confirm which performances adjudicators will attend. You must list all public performances for our team of adjudicators to choose from for adjudication. Once your adjudication dates are confirmed, plan on reserving up to two complimentary tickets and programs per adjudicator; you will be instructed what name to leave them under. You must reserve seats for your adjudicators, even if you have general admission seating. Please note that the three adjudicators assigned to your production may not attend the same performance. Adjudications consist of the following:

FEEDBACK

Directors receive detailed feedback on various elements of their high school musical theatre productions. The Providence Performing Arts Center education team will email adjudicator feedback to the primary contact teacher approximately three weeks after the production has been evaluated.

SCORING

In order to designate awards for artistic excellence, adjudicators score high school musical theatre productions on a variety of elements. Once the final production has been evaluated, adjudicators meet in a roundtable setting to review the final scores and designate awards.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION

Each school's budget will be taken into consideration when scoring. We have two tiers for scoring:

- Tier 1 Schools: \$10,000 and above
- Tier 2 Schools: \$9,999 and below

CONFIDENTIALITY

Feedback and scoring will be submitted through a secure online form. Please note that at this time adjudicators will not provide oral critiques following the performance, nor should schools expect to receive scores verbally. Adjudicators must not discuss their opinions, evaluations, scores, or feedback with anyone, in any format. This includes faculty, staff or students from participating high schools, other adjudicators, colleagues, reviewers, social media networks, etc. Please do not contact adjudicators with questions. All inquiries should be directed to the Providence Performing Arts Center education team.

NOTE: Please make an effort to professionally film your production, both for archival purposes and in the event that a crisis/emergency prevents adjudicators from being able to physically attend their scheduled performance(s), they will be able to provide feedback and scoring based on the recording.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Adjudicators evaluate students and school productions on the execution of various performance and production elements including:

Overall Production

- Overall quality of high school musical theatre production
- Appropriateness of material for student performers
- Execution of all performance elements (acting, dancing, singing, technical/design, etc.)
- Flow/pacing of scenes and musical numbers
- Communication of story and over-arching themes to audience
- Level of professionalism and teamwork demonstrated by cast and crew
- Execution of all technical elements (costumes, sound, lighting, set design & choreography)

Acting

- Overall quality of acting
- Emotional believability (depth of character)
- Strength of vocal and physical choices
- Presence of active objectives (character working towards a goal)
- Relationship with other characters (listening/reacting to others)
- Commitment to role
- Commitment to acting with a high level of stakes

Voice

- Overall quality of singing
- Articulation and diction
- Projection and volume
- Breath support
- Pitch and tone
- Rhythm and pace
- Vocal range
- Variety (speaking/singing with expression)
- Acting through song

AWARDS SHOWCASE

On Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM, the Providence Performing Arts Center will present a Tony Awards®-inspired showcase in our theatre honoring schools and students for artistic excellence in musical theatre. This event will be a tribute to the enthusiasm, dedication, and accomplishments of Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts's high school musical theatre programs. Participants have the opportunity to receive awards, scholarships, and perform on the PPAC stage as a part of that evening's program. Students, faculty, administrators, and staff from participating high schools are encouraged to promote and attend the awards showcase. Two Outstanding Lead Performers will be selected to participate in the 2026 National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (The Jimmy Awards®) in New York City from June 12 – June 23, 2026, all expenses paid.

OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS CATEGORIES

Awards for high school musical theatre productions and student performances are based on adjudication scores and recommendations. To be considered for these awards, a student/show/designer/director must be nominated by an adjudicator. Participants will be notified of their nomination when the contact teachers receive the adjudication feedback. Multiple winners may be chosen for each category. Winners will be honored in each of the following award categories:

OUTSTANDING MUSICAL

Awarded to productions which display overall excellence in every category

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE

Awarded to ensembles that complement one another on stage, both singing and acting

OUTSTANDING LEAD PERFORMER

Awarded to students who display excellent acting, dancing and singing abilities in a lead role

OUTSTANDING ACTING IN A MUSICAL

Awarded to students whose characters are purely acting roles within a musical production

OUTSTANDING YOUTH PERFORMER IN A MUSICAL

Awarded to young students who display excellence in a high school musical production

OUTSTANDING ORCHESTRA

Awarded to productions featuring excellence within their orchestra



OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING PERFORMER

Awarded to students who display excellent acting and singing abilities in a supporting role

OUTSTANDING DANCER

Awarded to students displaying excellent dance technique and execution

OUTSTANDING SET DESIGNER, OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGNER, OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGNER, OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGNER

Awarded to student and/or adult designers for overall excellence in their area of expertise

*** Please note any school renting costumes will be scored in the costume category, but will NOT be considered for an award unless a portion of the costumes worn in the production was built by a member of their team.**

OUTSTANDING STAGE MANAGEMENT

Awarded to students for competently and smoothly calling cues for the performance from the front of house perspective

HONORABLE MENTION IN PERFORMANCE & TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

Awarded to students with ensemble or small supporting roles who stood out in their production for their singing, dancing and/or acting abilities, as well as to students who stood out with a technical achievement who were not a designer or stage manager

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION, OUTSTANDING MUSICAL DIRECTION, OUTSTANDING CHOREOGRAPHER

Awarded to the director/musical director/choreographer for overall excellence in vision and the execution of that vision

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Awarded to educators/producers who create and implement activities or events that incorporate and engage their local community with the high school's musical production. Community Engagement Ocean State Star Awards applications are available at ppacri.org/oceanstatestarawards

OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to graduating seniors who exhibit the highest level of excellence in their craft and have a financial need for pursuing their continued educational goals. The final decisions are made by the team of adjudicators during the award decision process. Please identify qualifying seniors that you believe would be good candidates in your Production Information Packet and provide written support of their nomination.

***Please note any student that you nominate for a scholarship MUST be present at the Ocean State Star Awards Showcase on May 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM. It is the responsibility of the school, NOT PPAC, to provide their ticket.**

* Please note that we only award ONE trophy, even if multiple people are named in the category. For example: if Dana Brazil, Jane Doe and John Smith from PPAC High School were all credited as Costume Designers, and their show won an Outstanding Costume Designer Award, they would collectively receive ONE trophy. Additionally, due to the size restrictions of the plaques, the name of the school will be listed if the individual names do not fit. *

AWARD NOTIFICATION

All adjudicators will meet to decide which of the nominated individuals and performances will be awarded the Ocean State Star Awards, as well as the Ocean State Star Awards Scholarships. Schools are notified of award recipients on or before March 30, 2026.

OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS SHOWCASE PERFORMER & REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

There may be multiple winners for each category, and they will be honored onstage throughout the ceremony. High schools invited to perform as part of the awards showcase will have three to four weeks to select and prepare numbers, solos and/or medleys from their adjudicated productions. Performers are required to attend rehearsals at the Providence Performing Arts Center. All rehearsals are scheduled after school and into the evening.

Outstanding Musical Award winners are invited to perform a short medley from the award-winning production. Any student winning an Outstanding Lead Performer Award is invited to perform a solo from the nominated show and is also invited to perform in the opening or finale number. Any student winning an Outstanding Supporting Performer, Outstanding Dancer, Young Performer, or an Honorable Mention for Performance Award is invited to perform in the opening or finale number of the awards ceremony.

Rehearsals will be scheduled Monday, April 27, 2026, through Sunday, May 3, 2026, after school and on the weekends at the following times: Mon. – Fri., 3:30 PM – 10:00 PM; Sat., 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM (dinner from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM); and Sun., tech from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, with a dinner break prior to the 5:30 PM show call. The showcase takes place on Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

All Outstanding Lead Performers who want to be considered for the Jimmy Awards® must attend an audition on April 15, 2026, from 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM. If you have a conflict, please contact Dana Brazil at dbrazil@ppacri.org.

OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS T-SHIRTS

All student winners in individual categories performing in the Ocean State Star Awards Showcase are given a t-shirt to keep and wear for the performance.

All schools receiving a Best Musical Award should plan to wear their production show shirt as their costume for their production number for the performance. If your school does not create show t-shirts, please let Dana Brazil know as soon as you are notified that your production has won for Best Musical.

TICKETS

Tickets will be available for purchase through the Providence Performing Arts Center box office and online. Ticket prices will be announced prior to the on-sale date at the Mandatory Director's Meeting for all participating schools in late February. We encourage participating schools to attend.

- Award-winning students performing in the showcase have a designated seating area and do not need a ticket.
- All non-performing winners receive one complimentary ticket available at Will Call the night of the showcase.

Two complimentary tickets are available for the educator who organized their school's involvement with the Ocean State Star Awards. (We are not able to provide additional complimentary tickets.)

MUSIC

Schools invited to perform as a part of the Ocean State Star Awards Showcase are asked to submit the arranged music from the production. Music must also be submitted for any Outstanding Lead Performer winners who are performing. **Directors should plan on retaining copies of piano, bass, drums and guitar scores or tracks in case they are selected to perform.**

To allow nominated student performers additional time to get comfortable with the music and/or cuts they are assigned for the Showcase, we ask that your show's Music Director review the material with your students.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS (NHSMTA)

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA) is a national celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theatre recognizing individual artistry in vocal, dance and acting, and honoring teachers and their schools' commitment to performing arts education. NHSMTA focuses much-needed attention on the meaningful work being done by dedicated teachers and students with wide ranging talents on and off the stage, engages families in the activities of their children, ignites new partnerships between theatres and the schools in their area, and contributes to the development of future audiences for live performing arts in communities across America.

The Providence Performing Arts Center is participating in the 2026 National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (The Jimmy Awards®) in New York City. The program is designed to connect promising young performers to the professional theatre industry. The program is the culmination of 55 regional awards programs across the country. Approximately 150,000 students in about 2,300 schools participate.

Presented **by The Broadway League Foundation Inc.**, the NHSMTA invites one Best Actress and one Best Actor nominee from each local regional ceremony to New York City for a week-long theatre intensive that includes coaching, training, and rehearsing led by some of Broadway's most accomplished professionals. Following all their combined efforts throughout the week, the nominees will perform during one extraordinary talent showcase performed live in front of an audience on a Broadway stage. The 17th annual Jimmy Awards® will take place on Monday, June 22, 2026, at the Minskoff Theatre. For more information, please visit JimmyAwards.com or email Dana Brazil at dbrazil@ppacri.org.

****PLEASE NOTE: Eligible nominees' high schools may participate in one (1) Regional Awards Program (RAP) ONLY and a nominee may participate in one (1) RAP ONLY.****

ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

All registered high schools have the opportunity to participate in a number of theatre education activities throughout the year. Potential education activities for the 2025-2026 season include:

- Fee-based and/or free master classes and workshops in musical theatre, dance, voice, music, acting and technical theatre, led by Broadway touring artists
- Discounted ticket packages for select touring Broadway performances, when available
- Talkbacks with touring artists and performing arts professionals
- Lesson plans, study guides and classroom activities for teachers
- Educational tours of the Providence Performing Arts Center



GENERAL TIMELINE – DATES & EVENTS

DEADLINE TO REGISTER

Monday, December 1, 2025, or 6 weeks prior to the musical's opening night, whichever comes first; late registrations are accepted, but there is a \$150 late fee per production.

ADJUDICATION PERIOD BEGINS

Saturday, September 27, 2025

ADJUDICATION PERIOD ENDS

Saturday, March 21, 2026

OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS SHOWCASE TICKETS ON SALE

Friday, February 6, 2026

MANDATORY DIRECTOR'S MEETING FOR ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Meeting 1: Saturday, December 6, 2025

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Meeting 2: Saturday, March 7, 2026

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

AWARD RECIPIENTS NOTIFIED

Monday, March 30, 2026 – on QR before

INFORMATIONAL PARTICIPANT MEETING FOR ALL STUDENT PERFORMERS

Saturday, April 18, 2026

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

TIMELINE FOR SHOWCASE REHEARSAL

Monday, April 27 – Friday, May 1, 2026

3:30 PM – 10:00 PM (as called)

Saturday, May 2, 2026

10:00 AM – 10:00 PM; break 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 3, 2026

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM; break 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

DEADLINE FOR OUTSTANDING LEAD MUSIC, JIMMY AWARDS® MATERIALS, AND ALL PERFORMER CONFLICTS

Friday, April 10, 2026

AUDITIONS FOR OUTSTANDING LEADS FOR JIMMY AWARDS® AND/OR RIC SCHOLARSHIP

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

1:00 PM – 5:30 PM

OCEAN STATE STAR AWARDS

Sunday, May 3, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

THE 17TH ANNUAL JIMMY AWARDS®

Monday, June 22, 2026 @ 7:30 PM

A NOTE ON TIME COMMITMENT

The Providence Performing Arts Center knows that many hours of hard work go into preparing a high school musical theatre production. One of the goals of the program is to provide visibility for the work that is being produced in our community. During the school year, there is little additional time commitment from directors/teachers other than communicating pertinent information. However, if your show or student(s) are selected to receive an Ocean State Star Award, it may require an additional time commitment for brush-up and/or staging rehearsals in addition to the showcase performance.

A NOTE ON COMMUNICATION

If your show or student(s) are selected to receive an Ocean State Star Award, you are responsible for disseminating all information to winners (and their parents/guardians); under NO circumstances are they to contact Dana Brazil directly.