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Shea's Performing Arts Center Announces High Schools Selected to Participate in Shea's Wonder Awards

25 Schools From Across WNY Eligible for Awards & Grants, Top Performers Will Head to National Awards Program

Shea's Performing Arts Center is pleased to announce the twenty-five high schools selected to participate in the 2025-26 [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 program, led by Shea's Arts Engagement & Education Department, was expanded this year from 20 to 25 schools spanning 5 Western New York counties, including: Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara and Wyoming. In addition to the competition, participating schools will receive unique workshop experiences and performing arts training. The 2025-2026 Wonder Awards Ceremony will take place at Shea's Buffalo Theatre on May 16, 2026. Participating schools are eligible to receive grants, and the top two individual performers have the opportunity to participate in the National High School Musical Awards program, The Jimmy Awards, scheduled to take place in New York City on June 22, 2026.

The schools selected to participate this year include:

Alden High School
Bishop Timon St. Jude High School / Mount Mercy Academy
Buffalo Academy for the Sacred Heart

Canisius High School
Cheektowaga Central High School
Cleveland Hill High School
Fillmore Central High School
Gowanda High School
Jamestown High School
Letchworth Central High School
Lockport High School
Maple Grove High School
Mount St. Mary Academy
Nardin Academy
North Collins Jr./Sr. High School
North Tonawanda High School
Pioneer High School
Randolph Jr./Sr. High School
Southwestern Central High School
St. Francis High School
St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
St. Mary's High School
Starpoint High School
West Seneca West High School
Williamsville East High School

The musical production at each school will be evaluated by some of the 36 adjudicators volunteering this year to review the performances. The [2024-25 Shea's Wonder Awards adjudicators](#) include: Anika Pace, Arianna Morris, Cameron Tragesser, Caroline Parzy-Sanders, Christopher Parada, Eric Van Pyrz, Gianna Gould, Heather Arcand, Jacqueline Gould, Jay Marks, Jennifer Mysliwy, Jonathan Beckner, Kathleen Dunne, Lana Sugarman, Laura Motyka Schuh, Lauren Helper, Linda Pew, Lissette DeJesús-Wrafter, Lucinda Karstedt, Maria Jacobi, Maria Pérez-Gómez, Meagan Millar, Melissa Kate Miller, Moriah Armstrong, Nicolette Navarro, Obediya Jones-Darrell, Patrick Towey, Rhiannon Needham, Riley Dungan, Rita Sirianni, Robyn Lee, Rolando Gómez, Steven Maisonet, Sydney Conrad, Terri Filips Vaughan, and Zoe Goñez.

Last year, over 1,500 students from 20 Western New York high schools participated in the high school musical awards program. For more information on Shea's Arts Engagement and Education programs visit: <https://www.sheas.org/arts-engagement-education/>

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B-Roll of the 2024-25 Wonder Awards (Video Credit: Lyrical Pipe Creative LLC):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMmBmdugBgE&t=1s>

Social Graphics for each 2025-26 participating school available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/SheasEDU/posts/pfbid0JyxF1wdEZ8LWBcTMiJh4iBVVPPfrFiQStZUbD4X7pSnFv3eaacxy4U2w6eSWftiEl>