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St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Takes Gold in Shea's High School Musical Awards Program

Ceremony Held to Celebrate St. Joe's Awards in Seven Categories, Present School with \$6,000 in Grants Toward Performing Arts Program

The cast and crew of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute (SJCI) Musical *Guys and Dolls* were recognized during a ceremony hosted by Shea's Performing Arts Center. The school won in seven categories during Shea's High School Musical Awards Program including the grand prize for Outstanding Production of a Musical, which comes with a \$5,000 award toward the school's performing arts program, and \$1,000 in additional cash awards.

The list of categories won by St. Joe's includes:

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

Outstanding Dance Execution (\$500 Grant)

Outstanding Collective Vocal Performance (\$500 Grant)

Outstanding Collective Ensemble Performance

The Showstopper Award for "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat

Outstanding Lead and Supporting Performances - SILVER

for Maceo Rodriguez, Brenna Ring, Anna Karassik, Joe DiMaio, Joshua Weil

All-Star Cast Member: Maeve Garvey

Maeve Garvey, student named to the Shea's High School Musical Awards Program All-Star Cast, said, "On behalf of the St. Joe's theater community, I, my cast mates and crew are so honored to be here today and to have accepted this amazing award! It is truly a dream come true for every single one of us to have been given this opportunity by Shea's and its sponsors. We are honored to be the first school to be recognized and look forward to being ambassadors to Shea's and its programs for years to come. Thank you for giving us

another chance next year as well to defend the title, And to have our game go on. Thank you!"

"We are grateful that Shea's and the local arts community here in Buffalo has taken this opportunity to recognize the incredible commitment to the performing arts that so many schools in Western New York have made." **said Jim Spillman, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Principal.** "For us at St. Joe's, a robust performing arts program has been a foundational part of our overall educational program for many years. These students, the young women from our partner schools, and the adults who lead our programs, are extremely talented and dedicated to their craft. Being recognized with these awards is a true testament to their talent and to their investment in the arts."

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.

During the ceremony, held at Shea's 710 Theatre, **Shea's President & CEO Brian Higgins said to the students,** "Take the lessons you've learned through your involvement in the performing arts with you as you move forward - provoke thought, step out of your comfort zone, build connections, and let your voice be heard. The spotlight you've earned today is just the beginning of a bright future."

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.

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