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Shea's Performing Arts Center Announces Winners of the Shea's High School Musical Awards Program

Twenty WNY High Schools & Over 1,300 Students Participated

Two WNY Students Headed to National Competition in NYC

During an event at Shea's Buffalo Theatre on May 25, 2024, Shea's Performing Arts Center announced the winners of the Shea's High School Musical Awards program.

"Shea's is proud to support opportunities for performing arts education, which provides lessons that transcend the stage," said Brian Higgins, Shea's Performing Arts Center President & CEO. "All of these students have worked so hard and deserve a round of applause. It's great to see Western New York's young talent on display."

This year Shea's Performing Arts Center expanded the High School Musical Theatre Awards program allowing participation to double from 10 to 20 schools. Participating students had the opportunity to take part in workshops, a college fair, and other learning experiences in recent weeks. Nominations in a [variety of categories](#) were [revealed on April 25](#).

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 Grear Harris Schuller LLP, The Mosey Family Foundation, Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc., Univera, IATSE 10, 500 Pearl, and the Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers.

Several of the award-winners will receive grants which support continuing performing arts education at the high schools. In addition to the announcement of winners in each of the 21 categories, two students, Amherst High School Student Connor Hesch and Nardin Academy student Tori Gill were selected to represent Shea's Performing Arts Center at The

Jimmy Awards, a national high school musical theatre awards competition held in New York City.

Below is a list of the 2024 Shea's High School Musical Awards winners:

All-Star Cast

Nardin Academy - Ricardo Guzman
Amherst High School - Carson Belle-Isle
Brocton Central School - Izzie Abbey
Fredonia High School - Leah Marsh
Lake Shore High School - Lauren Smith
St. Mary's High School - Nick Cox
West Seneca West High School - Addyson Smart
Pine Valley Jr./Sr. High School - Aryanna Bardo
Eden High School - Maverick Sutherland
St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute - Maeve Garvey
Sweet Home High School - Derek Woodford
Jamestown High School - Ashlyn Galeazzo
Cleveland Hill High School - Kyra Vest
Dunkirk High School - Hazel Bache
Randolph Jr./Sr. High School - Aubrey Marquez
Maple Grove Jr./Sr. High School - Allison Bohall
Belfast High School - Sean Mahon
John F. Kennedy Jr./Sr. High School - Alivia Ciapa
Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts - Veronica Kline
Royalton Hartland High School - Gwynivere Fuller

SPirit OF WONDER AWARDS

Magic of Theatre Award

John F. Kennedy Jr./Sr. High School
The Sound of Music

Power of Storytelling Award

Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts
Mean Girls

Celebration of Community Award

Belfast High School
Beauty and the Beast

Outstanding Execution by Crew

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

Outstanding Original Poster Design

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

Michael Shea Award for Theatre Educator of the Year

Matthew Refermat
John F. Kennedy Jr./Sr. High School
2024

The Showstopper Award

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
"Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat"
Guys and Dolls

Outstanding Direction of a Musical

West Seneca West High School
Mamma Mia!

Outstanding Choreography of a Musical

Nardin Academy
Chicago: Teen Edition

Outstanding Music Direction of a Musical

Fredonia High School
Beauty and the Beast

Outstanding Scenic Design and Execution (\$500 Grant)

West Seneca West High School
Mamma Mia!

Outstanding Lighting Design and Execution (\$500 Grant)

Fredonia High School
Mamma Mia!

Outstanding Hair and Makeup Design and Execution (\$500 Grant)

Randolph Jr./Sr. High School
The Little Mermaid

Outstanding Costume Design and Execution (\$500 Grant)

Sweet Home High School
The Addams Family

Outstanding Dance Execution (\$500 Grant)

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
Guys and Dolls

Outstanding Collective Vocal Performance (\$500 Grant)

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
Guys and Dolls

Outstanding Student-Led Orchestra (\$500 Grant)

Amherst High School
Les Misérables

Outstanding Collective Ensemble Performance

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
Guys and Dolls

Outstanding Lead and Supporting Performances - BRONZE

Fredonia High School
Beauty and the Beast
Jackson Gollintz, Miriam Labarr, Jack Tuccio, Draejen Hicks, Ava Hartung

Outstanding Lead and Supporting Performances - SILVER

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
Guys and Dolls
Maceo Rodriguez, Breanna Ring, Anna Karassik, Joe DiMaio, Joshua Weil

Outstanding Lead and Supporting Performances - GOLD

West Seneca West High School
Mamma Mia!
Chloe Prezpasiak, Jonah Higgins, Michael Duffy, Ava Schara, Anna Blickwedehl

Outstanding Production of a Musical - BRONZE (\$1,000 Grant)

Fredonia High School
Beauty and the Beast

Outstanding Production of a Musical - SILVER (\$2,500 Grant)

West Seneca West Senior High School
Mamma Mia!

Outstanding Production of a Musical - GOLD (\$5,000 Grant)

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
Guys and Dolls

The STAGE Finalists

Ava Schara - West Seneca West High School

Connor Hesch - Amherst High School
Johnny Kiener - Nardin Academy
Jonah Higgins - West Seneca West High School
Liam Dunne - St. Mary's High School
Naomi Lawley - Nardin Academy
Shylah Douglas - Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts
Tori Gill - Nardin Academy

The Shea's High School Musical Awards Program, led by [Shea's Arts Engagement & Education](#) Department, is one of several programs that serve the Shea's Performing Arts Center mission *"To restore and maintain Shea's Buffalo Theatre for present and future generations to enjoy as a working historic theatre providing a wide variety of live performing arts experiences for our patrons and innovative and effective educational experiences fostering an appreciation of live theatre by area youth."*

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

Video: [The "Student Talent And Growth Experience" STAGE workshop](#)

Graphics: [For winners in each category](#)