



For Release: September 19, 2024

Contact: Theresa Kennedy

716-803-4281 (cell) | Tkennedy@sheas.org

Shea's Performing Arts Center Announces "Shea's Wonder Awards"

High School Musical Theatre Awards Season Kicks-Off Under New
Name Capturing Shea's History & Future

[Video](#)

Shea's Performing Arts Center is pleased to announce "Shea's Wonder Awards," a program designed to celebrate and support the arts in high schools, foster excellence in musical theatre, and provide valuable educational opportunities to students.

The new name for the high school musical theatre awards program embraces the history of Shea's Buffalo Theatre, which opened nearly a century ago under the moniker "The Wonder Theatre" and continues to be featured on the sign under the theatre's grand marquee. The title also recognizes the wonder that comes with opportunities to engage in the performing arts as a student and the wonder of witnessing incredible young talent.

Shea's President and CEO Brian Higgins said, "The experience associated with participating in a high school musical builds community, self-confidence, creativity, and perseverance, skills that stay with young people for a lifetime. This is an opportunity to

inspire young people to embrace the wonder associated with the performing arts and encourage everyone to celebrate the wonder of live performances.”

Important dates:

Tuesday, October 1 from 4:00-6:00 pm: Information session for local schools to be held at Shea’s 710 Theatre, 710 Main Street, Buffalo

Friday, October 4 at 4:00 pm: Registration opens for schools interested in participating

Tuesday, October 8 at 11:59 pm: Registration closes

Friday, October 11: Participating schools announced

Saturday, May 17, 2025: Save the Date for the Shea’s Wonder Awards Ceremony

In 2024, over 1,300 students from 20 Western New York high schools participated in the high school musical awards program, doubling participation from the previous year. Shea’s is planning to accept 20 schools again for the 2025 Shea’s Wonder Awards program.

Participating schools are eligible to receive grants, and the top two individual performers have the opportunity participate in the National High School Musical Awards program, The Jimmy Awards, in New York City.

Shea’s is also seeking adjudicators interested in volunteering to attend and judge local high school musical theatre performances. Adjudicators should have experience as a professional theatre practitioner and/or classroom educator with theatre experience, must be available to attend select weekend performances between November 2024 and March 2025, and participate in a training session on Sunday October 13 or Tuesday, October 15. Apply online at: <https://form.jotform.com/242115400443037>

Shea’s Wonder Awards are part of a robust Arts Engagement and Education program led by Shea’s Performing Arts Center which includes summer and school break camps, daytime performances for students, and various workshops and masterclasses.

Schools interested in registering or learning more about Shea’s Wonder Awards can visit: <https://www.sheas.org/wonder-awards/>

###