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Shea's Performing Arts Center Announces High School Musical Theatre Award Nominees

Twenty High Schools from Across WNY Participating

Video: [Announcement of Nominees](#)

Video: [Sizzle Reel Featuring High School Rehearsals](#)

Shea's Performing Arts Center released the 2024 nominations for the Shea's High School Musical Theatre Awards program. The awards recognize the outstanding achievement of high school ensembles in various areas of musical production and performance. Leading up to the nomination announcement on April 23 and 24, Shea's High School Musical Awards Program students were invited to Shea's Buffalo Theatre for free events featuring an [on-stage choreography lesson](#), [education tours](#), a musical theatre relay race, trivia, prizes, and a [local theatre and college fair](#).

"Involvement in musical theatre provides young people with valuable life skills, boosting confidence, inspiring creativity, and encouraging collaboration," said Brian Higgins, President & CEO of Shea's Performing Arts Center. "We are thrilled to expand this educational opportunity to more Western New York students this year and we continue to be inspired by the incredible talent and hard work they've all put into each of the outstanding performances."

This year Shea's Performing Arts Center has expanded the high school musical theatre awards allowing participation to double from 10 to 20 schools. In total 1,379 students from Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany counties are taking part in the program. Schools participating include: Amherst, Belfast, Brocton, Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, Cleveland Hill, Dunkirk, Eden, Fredonia, Jamestown, John F. Kennedy, Lake Shore, Maple Grove, Nardin Academy, Pine Valley, Randolph, Royalton Hartland, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, St. Mary's High School, Sweet Home, and West Seneca West High Schools.

Twenty-five local theatre educators, professional performers, directors, and designers served as judges and provided feedback. Nomination categories looked at show direction, choreography, scenic design, lighting, hair and makeup, costume, dance, vocal performance, orchestral performance, ensemble performance, and lead/supporting performances.

In addition to the nominations, sixteen participating students were selected as semifinalists for a week-long intensive workshop at Shea's called "The Student Talent and Growth Experience" (STAGE) Program. During this program, led by Creative Director and award-winning director and choreographer Michael Oliver Walline, students take part in workshops and intensive audition experiences with feedback from judges. The group is narrowed to eight finalists who will be invited to perform a one to two-minute solo performance on the Shea's Buffalo stage during the awards ceremony. Two winners are then selected to represent Shea's Performing Arts Center at [The Jimmy Awards](#), a national high school musical theatre awards competition in New York City. The Jimmy Awards are presented by The Broadway League Foundation. The Broadway League is The National Trade Association for the Broadway Theatre Industry. Jimmy Awards participants take part in workshops, dance rehearsals, auditions, and panels led by Broadway professionals. Winners of the national competition receive college scholarships.

Winners of the Shea's High School Musical Theatre Awards program will be announced at an event held on Saturday, May 25th at 7:00pm at Shea's Buffalo Theatre. Presenting sponsors of the program are Rupp Pfalzgraf LLC and Rachael Small. Additional event sponsors include: Wegmans, Mr. & Mr. Joseph Curatolo, WPS Management Company, The Eastman Foundation, Pfalzgraf Beinhauer Gear Harris Schuller LLP, The Mosey Family Foundation, Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc., Univera, and Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers.

For regular updates on Shea's Arts Engagement and Education programs follow the department on [Facebook](#) at @SheasEDU or on [Instagram](#) at @engage_with_sheas.

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*****Below are the nominees in each category.*****



Shea's High School Musical Theatre Awards 2024 Nomination List

The Showstopper Award

St. Mary's High School - "Be Our Guest" from *Beauty and the Beast*

Nardin Academy - "Overture/All That Jazz" from *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Amherst High School - "One Day More" from *Les Misérables*

Fredonia High School - "Be Our Guest" from *Beauty and the Beast*

West Seneca West - "Finale/Megamix" from *Mamma Mia!*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - "Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat" from *Guys and Dolls*

Outstanding Direction of a Musical

Pine Valley Jr./Sr. High School - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Amherst High School - *Les Misérables*

Sweet Home High School - *The Addams Family*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

Outstanding Choreography of a Musical

Randolph Jr./Sr. High School - *The Little Mermaid*

Nardin Academy - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Sweet Home High School - *The Addams Family*

Jamestown High School - *The Music Man*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

Outstanding Music Direction of a Musical

Royalton Hartland High School - *Freaky Friday*

Lake Shore High School - *All Shook Up*

Jamestown High School - *The Music Man*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

Outstanding Scenic Design and Execution

Pine Valley Jr./Sr. High School - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts - *Mean Girls*

Eden High School - *Footloose*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

Outstanding Lighting Design and Execution

Maple Grove Jr./Sr. High School - *Mean Girls*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

Nardin Academy - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Sweet Home High School - *The Addams Family*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

Outstanding Hair and Makeup Design and Execution

Nardin Academy - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Randolph Jr./Sr. High School - *The Little Mermaid*

St. Mary's High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts - *Mean Girls*

Sweet Home High School - *The Addams Family*

Outstanding Costume Design and Execution

Randolph Jr./Sr. High School - *The Little Mermaid*

Sweet Home High School - *The Addams Family*

Jamestown High School - *The Music Man*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

Pine Valley Jr./Sr. High School - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

Outstanding Dance Execution

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

Nardin Academy - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Jamestown High School - *The Music Man*

Sweet Home High School - *The Addams Family*

Royalton Hartland High School - *Freaky Friday*

Outstanding Collective Vocal Performance

Lake Shore High School - *All Shook Up*

Nardin Academy - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Royalton Hartland High School - *Freaky Friday*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

Outstanding Student-Led Orchestral Performance

Amherst High School - *Les Misérables*

Sweet Home High School - *The Addams Family*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

Jamestown High School - *The Music Man*

Eden High School - *Footloose*

Cleveland Hill High School - *The Sound of Music*

Outstanding Collective Ensemble Performance

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

Pine Valley Jr./Sr. High School - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Buffalo Academy For Visual and Performing Arts - *Mean Girls*

Nardin Academy - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Outstanding Lead and Supporting Performances

Lillian Patterson, Sophia Giordano, Christopher Dow, Jack McLaughlin, and Connor Hesch.
Amherst High School - *Les Misérables*

Karah Anderson, Remy Smith, Calia Hardy, Veronica Kline, and Shylah Douglas.

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Art - *Mean Girls*

Aidan Moskaluk, Jimmy Gleeson, Damien Stanfield, Madison Ebel, and Muriel Zollinger.

Pine Valley Jr./Sr. High School - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Jackson Gollintz, Miriam LaBarr, Jack Tuccio, Draejen Hicks, and Ava Hartung.

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

Maceo Rodriguez, Breanna Ring, Anna Karassik, Joe DiMaio, and Joshua Weil.

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

Chloe Prezpasiak, Jonah Higgins, Michael Duffy, Ava Schara, and Anna Blickwedehl.

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

Semi-Finalists for The STAGE

Jack Tuccio - Gaston in Fredonia High School's *Beauty and the Beast*

Johnny Keiner - Billy Flynn in Nardin Academy's *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Jonah Higgins - Harry in West Seneca West's *Mamma Mia!*

Remy Smith - Damian in Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts' *Mean Girls*

Jack McLaughlin - Javert in Amherst High School's *Les Misérables*

Nicholas Cox - The Beast in St. Mary's High School's *Beauty and the Beast*

Liam Dunne - Lumiere in St. Mary's High School's *Beauty and the Beast*

Connor Hesch - Jean Valjean in Amherst High School's *Les Misérables*

Ava Schara - Sophie in West Seneca West's *Mamma Mia!*

Naomi Lawley - Roxie in Nardin Academy's *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Shylah Douglas - Cady in Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts' *Mean Girls*

Ariana Minhas - Wednesday Addams in Sweet Home High School's *The Addams Family*

Tori Gill - Velma Kelly in Nardin Academy's *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Anna Blickwedehl - Donna in West Seneca West's *Mamma Mia!*

Lila Brigham in Katherine Blake Royalton Hartland High School's production of *Freaky Friday*

Veronica Kline - Regina in Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts' *Mean Girls*

Outstanding Production of a Musical

Randolph Jr./Sr. High School - *The Little Mermaid*

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - *Guys and Dolls*

Pine Valley Jr./Sr. High School - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

West Seneca West High School - *Mamma Mia!*

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts - *Mean Girls*

Fredonia High School - *Beauty and the Beast*

Nardin Academy - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

Jamestown High School - *The Music Man*

Amherst High School - *Les Misérables*

Sweet Home High School - *The Addams Family*

Nomination Count

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.....	12
West Seneca West High School.....	12
Fredonia High School.....	11
Sweet Home High School.....	8
Nardin Academy.....	8
Jamestown High School.....	6
Pine Valley Jr./Sr. High School.....	6
Amherst High School.....	5
Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts.....	5
Randolph Jr./Sr. High School.....	4
Royalton Hartland High School.....	3
Lake Shore High School.....	2
St. Mary's High School.....	2
Eden High School.....	2
Maple Grove Jr./Sr. High School.....	1
Cleveland Hill High School.....	1
Belfast.....	0
Brocton.....	0
Dunkirk.....	0
John F. Kennedy Jr./Sr. High School.....	0