



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL **MUSICAL THEATER AWARDS**

Presented By  **EMC**
INSURANCE

2020-2021 RULES AND GUIDELINES

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards, presented by EMC Insurance Companies, is an initiative of Des Moines Performing Arts that celebrates the extraordinary achievements of young musical theater artists. The program aims to create visibility and support for high school musical theater programs and to highlight the importance of arts education.

The program consists of four main components:

1. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES – All schools, regardless of whether producing a musical in 2020-2021

All participating schools receive access to exclusive learning opportunities offered throughout the year that are designed to help students and directors advance their understanding of the craft. Workshops and master classes addressing performance, technical and creative topics are led by theater professionals from the state of Iowa as well as by Broadway industry experts.

2. ADJUDICATION – Opt-in process for 2020-2021

Panels of community adjudicators comprised of performing arts educators and professionals attend and review participating schools' musical productions. Students and directors receive valuable constructive feedback that can be used to grow and strengthen their future work.

Adjudication is a foundational component of the IHSMTA program. Typically, every participating school participates in the adjudication process, but due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic we are allowing past participating schools to participate without having a musical production adjudicated this academic year. If you have additional questions about how your school can participate this year, please contact education@dmpa.org.

3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Based on adjudication results, schools receive awards that honor their achievements in performance, technical and creative categories.

The Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards is designed to be celebratory rather than competitive in nature. Any student or school at an outstanding level is recognized for their achievement. Multiple honorees may be named in each category as achievements merit.

4. END-OF-YEAR PROGRAMMING

Typically, the year culminates in a professionally produced Awards Showcase celebrating student achievement at the Des Moines Civic Center. Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-2021 end-of-year programming plans are to be determined. Confirmed plans will be shared with schools once they are finalized.

ELIGIBILITY

School Location

Eligible high schools must be located in the state of Iowa.

Production Dates, *If participating in the adjudication process*

Musical productions must take place between October 1, 2020 and May 2, 2021.

Student Participation

If participating in the adjudication process, musical productions must be primarily cast with currently enrolled high school students. Learning opportunities are intended for high school students in your school's drama program.

Type of Productions*

To be adjudicated, a musical production qualifies if it fits one of the following categories:

1. A published musical, operetta or revue that is currently held by a licensing house or is in the public domain.
2. An original piece which features an original script, music and/or lyrics and which is covered under a valid copyright.
3. 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.

*For 2020-2021, productions may be adjudicated virtually or in-person, as licensing permissions and health conditions warrant. Please see page 9 for information on safety guidelines and requirements for in-person adjudication.

REGISTRATION FORM TO PARTICIPATE AND FEES

Registrations for the 2020-2021 Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards are accepted online until **October 1, 2020**.

[SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM](#)

There is no registration fee to participate in the program this year – submitting a registration form on behalf of your school allows you and your students exclusive access to IHSMTA learning opportunities. Most learning opportunities will be offered free of charge, but some may have costs associated with participation.

In addition to learning opportunities access, schools may opt into the adjudication process, which does carry an \$85 adjudication fee. The adjudication fee is due no later than one week prior to opening night of your school's production to be adjudicated. Payment methods:

1. Checks should be made payable to Des Moines Performing Arts and sent to:
Des Moines Performing Arts
Attn: Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards
221 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
2. Adjudication fees may also be paid by credit card over the phone. Please wait until you receive an invoice from Des Moines Performing Arts before calling to pay. Contact information will be provided on the invoice.

(Registration Form to Participate and Fees, continued)

A finite number of schools per production weekend will be accepted into the adjudication process. As such, schools that are producing a musical and would like to be adjudicated are encouraged to apply early and will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If a school wishes to have more than one musical adjudicated, the second production carries an adjudication fee of \$345 to cover associated costs of a second adjudicator team. Likewise, productions that double-cast and wish to have both casts reviewed, will be assessed an additional \$345 for the secondary cast. Please see page 8 for full details on double-casting.

TEACHER/DIRECTOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Expectations for the teacher/director's role within the program are:

1. Maintain open and regular communication with Des Moines Performing Arts regarding program needs and participation.
2. Act as the primary liaison between Des Moines Performing Arts and the school community (faculty, students, parents, etc.). This includes the distribution of important updates and information related to the program to students and the community.
3. If participating in adjudication, provide Des Moines Performing Arts with digital production photographs **within 2 weeks** of your production for promotional purposes throughout the year.

[PRODUCTION PHOTO UPLOADER](#)

(As the program has grown, we have seen an upwards trend in school production photos being published or broadcast by media outlets such as the *Des Moines Register* in their promotion of the IHSMTA program. Help us make sure your school is represented well by submitting as high quality of photos as possible.)

4. Coordinate school's participation in end-of-year programming, based on parameters communicated in the spring.

PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE

During the course of the program, there may be times when Des Moines Performing Arts will photograph or video students, school staff, volunteers, and audience members. Please be aware that by participating in the program, teachers and students are giving full rights and permissions to Des Moines Performing Arts for the use of such video and photos. Please also be aware that Des Moines Performing Arts may use a school's name and students' names in press releases and other program communications. Please inform program staff in writing if an individual's name should not be published.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Participating schools will have access to various learning opportunities for students and theater educators throughout the year. (For the 2020-2021 school year, any school that has participated in the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards previously but is not producing a musical this year is able to have access to these learning opportunities.) These learning opportunities include, but are not limited to, Broadway master classes, technical and performance workshops led by Iowa theater professionals, and courses for theater educators. Learning opportunities are announced throughout the year as details are confirmed. Many learning opportunities carry no additional fee, but depending on the experience, some opportunities may carry an additional fee.

General Learning Opportunities

This year will focus on virtual learning opportunities for participating students and schools. We were able to host a variety of virtual learning opportunities in spring/summer 2020 and anticipate similar experiences and a few new additions this program year. A few past virtual events are featured below:

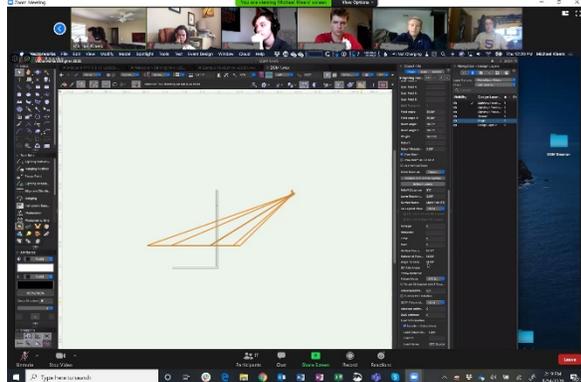


Virtual Musical Theater Dance Master Classes with Tiger Brown, 2019 Awards Showcase Choreographer

Students joined us for a series of three dance master classes focused on a new style each week with the last session serving as a mock audition - all with Tiger Brown, the 2019 Awards Showcase choreographer! (Pictured on left.)

Creating Light Plots in Vectorworks with Michael Klaers, Awards Showcase Lighting Designer

Students and directors joined us for an introductory overview of Vectorworks with Micheal Klaers! During the session, he built a simple light plot to show functionality and also shared some more complex designs he has worked on in this design program. (Pictured on right.)



Virtual Stage Management Workshops with Janet Albanese

We hosted a series of three mini-workshops focused on an aspect of stage management with Janet Albanese, Director of Production and Building Services for Des Moines Performing Arts and Awards Showcase Stage Manager! Topics included Charting Blocking, Rehearsal Reports, and All About Qs. (Pictured on left.)

(Learning Opportunities, continued)

2020 Virtual Directors Seminar

This annual professional development seminar for participating directors is focused on sharing best practices, answering burning questions, and other relevant workshop topics.
(Pictured on right.)



Virtual College Prep Panel – Auditions, Majors and More!

Students and directors were able to join us for a virtual conversation with performing arts professors from both Iowa State University and Drake University. Topics included everything from campus visits to college auditions to majors/minors – and everything in between.
(Pictured on left.)

ANTICIPATED NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2020-2021

Affinity Groups for Students

As part of our ongoing efforts to elevate students' voices in shaping IHSMTA and to forge meaningful connections between theater students across the state, this year we are introducing 'affinity groups' as a new arm of our learning opportunities.

These opt-in groups will provide an opportunity for students to forge connections with peers sharing similar interests or experiences, learn from a mentor/facilitator whose background or expertise intersects with the group's topic, and to influence IHSMTA programming through suggesting learning opportunities and program initiatives responsive to their needs and interests.

Anticipated affinity groups for this introductory year are:

- BIPOC
- College-Bound
- Technical Theater

Affinity groups will meet virtually approximately once a month. More information will be forthcoming as we finalize plans for affinity groups and their rollout.

(Learning Opportunities, continued)

Rehearsal Responder

Participating schools will have the opportunity to invite a rehearsal responder to one of their musical rehearsals prior to performances. The goal of a rehearsal responder visit is to provide thoughtful and detailed verbal feedback to the director, creative team and students after a production run-through to encourage continued growth moving into dress rehearsals and performances. The adjudication process provides feedback after a production has closed, and we hope this additional opportunity helps provide a pathway for feedback during the process as well.

Rehearsal responders are qualified performing arts professionals and performing arts educators. If your school is participating in the adjudication process, your rehearsal responder will NOT be one of your assigned adjudicators.

The rehearsal responder visit will take place during the rehearsal process at a mutually agreed upon time. Our requirement is that your school is able to run the production from beginning to end, but still has time to make changes and utilize feedback provided. Schools can expect post-run through verbal responses to last approximately 30-45 minutes.

One rehearsal responder visit comes with an additional fee of \$125 per visit. If interested, directors should reach out to program staff to start a conversation on when the best time would be for this experience, paired with responder availability. Lastly, there is limited availability for this learning opportunity in this pilot year, so we encourage interested directors/schools to reach out early to secure your spot!

ADJUDICATION PROCESS – Opt-in process for 2020-2021

Adjudicators

Adjudicators are qualified performing arts professionals and performing arts educators. All adjudicators go through program training on rubric scoring and feedback. Adjudicators are required to inform program staff if there is a conflict of interest with a participating school and will not be scheduled to review a show for which there is a conflict of interest.

Rubrics

Adjudicators use a set of standard rubrics to review each school's production. Directors receive a copy of the rubrics prior to the school's production. The rubrics are used to review each production on its own merit and are not used to compare one production against another.

Adjudication Standards and Evaluation Rubrics can be found online here:

<https://desmoinesperformingarts.org/ihsmta-directors/>

Adjudication Form

Two weeks prior to the production, directors are required to submit a completed Adjudication Form. This form gathers the information on cast, creative and technical roles, helping adjudicators determine which awards a school is eligible to receive. This is also an opportunity for directors to communicate with adjudicators about the resources available to their school and any additional information they would like to share about their production.

[ADJUDICATION FORM](#)

*NOTE: Program staff will work with you prior to filling out the Adjudication Form to determine which students will be reviewed for their individual roles. The number of roles reviewed is limited to **eight**, and certain roles will be recommended to be reviewed.*

Double-Casting

Productions which double-cast (either completely or only certain roles) must communicate that information to program staff with enough lead time to make sure adjudicators are appropriately scheduled to review the performances by the designated/primary cast. **Any individual roles not seen by a full adjudicator team will be ineligible for award consideration.**

Fall shows must communicate double-casting schedules by October 1, 2020; spring shows must communicate double-casting schedules by February 1, 2020.

Contingent on adjudicator availability, schools may elect to have both casts adjudicated. If you desire to have both casts reviewed, please communicate that you wish to have both casts reviewed by the dates listed above so that a second adjudicator team can be assigned to your production. Please note that an additional \$345 fee is assessed to review an additional cast(s). An additional cast is defined as a full additional cast, partial additional cast or one role with two students alternating performances.

Production Attendance

For 2020-2021, productions may be adjudicated by your assigned adjudicator team virtually, in-person, or a combination of the two within the format(s) your school is pursuing for audience members.

In person attendance

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

Safety is the number one priority at Des Moines Performing Arts and in light of the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards has drafted **minimum health and safety requirements for participating schools to follow if they wish to be adjudicated** as part of this program. Schools can find the most up-to-date information regarding adjudication health and safety guidelines on our website here: <https://desmoinesperformingarts.org/ihsmta-directors/>

Logistics

For in-person attendance, schools will provide complimentary tickets for adjudicators and program staff:

- Up to three adjudicators will attend each participating school's production. Each school must provide two complimentary tickets per adjudicator (generally six tickets total) on the performance date(s) for which adjudicators are available to attend.
- Program staff may also wish to attend your production and may request complimentary ticket(s).

Adjudicators and program staff may not all attend the same performance. Des Moines Performing Arts will communicate with each school director which performance(s) the adjudicators and staff members are attending one week prior to opening night of the production. In extenuating circumstances, occasional last-minute adjudicator schedule changes may be requested.

Tickets should be held at the box office for adjudicators to pick up the night of the performance. Tickets are to be held under "Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards" and not the name of the adjudicator. Adjudicator names will not be shared with the school in advance.

Adjudicator seating arrangements:

- *Reserved Seating*: Adjudicator seats should be on an aisle and placed inconspicuously as possible while still allowing for a strong viewing experience, while also meeting COVID-19 safety guidelines (see link above). Adjudicators attending the same performance prefer their pairs of tickets be spaced throughout the auditorium and not right next to each other.
- *General Admission*: If you anticipate a full house, reserve seats for adjudicators that meet the COVID-19 safety guidelines (see link above) and mark the seats simply "RESERVED". Please **do not indicate** on the signs that they are reserved for adjudicators or the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards. Adjudicators attending the same performance prefer their reserved seats be spaced throughout the auditorium and not all right next to each other. If you anticipate ample open seating, adjudicators may select their own seats.

Virtual performances

For schools offering a virtual audience experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please communicate logistic details to access the virtual performance in advance of opening night (preferably 1-2 weeks prior to opening night). This will allow us to communicate all necessary details to any adjudicators viewing virtually so they can be fully prepared.

We acknowledge that virtual performances and adjudication is a new endeavor for all involved. As questions come up, please let us know so that we can work through them together. Please keep in mind that quality of video and sound will impact the level of detail of what adjudicators will be able to assess and respond to. We are sympathetic to the challenges and the limitations that they may pose.

Adjudicator Feedback

Adjudicator feedback will be emailed to the director following the performance. Directors are encouraged to use the adjudicator feedback and rubrics for reflection and future growth. Schools should anticipate receiving feedback within three weeks after the performance. (All efforts are made to turn around feedback sooner, but peak production weeks may necessitate more time for processing.) Directors are encouraged to consider sharing the adjudicator feedback with collaborators, administrators, and students as they feel is appropriate.

RECOGNITION OF PARTICIPATION

Participating schools are encouraged to recognize their involvement in the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards within their musical programs, playbills, virtual materials, etc. Here is program language to include in these materials:

This production is being adjudicated as part of the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards, presented by EMC Insurance Companies – a program of Des Moines Performing Arts which celebrates the extraordinary achievements of Iowa students in high school musical theater. For more information, visit DMPA.org/education. #IHSMTA

Program staff will also send out digital graphics in addition to this language that schools can use to recognize their participation in the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards.

Des Moines Performing Arts encourages schools to further announce their participation in the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards in school newspapers, newsletters and school or program websites. Des Moines Performing Arts will post promotional information on each participating high school musical on the Des Moines Performing Arts website and social media platforms.

AWARDS - TYPES AND PROCESSES

A complete listing of award categories may be found in [Appendix A](#).

Awards Based Solely On Adjudication

The majority of awards given through the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards are based solely on adjudicator scores, comments and nominations. No additional submission materials are needed to be considered for the following awards:

- Outstanding Musical Production
- Outstanding Overall Performance
- Outstanding Overall Technical and Creative Achievement
- Distinguished Scene
- Outstanding Ensemble
- Outstanding Student Orchestra
- Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role
- Outstanding Performance by a Featured Dancer

See page 12 for an overview of the system used for determining awards and honors through the adjudication process.

Awards with Additional Components

There are several award categories that require additional submission materials and evaluation for consideration:

- Technical Theater Scholarship
- Outstanding Achievement in a Technical, Creative or Business Role
- Outstanding Community Engagement
- Impact Award

Please see pages 13-17 for specific details and processes for these categories with additional application components.

ADJUDICATION-BASED AWARD DETERMINATIONS AND NOTIFICATION

For each category under consideration for an award, each adjudicator takes part in a two-step process after seeing a production:

1. Adjudicators individually fill out an **evaluation form** using the scoring rubric. (The combined evaluation forms are shared back with the directors and schools shortly after the production closes with the goal of providing feedback.)
2. Adjudicators also individually fill out a **nomination ballot**, which is seen only by Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards staff.

Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards staff members then combine the evaluation forms and nomination ballots to determine the awards and recognitions to bestow. First, the evaluation forms are used to **assign a score to each category or individual student performance**. This is done by averaging the adjudicators' assessments utilizing the scoring rubric. The score is then combined with the **number of nominations** received to determine if an award or recognition should be bestowed.

As the last step of the process, adjudicators have the chance to do a **final review** of the honors a school will receive. Recommendations for the cumulative awards and recognitions that a school should receive are shared based on the scores and nominations. Adjudicators affirm the recommendations. If adjudicators are in disagreement with a recommendation, particularly if an award or recognition is on the "bubble" of being recognized or not, adjudicators may override the initial recommendation.

AWARD DETERMINATION PROCESS



Notifications of awards received will be sent to school directors on a rolling basis, based on timing of productions.

Multiple schools and individual students may be recognized for outstanding achievement within the same category as scores and nominations warrant.

TECHNICAL, CREATIVE AND BUSINESS AWARDS

As noted, there are some award categories that require additional components outside of adjudication. This includes Technical, Creative and Business Awards. Technical, Creative and Business Awards for specific areas are given for individual and team contributions by students. To evaluate the specific contributions made by students in these capacities, these areas utilize a **student-created** portfolio in addition to production feedback.

Areas

Students whose work or contributions fit in any of the following areas may submit a digital portfolio to be considered for a technical or creative achievement award:

Creative Roles (primarily design or direction focused)	Technical Roles (primarily execution focused)	Business Roles (primarily administrative focused)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Direction ➤ Music Direction ➤ Lighting Design ➤ Sound Design ➤ Scenic Design ➤ Props Design ➤ Costume Design ➤ Hair/Makeup Design ➤ Choreography ➤ Dramaturgy ➤ Other applicable aspect of the production not listed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stage Management ➤ Technical Direction ➤ Backstage Crew (props, set, costume construction or maintenance, hair/makeup, etc.) ➤ Board Operations (Lights, Sound, etc.) ➤ Video Production (used as part of the show) ➤ Other applicable aspect of the production not listed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Marketing and Publicity ➤ Video Production (used for promotion) ➤ Front of House Management (event management, ushers, box office, etc.) ➤ Playbill/Program Design ➤ Other applicable aspect of the production not listed

Please note: Students serving in assistant capacities may also be considered.

Steps to Be Considered

There are two components to be considered for a technical, creative or business award.

Step One: Submit a Portfolio

Applying students will submit a self-created, digital portfolio in support of their work on the production. Portfolio deadlines are on a rolling basis based on production dates. Those deadlines are as follows:

- September through November productions – Portfolios due by November 30, 2020 at 4 PM
- December through March productions – Portfolios due by April 5, 2021 at 4 PM
- April and May productions – Portfolios due by April 26, 2021 at 4 PM (If May productions would like an extension, please contact IHSMTA program staff prior to April 26, 2021.)

Portfolio Requirements:

1. 1-2 page personal essay about the student's experience with the production.
2. Supplemental artifacts that demonstrate the student's work on the production. Possible artifacts include scans of renderings, sketches, prompt book, crew or shift lists, lighting plots, videos* and photos. Multiple artifacts are encouraged.

Create Word or PDF document that includes your digital artifacts. Include your name, school and production title in the top left of each artifact document.

*Videos are to be submitted via Vimeo or YouTube with the link provided in each artifact document. If the video is longer than five minutes, indicate the start time; the panelists will only review up to five minutes per artifact.

(Technical, Creative and Business Awards, continued)

Step Two: Interview with Adjudicator(s)

A brief phone interview will be scheduled between technical adjudicator(s) and the student after the portfolio is received. This is an opportunity for the adjudicators to ask clarifying questions after reviewing the portfolio and for the applicant to provide additional insight into their process.

Interviews are scheduled on a rolling basis based on production dates. Interview dates are as follows:

- September through November productions – Interviews scheduled December 9-10, 2020
- December through March productions – Interviews scheduled April 8, 2021
- April and May productions – Interviews scheduled April 28-29, 2021

Adjudicator(s) will be asked to review the applicant's portfolio and phone interview based on a rubric.

[TECHNICAL, CREATIVE AND BUSINESS RUBRICS](#) (note that rubrics are periodically updated)

NOTE: There is no additional fee to be considered for a Technical, Creative or Business award.

Application Process

All portfolios must be submitted digitally.

1. Fill out the online [PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION FORM](#)
2. As part of the form, you will be required to upload an electronic version of your personal essay and your artifact document.
3. As part of the information form, you will also indicate your availability for your phone interview with the adjudicator panel. Assigned interview times will be communicated to students shortly after the portfolio submission deadline.

Technical, Creative and Business Award Portfolio Submission Limit

Please note that each school may only submit up to FIVE portfolios to be considered for a Technical, Creative and Business Award. The first five portfolio submissions from any one school will be the five portfolios reviewed. Any additional portfolios submitted will not be reviewed or considered for an award.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

As noted, there are some award categories that require additional components outside of adjudication. This includes Community Engagement Awards.

Please note, for 2020-2021 all schools are eligible for this award regardless of whether or not they are producing a musical.

Scope

Theater inherently has the power to move, enlighten and to promote change. The Community Engagement Award is presented to a school that utilizes musical theatre and/or their production and its theme/message in a meaningful way to make a difference within the community. This award challenges schools to use musical theater to creatively make connections, fill a need, resolve conflict, provide services or engage their community in other unique ways.

Schools connecting their community engagement initiative to their production are encouraged to think about the following questions: What are some of the challenges of your production, and how can it affect the community? Was the musical chosen to coincide with a social, political, economic or community initiative? Is there contextual information you are providing to your audience in innovative ways such as post-show discussions or programs in conjunction with neighborhood organizations? How has positive change or learning come about as a direct result of working with the community? What will the impact of this production be after the show has closed?

***FOR 2020-2021* Projects Independent of a Production**

Schools not producing a musical can still use the musical theater art form to positively impact their community and meet a specific need during this unique time. For example, is there an outreach initiative for senior citizens facing isolation? Is there a larger social issue that you can use the art form to bring awareness to during this time?

Recent Examples of Community Engagement Projects by Participating Schools:

- To emphasize the importance of reading and connect with Belle's love of books, the BCLUW cast of DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST chose to participate in the Scholastic FACE Literary Initiative. At each performance, donations were accepted to assist the cast in purchasing books for elementary age students in the district through the Scholastic FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Partner Literacy Initiative program.
- Centerville High School's cast of CINDERELLA organized a shoe drive for Soles4Souls, an organization that creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distribution of shoes and clothing around the world. The pair of glass slippers in the show offers an opportunity for Cinderella to escape her situation and find true love, so that cast wanted to support an organization that does the very same thing for people around the world. The cast collected 100 shoes, and hopes to collect more, to donate.
- Nevada High School's cast of BYE BYE BIRDIE partnered with the Puppy Jake Foundation for their community engagement project. A large part of the show's plot is getting Conrad Birdie into the army, which connects to the mission of the Puppy Jake Foundation and allowed cast members to make a difference in their own community. Puppy-themed cookies and show-themed buttons were sold during performances to benefit the Puppy Jake Foundation.

(Community Engagement Award, continued)

Application

To be considered, submit a Community Engagement Award Application. All Community Engagement Applications must be submitted online. Application deadlines are on a rolling basis based on production/project dates. Those deadlines are as follows:

- September through November productions/projects – Portfolios due November 30, 2020 at 4 PM
- December through March productions/projects – Portfolios due by April 5, 2021 at 4 PM
- April and May productions/projects – Portfolios due by April 26, 2021 at 4 PM (If May productions would like an extension, please contact IHSMTA program staff prior to April 26, 2021.)

The application consists of a 1-2 page summary of your project and any supplementary materials that demonstrate its implementation. At least one photo of the project is required when submitting your application online.

[COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD APPLICATION](#)

NOTE: There is no additional fee to be considered for a Community Engagement Award.

IMPACT AWARD

As noted, there are some award categories that require additional components outside of adjudication. This includes Impact Awards.

Scope

While the primary focus of the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards is to celebrate student achievements, adults also make tremendous contributions to school drama programs and make a lasting impact on students.

The Impact Award is a student-nominated award presented to an adult who leads and/or supports their school's productions. This award provides an avenue to recognize educators or community members, such as parent volunteers, who go above and beyond to support the high school musical experience.

Nomination Process

To be considered, a current student or group of students must complete the nomination process online. If submitting a nomination as a group of students, please identify one student to serve as the primary contact for the nomination. All nominations must be completed and received by March 31, 2021.

The nomination process consists of the following components:

1. 1-2 page essay written by the nominating student describing how the nominee goes above and beyond to make a positive impact on students' experience in their high school musical.
2. Written testimonials from three to six individuals who have worked directly with the nominee on one or more school musical production(s). Testimonials may come from, but are not limited to:
 - Current high school students
 - Alumni of the school's drama program
 - Production Staff (Director, Music Director, Choreographer, Costumer, etc.)
 - Other adults that work on productions with this mentor (school employees and community members are acceptable)
 - School Administrators
 - Parents

Each testimonial should be no more than 300 words.

Nominations should be submitted online: [IMPACT AWARD NOMINATION FORM](#)

(Please note, the nomination form asks for the nominee's years of service at the school, the nominee's role in the school musical, and whether they are a school staff member, a contracted adult or a volunteer.)

NOTE: There is no additional fee to nominate someone for an Impact Award.

END-OF-YEAR PROGRAMMING

Typically, the year culminates in a professionally produced Awards Showcase featuring excerpts from award-winning productions. In addition to being a celebration of student achievements, the Awards Showcase allows students to watch and learn from their musical theater peers, as well as to work directly with a guest choreographer and music director from New York City to rehearse several special medley performances for the Awards Showcase.

Due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the end-of-the year programming plans for this academic year are still to be determined. Confirmed plans will be shared with schools once they are finalized.

For new directors wishing to see information on a typical year's Awards Showcase, please see the [2019-2020 Rules and Guidelines](#).

APPENDIX A: 2020-2021 AWARDS CATEGORIES

PRODUCTION AWARDS

Outstanding Musical Production

Takes into consideration all performance, technical and creative elements

Outstanding Overall Performance

Takes into consideration all performance elements

Outstanding Overall Technical and Creative Achievement

Takes into consideration all technical and creative elements

Distinguished Scene

Outstanding Ensemble

Outstanding Student Orchestra

Community Engagement

Awarded to schools that create and implement activities or events that engage their local community through musical theatre or an initiative connected to their high school's production and its theme or message.

INDIVIDUAL/TEAM STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role

Outstanding Performance by a Featured Dancer

Outstanding Technical, Creative and Business Achievement*

Includes Stage Management, Technical Direction, Backstage Crew (props, set, costumes, hair/makeup, etc.), Board Operations, Master Carpenter, Video Production (used as part of the show), Direction, Music Direction, Lighting Design, Sound Design, Set Design, Props Design, Costume Design, Hair/Makeup Design, Choreography, Dramaturgy, Marketing and Publicity, Video Production (used for promotion), Front of House Management (event management, ushers, box office, etc.) or other applicable aspect of the production not listed.

**Awarded to schools where students serve in these roles and those students completed the portfolio submission process to be considered.*

OTHER AWARDS

Impact Award

Given to adults, based on student nomination