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**Students from Nardin Academy and West Seneca West
Represent Shea's Performing Arts Center & Western New York at
The National High School Musical Theatre Awards®**

Students Participating in Musical Theatre Intensive in NYC This Week;
Watch a Livestream of The Jimmy Awards® on June 23

Two students from Western New York are among [110 students nationwide](#) competing in The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® program, known as The Jimmy Awards®. Representing Shea's Performing Arts Center in New York City this week at The Jimmy Awards® are Jonah Higgins and Naomi Lawley.

Jonah Higgins is an upcoming senior at West Seneca West High School who has performed in numerous productions with both his school and the Music Academy of Western New York. Over the past year, he has acted in four theater productions, played synthesizer in the marching band, alto saxophone in the Wind Ensemble, and sung in both Bel Canto and Jazz Choir. He earned a perfect score of 100 on his New York State School Musical Association solo and was selected for both the All-State Mixed Chorus and the prestigious All-Eastern Honors Mixed Chorus. A versatile multi-instrumentalist, Jonah plays guitar, melodica, piano, alto saxophone, and ukulele. One of his proudest achievements is founding his school's A cappella group, the Acafellows. His dedication and talent have earned him recognition as the 2025 Shea's Student Talent and Growth Experience (STAGE) Program winner and recipient of Outstanding Leading Performance in [Shea's Wonder Awards](#). Notable past roles include: Javert (*Les Misérables*), Sweeny Todd (*Sweeny Todd*), Kenickie (*Grease*), Harry Bright (*Mamma Mia!*), Davey (*Newsies*), Aaron Samuels (*Mean Girls*).

Naomi Lawley is a recent graduate of Nardin Academy in Buffalo, New York. She has performed in numerous shows with Nardin Academy and has trained extensively with the

Academy of Theatre Arts for the past 13 years, Matt's Music for 2 years, and Young Performers of America for 4 years. Her dedication and talent earned her a nomination for the 2025 Outstanding Leading Performance in Shea's Wonder Awards. This spring, Naomi made her New York City debut at 54 Below in the *Movie Musical Mashups!* concert. In addition to her work on stage, she brings a wide range of unique skills, including songwriting, voiceover work, dialects, music production, computer science, and coding. She was the winner of the 2025 Shea's Student Talent and Growth Experience (STAGE) Program and a finalist in 2024. Notable past roles include: Elle Woods (*Legally Blonde The Musical*), Cady Heron (*Mean Girls The Musical*), Witch (*Into The Woods*), Roxie Hart (*Chicago: Teen Edition*), Audrey (*Little Shop Of Horrors*), Princess Fiona (*Shrek The Musical*), Olive (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), Jetsam (*Disney's The Little Mermaid*).

The Jimmy Awards® - The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®) has grown to include 55 affiliated regional high school musical theatre awards programs in various communities across the United States, including Shea's Wonder Awards in Western New York. The program impacts approximately 150,000 students from 2,300 high schools and is sponsored annually by presenters of touring Broadway productions. Named for Broadway impresario James M. Nederlander, the program has been the catalyst for more than \$6 million in educational scholarships since its launch in 2009.

Presented by The Broadway League Foundation, Inc., the NHSMTA invites two nominees from each local regional ceremony to New York City for a rigorous theatre intensive that includes coaching sessions, training, and rehearsals led by some of Broadway's most accomplished professionals. Nominees spend ten days learning and preparing in New York City, and their efforts throughout the week lead to one extraordinary talent showcase performed live in front of an audience on a Broadway stage.

The sixteenth annual Jimmy Awards® will take place on **Monday, June 23, 2025**, at the Minskoff Theatre. Tune in at 7:30pm on June 23rd to watch a live stream of The Jimmy Awards®, hosted by Josh Groban, on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/JimmyAwards/ or YouTube: www.youtube.com/jimmyawards.

To learn more about Shea's Performing Arts Center education programs visit: www.sheas.org/arts-engagement-education/. For more information on The National High School Musical Theatre Awards®, go to www.JimmyAwards.com.

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Additional Resources:

Headshots:

[Higgins Jonah Headshot.jpg](#)

[Lawley Naomi Headshot.jpeg](#)

Graphic: [Official Nominee 2025 Jimmy Awards.png](#)

Shea's Photo: [Jonah Higgins - Naomi Lawley at Jimmy Awards.jpg](#)

The Jimmy Awards® Official Photos of Jonah & Naomi in NYC this week

(Photo Credit: Angela York):

[Naomi Lawley in Rehearsal.jpg](#)

[Jonah Higgins in Rehearsal.jpg](#)

[Jonah Higgins & Naomi Lawley.jpg](#)

[Naomi Lawley.jpg](#)

[Jonah Higgins.jpg](#)