

Wells Fargo Presents



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

2022 Blumey Awards Handbook

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BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS MISSION

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 BLUMEY AWARDS MISSION

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 2022 Blume Awards program. The first 50 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 1-April 28, 2022.
2. Located within the 16 counties of the designated Charlotte Region (see county list under Program Rules and Regulations on page 5).
3. Utilize material from a musical production eligible for the 2022 National High School Musical Theater Awards competition (The Jimmy Awards).
4. Participating schools must commit to ALL dates and deadlines (see page 12).

Schools will be asked to provide adjudication date and time preferences; adjudication must occur during a public performance. Blumenthal Performing Arts will make every effort to schedule adjudication at one of the requested dates and times or will work with the school to identify an alternate time. School adjudication dates are determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

SELECTION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

A performance of each participating school’s musical will be viewed and evaluated by a panel of three 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 adjudication procedures, see page 9.)

2022 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 Student Costume Designer |
| Best Musical – Tier 2
(Budgets \$10,000+ and
Arts Magnet Schools) | Best Supporting Actress
Best Featured Performer
Best Ensemble/Chorus
Best Student Orchestra | Best Student Set Designer
Best Student Stage Manager
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. Tier 2 will include Arts Magnet Schools and schools with a musical production budget greater than \$10,000.

PHYSICAL AWARDS

A beautiful, engraved personalized trophy with the participating year and Blumey Awards logo, will be presented to individual category winners. Schools represented by individual winners will receive duplicate trophies as well as trophies won for production or group categories. All trophies will be suitable to proudly display in any school's awards case.

BLUMEY AWARDS CEREMONY

The annual Awards Ceremony will be held at the Belk Theater on Sunday, May 29, 2022. 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 who are not participating in the production. More information on this program will be provided to participating schools in December 2021.

2. Student Players in an 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 May 7, 2022.

3. Industry Panel - Zoom

Learn about working in the theater industry from some of today's top Broadway professionals. Students will learn about each professional's unique career, gain insight with tips and tricks for success along with funny stories from NYC and the road. The session will conclude with a live Q&A!

4. Ensemble - Zoom

Industry experts share the secret to a successful ensemble and the power of collaboration while revealing their own stories of ebbing between lead and supporting roles. Participants will explore how they can stand out as a team and gracefully move between a variety of roles in a cast.

5. Actor Self-Care Workshop - Zoom

Don't burn out! Participating students will gain tools to support life balance and enhance mental health while juggling rehearsal schedules with other priorities.

6. Rehearsal Best Practices Workshop - Zoom

Bring your best self to rehearsals by learning tips and tricks to success. From blocking shorthand to accepting a note from your director – industry professionals will reveal their best secrets to a strong rehearsal process.

7. Stage Management, Set Design, Costume Design, and Technical Portfolio Workshops – In-Person

Student stage managers, set designers, and costume designers from a participating school's musical production will be invited to attend workshops led by industry professionals. Portfolio workshops will be

offered to prepare and rehearse their presentation for the award category adjudicators. Portfolios must be submitted to compete for the Stage Management, Set Design, and Costume Design awards.

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS NOMINEE EXTRAS

1. **Virtual Audition Workshop: Selecting an Audition Song - Zoom**

Students in qualifying roles for Best Actor and Best Actress are invited to sign up for virtual small group sessions with theatrical voice experts to assist in identifying 32-bar song selections that best showcase their ability and unique talent. Qualifying students will receive one free virtual coaching session.

2. **Resume and Headshot Workshop - Zoom**

Students in qualifying roles for Best Actor and Best Actress are invited to a workshop on best practices for curating a headshot and resume that best represents the student as a young performer. This workshop, conducted via Zoom, will be led by Blumenthal's Special Programs Manager, Tommy Prudenti, alongside industry professionals. Together they will walk through the steps of compiling a headshot and resume that can be used for Blumey Award participation and/or future auditions.

3. **Blumey Bootcamp – In-Person**

Each school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominees will be invited to attend a three-day intensive bootcamp, during the week of May 2nd, that includes voice, acting and dance training with industry professionals to prepare them for the second round of adjudication. The three-day intensive will occur at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center; full details will be provided in advance. Schools must be willing to excuse daytime absences for their nominees to attend the intensive.

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 only accommodate a limited number of schools in the program. Therefore, participation will be on a first come, first served basis. The first fifty (50) schools whose musical productions occur between January 1 and April 28 and return a completed PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM--will receive a spot in the program. Program Registration Forms will be accepted **October 1-15, 2021**.
5. Participating school performance casts must be made up of students in grades 9-12 and who are currently enrolled at the participating school. (See 'Using Students from Another School' on page 7 for further information and exceptions.)
6. School musical productions must also be eligible for participation in the National High School Musical Theater Awards program, also known as The Jimmy Awards. The most current list of qualifying roles

(Best Actor and Actress roles) and productions can be found [here](#). If a production is not listed, there is an appeal process in place to have additional productions approved.

SCHOOL CONTACT PERSON / COMMUNICATION

1. The school contact person is the individual to whom all Blumey Award correspondence will be addressed. This individual is required to have access to mail, e-mail, and phone calls between the time of registration and the awards ceremony. Only one person at each participating school serves as the primary Blumey Awards contact.
2. The contact person must meet all deadlines including form completion and communication response times.

MANDATORY MEETINGS

A staff representative must attend all mandatory meetings (see Important Dates on page 12). Due to the ever-changing landscape during COVID-19, additional or impromptu virtual meetings may be announced throughout the year.

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** – Orchestras must be comprised of at least 75% student players to qualify for Best Student Orchestra. Schools utilizing *more than* 25% adult/professional/non-student musician (including an instrument-playing conductor) are ineligible for the Best Student Orchestra award. Unless the conductor plays an instrument during the show, they are not counted in the student-to-professionals percentile.
3. **Student Set Designer** - Schools utilizing a set designer other than a 9-12th grade student are ineligible to receive the Best Student Set Designer award. Schools that rent, purchase as final product, or borrow more than 25% of their scenery or props are ineligible to receive the award. The student designer **MUST** lead a student crew in 75% of the construction labor to be considered eligible in this category. A faculty mentor is required to supervise and guide the student process. The production adjudication and portfolio presentation scores will be combined to determine the winner in this category.
4. **Student Costume Designer** – Schools utilizing a costume designer other than a 9-12th grade student are ineligible to receive the Best Student Costume Designer award. Schools that rent, purchase as final product or borrow more than 25% of their costumes are ineligible to receive the award. Students **MUST** be involved in at least 75% of the costume-making labor to be considered eligible in this category. A

faculty mentor is required to supervise and guide the student process. The production adjudication and portfolio presentation scores will be combined to determine the winner in this category.

5. **Student Stage Manager** – Schools utilizing a stage manager other than a 9-12th grade student are ineligible to receive the Best Student Stage Manager award. Student stage managers must be involved in the entire production process including supporting auditions, assisting with rehearsal scheduling, supporting all rehearsals, and calling cues during performances. A faculty mentor is required to supervise and guide the student process. The portfolio presentation scores will determine the winner in this category.
6. **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. The Best Actor and Best Actress winners will be determined by the highest combined production and audition adjudication scores.
7. **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.
8. **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.

USE OF STUDENTS FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL

Schools utilizing student(s) from a school other than their own will be ineligible for the Blumey Awards. The exception is when 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 29 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 ceremony.
3. Prior to tickets going on sale to the public for The Blumey Awards Celebration, each participating school will have the opportunity to purchase tickets 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 THE CEREMONY

It is MANDATORY that each participating school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominees participate in the Blumey Award Ceremony. The nominees must attend mandatory rehearsals and represent their school in the awards celebration. In the case that a Best Actor or Actress nominee has unavoidable conflicts, a request to use the school's Best Supporting Actor or Actress nominee will be considered. Failure of any school to participate in the celebration may affect eligibility for future participation in The Blumey Awards program.

BEST ACTOR AND BEST ACTRESS NOMINEES

The Best Actor and Best Actress nominees from each school will be invited to audition before a special panel on May 7 or 8, 2022. The six nominees for both of these categories will be chosen after the auditions and announced by May 13, 2022. During the Blumey Awards Celebration, the 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 Blumenthal in the National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA, also known as The Jimmy Awards) in the summer of 2022. Blumenthal will cover all fees for the Best Actor and Best Actress to participate in the NHSMTA in which 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. If 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 in that competition.

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 regional program. 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. Qualifying roles (Best Actor and Actress roles) and corresponding productions can be found [here](#).

MANDATORY REHEARSAL DATES AND TIMES

Students who will perform in The Blumey Awards Celebration are required to attend all tentatively scheduled rehearsals during the week prior to the event.

- Sunday, May 22 from 1:00-8:00 PM
- Monday, May 23 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Tuesday, May 24 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 25 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Thursday, May 26 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Friday, May 27 from 5:00-10:00 PM
- Saturday, May 28 All Day
- Sunday, May 29 All Day

*Students may not be called for every rehearsal time but **MUST** have full availability for all dates and times above.

JUDGING & ADJUDICATION 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 that will provide an extensive orientation of the program and the evaluation process. The scoring from Blumey judges will be based on a vetted, comprehensive performance rubric.

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

1. Each judge is required to adjudicate at least four schools and will not be assigned to a school for which there may be a conflict of interest.
2. Three 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 adjudicating their production.
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. Please do not indicate who the judges are to the students or public, i.e., do not label seat holds as 'judge'.
5. Participating shows **must** have an intermission and judges must be provided a completely private space to meet during intermission.
6. Following the performance, the house should be cleared immediately (less than 15 minutes) and any student from the cast who is eligible for Best Actor or Best Actress, based on the Jimmy Awards qualifying roles list, must return to the theater to present a 32-bar audition selection of their choice from any full-length musical production. *Please see below for more details about the Best Actor and Best Actress audition process.*

7. Each team of judges is required to meet directly after the auditions to discuss the production. The Director or another adult production team member must be available to meet with the judges immediately following the performance to answer any judges' questions.
8. Following an adjudicated performance, each attending judge will individually score the award categories. Judges will also write a performance critique to give the school feedback on their production.
9. Following the Best Actor/Actress audition package presentations, judges in attendance will individually complete a rubric for each participating student.
10. Judges will transfer their respective scores into an online system managed exclusively by an appointed accounting firm and submit their rubrics electronically to an administrative judge to be compiled into one final document.
11. Best Actor and Best Actress scores will include the total score from their production and audition adjudication.
12. The highest score for each award category will determine respective category winners.
13. All actual scores will be calculated and kept sealed by the accounting firm until the awards ceremony.
14. Blumenthal will send the compiled performance critiques to each school after completion of the awards ceremony. Schools will not receive numerical scores.
15. All scoring data will remain property of Blumenthal Performing Arts.

BEST ACTOR AND BEST ACTRESS AUDITION ADJUDICATION

1. All performers who are cast in a Best Actor/Actress qualifying role must return to the performance space once the house is cleared, or 30 minutes prior to curtain, to present a 16 to 32-bar audition selection of their choice from any musical theater score. *All eligible roles must participate to qualify in the category.*
2. Students may not start over during their audition packet and will not receive any communication from the judges aside from the calling of their audition number. In the case of a technical error with accompanist or track, the administrative judge will determine if the student can start over and/or where the student should pick back up. If a student makes an error, they must pick back up on their own to continue their audition packet or choose to conclude their audition slot by saying their closing slate.
3. RESUME and HEADSHOT: A digital copy of each student's resume and headshot must be submitted in your school's digital folder to Blumenthal's Education department *two weeks* prior to the adjudication date. Printed copies are not required; however, failure to submit digital copies two weeks prior to adjudication will make the school ineligible in this category.
4. AUDITION SLATE: Each actor should slate at the beginning of their audition. The slate should include the actor's name, song title and show title. For example, "My name is Sarah John and I will sing a selection of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' from *The Wizard of Oz*. Actors should conclude their audition by reiterating their name and saying 'thank you'. 'My name is Sarah John. Thank you for your time.'

5. ACCOMPANIMENT: Each school must provide their students with an accompaniment track (no vocals or backing; no karaoke tracks *if they have background vocals*) or a live accompanist for the first round of adjudication. Students who advance to the second round, (the school's Best Actor/Best Actress nominees), must bring full sheet music for their song to the intensive workshops and second round adjudication. An accompanist will be provided for the intensive workshops and the second round. Blumenthal's Education department can assist with providing accompanist contacts for schools who need to record tracks or wish to contract a live accompanist; however, Blumenthal is not responsible for providing or paying for first round accompaniment.

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS SECOND ROUND AUDITIONS

The second and final round of adjudication will occur May 7-8, 2022, following the bootcamp week. Each school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominee will be provided an audition time slot and will be adjudicated by a panel of industry professionals such as casting associates, agents, actors, directors, and producers. Students will individually slate and perform a full song as well as participate in a group dance audition combo.

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 April 29, 2022.
3. There will be up to six nominees for each category except for Best Actor/Actress.
4. Each school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominee will be announced on April 29, 2022. The top 6 nominees for these categories will be announced by May 13, 2022.
5. 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.

2022 BLUMEY AWARDS IMPORTANT DATES

September 28, 2021	6:30-8:00 pm	Virtual Blumey Information Session - Zoom
October 1-15, 2021		Registration Window – First Come, First Served
Wednesday, October 20, 2021	7:00-8:00 pm	Mandatory Director’s Meeting - Zoom
Monday, October 25	6:30-8:30 pm	Industry Panel - Zoom
Sunday, November 14	2:00-5:00 pm	Student Costume Designer Workshop
	2:00-5:00 pm	Student Set Designer Workshop
	2:00-5:00 pm	Student Stage Manager Workshop
Monday, November 15	6:30-8:30 pm	Ensemble Workshop - Zoom
Week of December 6	Various	Audition Workshop Selecting a Song – Zoom Slots
Starting December 6, 2021		Performance details, cast roster, production budget forms (Due at least 4 weeks before home venue’s first performance.)
Monday, December 13	6:30-8:30 pm	Actor Self-Care Workshop - Zoom
Wednesday, December 15, 2021	7:00-8:00 pm	Mandatory Director’s Meeting - Zoom
Wednesday, January 5	6:30-8:30 pm	Resume and Headshot Workshop - Zoom
Starting January 8, 2022		Deadline for schools to submit: (1) a cast photo for Awards program, (2) a copy of your production program, (3) production photos showcasing different elements of your production, (4) digital resume/headshot for Best Actor/Actress eligible cast members (Due within 1 week of home venue production closing date.)
Sunday, January 9	2:00-4:00 pm	Student Critic Workshop
Monday, January 10	6:30-8:30 pm	Rehearsal Best Practices - Zoom
January 1-April 28, 2022		Adjudication Window
Monday, February 7, 2022	6:30-8:30 pm	Dance Intensive & Physical Care - Zoom
Sunday, April 3, 2022	2:00-4:00 pm	Tech Portfolio and Presentation Workshop
April 29, 2022		Nominations Announced
May 2-6, 2022	8:30 am-4:30 pm	Best Actor/Actress Nominee Blumey Bootcamp
May 2-4, 2022		Private Ticket Pre-Sale
May 6, 2022		Public Ticket On-Sale
May 7, 2022	TBD	Student Orchestra Auditions
May 7, 2022	8:00 am-1:00 pm	Best Actress Auditions
May 7, 2022	TBD	Tech Award Portfolio Presentations
May 8, 2022	1:00-6:00 pm	Best Actor Auditions
By May 12, 2022		Best Actor/Actress Top 6 Announced
May 13, 2022	Before 4:00 pm	Deadline for schools to submit: (1) Nominee Acceptance Form, (2) Individual Award Nominee Information Form, (3) Orchestra scores from each nominated: Best Musical, Best Actor, Best Actress
Sunday, May 22, 2022	1:00-8:00 pm	Mandatory Blumey Awards Ceremony Rehearsals
Mon-Fri, May 23-27, 2022	5:00-9:00 pm	Mandatory Blumey Awards Ceremony Rehearsals
Saturday, May 28, 2022	8:00 am-9:00 pm	Mandatory Blumey Awards Ceremony Rehearsals
Sunday, May 29, 2022	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Mandatory Blumey Awards Ceremony Rehearsals
Sunday, May 29, 2022	7:00 pm	Blumey Awards Ceremony