

**Wells Fargo Presents**



**Blumenthal Performing Arts  
High School Musical Theater Awards**

**2019-2020 Blumey Awards**

**General Information**

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **THE MISSION OF BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS**

To present the best in the performing arts and, in partnership with others, share and employ the arts as a major catalyst to strengthen education, build community cohesiveness, and advance economic growth.

### **THE MISSION OF THE BLUMEY AWARDS**

To recognize, reward, and encourage talent and achievement in musical theater among high school students within the Charlotte Region. The Blume Awards program is a means to highlight the importance of musical theater and arts education within our extended community.

### **SCHOOL PARTICIPATION / BLUMEY AWARDS CALENDAR**

Blumenthal Performing Arts will invite public, private, and charter high schools within the Greater Charlotte Region to apply for participation in the 2020 Blume Awards program. The first 40 schools whose applications are received by Blumenthal's Education Department will be guaranteed participation *if their respective musical productions meet certain criteria:*

1. Occur within the program's adjudication window period of January 17-April 18, 2020
2. Located within the 16 counties of the designated Charlotte Region (see county list under Program Rules and Regulations on page 4).
3. Musical production must be eligible for the 2020 National High School Musical Theater Awards competition (The Jimmy Awards)

Due to logistical limitations, a maximum of 10 school productions can be adjudicated on any given weekend. School adjudication dates are determined on a first-come-first-serve basis.

### **SELECTION OF AWARDS RECIPIENTS**

A performance of each participating school's musical will be viewed and evaluated by a panel of four carefully selected judges. Judges will attend home venue performances anonymously. Judges will award points according to detailed guidelines and provide performance and production commentaries for each school as a learning tool. Winners will be announced during the awards ceremony. (For more specific information on judging and evaluation procedures, see page 7.)

### **AWARDS CATEGORIES**

Awards will be given for excellence in the following categories:

Best Musical – Tier 1 (Budgets under \$10,000)	Best Actor Best Actress Best Supporting Actor	Best Choreography Execution Best Overall Direction Best Costume Creation
Best Musical – Tier 2 (Budgets \$10,000+ and Arts Magnet Schools)	Best Supporting Actress Best Featured Performer Best Ensemble/Chorus Best Student Orchestra	Best Set Construction Technical Achievement Award Student Critic Award

### **WELLS FARGO BEST MUSICAL AWARDS**

The Wells Fargo Best Musical category will consist of two tiers. Three schools will be nominated within each tier. Tier 1 will include schools with a musical production budget under \$10,000 and Tier 2 will include schools with a musical production budget of \$10,000 and greater and Arts Magnet Schools.

## **PHYSICAL AWARDS**

A beautiful, engraved trophy with the Blumey Awards logo and year of participation, will be presented to the winner of each award category. Students who win individual awards will receive personal trophies. Schools represented by individual student winners will receive duplicates of those trophies as well as trophies won for production or group categories. All trophies will be suitable for proudly displaying in any school's awards case.

## **BLUMEY AWARDS CEREMONY**

The annual Awards Ceremony will be held at the Belk Theater on Sunday, May 17, 2020. Distinguished artists and community members will present the awards. The following student performances will intersperse the award presentations: one number from each of the six productions nominated for Best Musical (three schools per budget tier) and two medleys featuring students nominated for Best Actor and Best Actress. The order of performances for the ceremony will be decided by the Blumey Awards Music Director.

## **PARTICIPANT EXTRAS**

### **1. Blumey Critic Program**

The Blumey Critic Program aims to foster critical thinking and writing skills among area high school students and is open to students who attend schools participating in The Blumey Awards. More information on this program will be provided to participating schools in December 2019.

### **2. Students Players in Orchestra**

Each participating Blumey school may nominate up to two students to play in The Blumey Awards orchestra. Students nominated for this opportunity must submit an application and teacher recommendation form. Of the students nominated, two will be selected to play in the Blumey Awards orchestra by means of an audition tentatively scheduled for March 21.

### **3. Audition Workshop**

Students who are scored in the Best Actor and Best Actress categories from each participating Blumey Awards school will be invited to attend an audition workshop in the spring of 2020. Students will work with professional musicians on audition techniques and will be coached on a song from their spring musical.

### **4. Tips and Tricks Workshop**

In conjunction with the mandatory teachers meeting on Saturday, January 4, teachers of participating Blumey Awards schools will be invited to attend a tips and tricks workshop. Local professionals will be on hand to provide tips in several areas related to musical production. More information will be available in late fall.

### **5. Technical Portfolio Workshop**

Students involved in the technical theater aspects of a participating school's musical production will be invited to attend a Technical Theater Portfolio workshop. Taught by a local professional, this seminar will teach students how to assemble a portfolio to showcase their work. Portfolios must be submitted to compete for the Technical Achievement Award.

## **PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

1. All public, private, and charter schools in the following counties are eligible to apply for participation in The Blumey Awards.
  - North Carolina: Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanley, Union
  - South Carolina: Chester, Chesterfield, Lancaster, York
2. Schools must register for the Blumey Awards on an individual basis. Schools may not register for the Blumey Awards program as a group of multiple schools or organizations.
3. Only schools producing full-length musical productions are eligible for participation. This includes “School Editions” but not Broadway Junior or TYA shows.
4. Due to practical limitations, Blumenthal can accommodate a limited number of schools in the program. Therefore, participation will be on a first come, first served basis. The first forty (40) schools whose musical productions occur between January 17 and April 18 and return a completed PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM--will be guaranteed participation. Program Participation Forms will be accepted between **Tuesday, October 1, 2019 and Wednesday, October 9, 2019.**
5. Participating School Performance casts must be made up of at least 70% students in grades 9-12 and who are currently enrolled at the participating school.
6. School musical productions must also be eligible for participation in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards program, also known as The Jimmy Awards. Qualifying roles (Best Actor and Actress roles) and productions will be available in the fall. If a production is not listed, there is an appeals process in place to have additional productions approved. At this time, there are a few productions not eligible for the NHSMTA program including GREASE.

### **SCHOOL CONTACT PERSON / COMMUNICATION**

1. The school contact person is the individual to whom all Blumey Award correspondence will be addressed. It is vital that this person have access to mail, e-mail, phone calls, and faxes between October 1, 2019, and the awards ceremony. Ideally, only one person at each participating school serves as the main Blumey Awards contact.
2. The contact person must return all forms by the deadline indicated on each form.

### **MANDATORY DIRECTOR’S MEETING**

Each participating school’s contact person and musical director (if not the same individual) will be required to attend a MANDATORY meeting prior to the beginning of the judging period. The purpose of this meeting is to describe and discuss program procedures in detail and to answer questions. This meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 4, 2020.**

### **AWARD CATEGORY RULES**

In keeping with The Blumey Awards’ mission of recognizing, rewarding and encouraging talent and achievement in musical theater *among high school students*, awards will highlight student effort, skill, and talent displayed at home venues, not the efforts and abilities of assisting professionals and others. Therefore, the use of individuals other than students and faculty will disqualify a participating school from competing in some award categories. However, the use of non-students/faculty in non-performance aspects of a home venue production will not disqualify participating schools in categories such as Best Musical and Best Ensemble/Chorus. (Faculty is defined

as any full-time or part-time staff member at the participating Blumey Awards school who is paid by the school district on an annual basis. One who is hired or volunteers to work on select productions throughout the year, or who is paid directly by the school or in another manner, does not qualify as faculty.)

1. **Overall Direction** – Schools utilizing a director other than a faculty member and/or student are ineligible to receive the Best Overall Direction award.
2. **Student Orchestra** – Schools utilizing more than one adult/professional/non-student musician (including an instrument-playing conductor) per nine student musicians in the orchestra are ineligible for the Best Student Orchestra award. Musical scores that call for fewer than 10 players must be entirely comprised of student players to be eligible for this award. Unless the conductor plays an instrument during the show, they are not counted in the student-to-professionals ratio.
3. **Set Construction** - Schools utilizing a set designer other than a faculty member and/or student are ineligible to receive the Best Set Construction award. Schools that rent, purchase as final product, or borrow more than 30% of their scenery or props are ineligible to receive the Best Set Construction award. Students MUST be involved in at least 50% of the construction labor to be considered eligible in this category.
4. **Costume Creation** – Schools utilizing a costume designer other than a faculty member and/or student are ineligible to receive the Best Costume Creation award. Schools that rent, purchase as final product or borrow more than 30% of their costumes are ineligible to receive the Best Costume Creation award. Students MUST be involved in at least 50% of the costume-making labor to be considered eligible in this category.
5. **Individual Performance Awards** – Only registered high school students from the respective participating Blumey Awards schools are eligible to receive the following awards: Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Featured Performer.
6. **Best Ensemble** – Casting and participation of adults or students not in grades 9-12 in the ensemble will make a production ineligible for this category.
7. **Best Choreography Execution** – Casting and participation of adults or students not in grades 9-12 in the ensemble will make a production ineligible for this category.

#### **TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This category honors students who were a part of the technical aspects of their participating Blumey Awards production. Areas of eligibility include Stage Management, Technical Direction, Lighting Design and/or Execution, Sound Design and/or Execution, and potentially other technical aspects of the production not included here. More information on this portfolio-based award will be available in late fall.

### **USE OF STUDENTS FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL**

Schools utilizing a student(s) from a school other than their own will be ineligible for the Blumey Awards. The exception is the case in which a musical calls for the casting of one to three very young children in minor roles that could not reasonably be performed by a high school student(s). If a school is a K-12 or 6-12 school, no more than 30% of the cast may be made up of students in grades other than 9-12. As stated above, only high school students will be eligible to receive individual performance awards. This percentage requirement is in regards to the performance cast(s). Faculty may be included in the ensemble only. As the Blumey Awards program is intended for high school students, it is preferred that musical casts consist of students in grades 9-12 only.

### **USE OF HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS**

The participation of homeschool students will not disqualify a **school** when the following guidelines are met:

1. Homeschool students must be in grades 9-12 and registered in at least one academic (graded) class. An enrichment or afterschool program does not qualify as an academic class.
2. The student(s) must not be enrolled in another high school or participate in another high school production.
3. No more than 20% of the cast and crew may be made up of homeschool students.

While homeschool students are ineligible to participate in a production for a school where they are not enrolled, homeschool co-op groups are eligible to participate in the Blumey Awards. Co-ops are treated as a school upon registration. BPA reserves the right to make all eligibility decisions related to casting in homeschool co-op productions.

### **SCHOOL MUSICAL PROGRAM AD**

Blumenthal will provide each participating school with an advertisement for The Blumey Awards. It is MANDATORY that this ad be placed in each participating school's Playbill-type program. The ad highlights each school's participation in THE BLUMEY AWARDS competition and ceremony.

### **ORCHESTRA AND PIANO SCORES**

Each school must retain their production's orchestra and piano scores until the nominations are announced by the Blumenthal. At that time, Blumenthal will inform schools nominated for one or more awards of their need to retain their scores further. Advance arrangements will be made by Blumenthal with all appropriate licensing houses for schools to retain their music through May 18 without additional cost.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

It is MANDATORY that each participating school send a group photograph of their production for inclusion in the awards ceremony playbill. The digital photograph must be in a Jpeg format in the highest resolution possible. It is also mandatory to submit production photographs, including construction, rehearsals, and performances (which can be taken during dress rehearsal).

### **FEES / TICKETS**

1. There is no participation or application fee for the Blumey Awards program.
2. Each participating school will be provided two complimentary tickets to the May 17 ceremony.
3. Prior to tickets going on sale to the public for the May 17 Blumey Awards Ceremony, each participating school will have the opportunity to purchase group tickets (at a highly reduced rate) for cast, crew, and show directors.

4. Ticket information for the general public is issued by Blumenthal at least two weeks in advance of the ceremony.

### **PARTICIPATION IN OPENING AND CLOSING NUMBERS**

It is MANDATORY that each participating school participate in the awards ceremony Opening and Closing Numbers. Two students from each school, a boy and girl, must attend mandatory rehearsals, and represent their school in the awards ceremony. The failure of any school to participate in the Opening and Closing Numbers may affect eligibility for future participation in the Blumey Awards program.

### **BEST ACTOR AND BEST ACTRESS NOMINEES**

The students that score in the top 20 in the Best Actor and Best Actress categories will be invited to audition before a special panel on Saturday, May 2. The six nominees for both of these categories will be chosen after the auditions and announced on Monday, May 4. During the Blumey Awards Ceremony, Best Actor and Best Actress nominees will perform in a musical medley. Nominees MUST attend all of the mandatory rehearsals listed below.

The winners of the Best Actor and Best Actress awards will represent the Blumenthal in New York City at the National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA, known as The Jimmy Awards) in the summer of 2020. They will receive an all-expenses paid trip to New York City where they will receive professional instruction and compete with students from other regional awards programs for the title of Best National High School Actor and Best National High School Actress. In the event that the winner of the Blumey Awards Best Actor or Best Actress is unable to take part in the National High School Musical Theater Awards program, the nominee with the second highest score will be asked to represent Blumenthal.

To be eligible for participation in the Jimmy Awards, students selected as Best Actor and Best Actress at their respective regional programs must also have played a NHSMTA-recognized leading role in their school productions. For this reason, the only student participants eligible for The Blumey Awards Best Actor and Best Actress nominations will be those playing NHSMTA-recognized leading roles in their school productions. (Participating schools will be provided an official list of leading roles at the mandatory Director's meeting in January.)

### **MANDATORY REHEARSAL DATES AND TIMES**

Students who will perform in the Ceremony (Opening/Closing Numbers and Best Actor/Actress Medleys) are required to attend all relevant scheduled rehearsals during the week prior to the awards.

- Tuesday, May 12 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 13 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Thursday, May 14 from 5:00-9:00 PM (\*Note call times are different for Best Actor/Actress Nominees)
- Friday, May 15 from 6:30-9:00 PM (Orchestra Students ONLY)
- Saturday, May 16 from 10:30-3:00 PM
- Sunday, May 17 from 2:00-5:00 PM

It is MANDATORY that all students participating in the musical numbers of school productions nominated for the **Wells Fargo Best Musical Awards** attend rehearsal on Sunday, May 17 from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.

## **JUDGING & EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

### **JUDGES**

Blumenthal Performing Arts will appoint a panel of adjudicators consisting of qualified arts professionals and supporters to serve as Blumey Awards judges. Judges are required to attend a mandatory meeting in the fall that

will provide an extensive orientation of the program and the evaluation process. The scoring of Blumey judges is based on a well-constructed and vetted judging rubric which takes into consideration each participating school's unique resources and challenges. Awards criteria emphasizes student achievement, not size or elaborateness of production.

### **JUDGING PROCESS**

1. Each judge is required to adjudicate at least four school productions and will not be assigned to a school for which there may be a conflict of interest.
2. Four judges will evaluate each school only once. If a show is double cast, the school directors will specify the cast they want to be judged.
3. Each school will be notified of the date in which Blumey Awards judges will be evaluating their show.
4. On the respective judging date, up to eight complimentary reserved tickets must be held at the school's box office under "Blumey Awards Judges." Please make sure these seats are in a good location.
5. Each team of judges is required to meet directly after the show to discuss the production. The Director or another adult production member must be available to meet with the judges immediately following the performance to answer any judges' questions.
6. Following an adjudicated performance, each attending judge will individually score the twelve award categories. Judges will also write a performance critique to give the school feedback on their production.
7. Judges will individually enter their respective scores into an online system managed exclusively by an appointed accounting firm and submit their performance critiques electronically to an administrative judge to be compiled into one document.
8. The highest score for each award category will determine respective category winners.
9. All actual scores will be calculated and kept sealed by the accounting firm until the awards ceremony.
10. Blumenthal will send the compiled performance critiques to each school after completion of the awards ceremony. Schools will not receive numerical scores.
11. All scores will remain the property of Blumenthal Performing Arts.

### **NOMINATIONS/WINNERS**

1. Only names of Nominees and Winners of each category, not scores, will be made public.
2. Nominations will be sent to all schools via e-mail on Friday, April 24.
3. There will be six nominees for each category.
4. All decisions will be final in all respects.

**Blumenthal Performing Arts retains the right to all decision-making in matters requiring interpretation of the above-stated rules and regulations and for special circumstances not directly addressed by the same.**