

Blumenthal Performing Arts High School Musical Theater Awards

2024 Blumey Awards Handbook

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BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS MISSON

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 Blumey 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 2024 Blumey 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 February 1-April 21, 2024.
- 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 2024 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. 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.)

2024 AWARDS CATEGORIES

Awards will be given for excellence in the following categories:

Best Musical – Tier 1	Best Actor	Best Choreography Execution
(Budgets under \$7,500)	Best Actress	Best Overall Direction
Best Musical – Tier 2 (Budgets \$7,500+ and Arts Magnet Schools)	Best Supporting Actor	Best Student Costume Designer
	Best Supporting Actress	Best Student Set Designer
	Best Featured Performer	Best Student Stage Manager
	Best Ensemble/Chorus	Student Reporter Award
	Best Student Orchestra	•

BEST MUSICAL AWARDS

The 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 \$7,500. Tier 2 will include Arts Magnet Schools and schools with a musical production budget greater than \$7,500.

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 schools' awards case.

BLUMEY AWARDS CEREMONY

The annual Awards Ceremony will be held at the Belk Theater on Sunday, May 26, 2024. 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 - More to be added...!

1. Blumey Student Reporter Program

The Blumey Student Reporter 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 by December 2024.

2. Student Players in the 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 on Saturday, May 4, 2024. Students must be from a Blumey Awards participating school; playing in the school's orchestra pit is not required.

3. What's Next?

The post high school path into the performance industry can look very different for each person. Should you pursue a BA? Get into a conservatory? Secure an agent? Audition immediately? Take a gap year? Learn about some of the many options from industry professionals.

4. Dance Intensive

Challenge yourself with a dance masterclass led by a Broadway performer. This session is advanced and best suited for students with prior dance experience only.

5. Acting the Song

Explore the nuances and challenges of physical and emotional characterization while singing. Led by a Broadway professional, this session is appropriate for musical theater performers of all experience levels.

6. Stage Management, Set Design, Costume Design, and Technical Portfolio Workshops

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 EXTRAS

1. Industry Workshop: Resumes, Headshots, and Selecting an Audition Song

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 will be led by industry professionals. The panel will walk through the steps of compiling a headshot and resume that can be used for Blumey Award participation and/or future auditions. Additionally, theatrical voice experts will guide performers in identifying 32-bar song selections that best showcase their ability and unique talent.

2. Blumey Bootcamp

Each school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominees will be invited to attend a three-day intensive bootcamp, during the week of April 29th, 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, Kids 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 <u>first</u> fifty (50) schools whose musical productions occur between February 1 and April 21 and return a completed PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM--will receive a spot in the program. Program Registration Forms will be accepted October 2-15, 2023. Early registration will be available to those who attend the information session.
- 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). Additional or impromptu virtual meetings may be announced throughout the year if necessary.

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. Design teams are not permitted; individual lead student designers are eligible for the 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 design and 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. Design teams are not permitted; individual lead student designers are eligible for the 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 weighted at 70% and evaluations scores weighted at 30% will be combined to determine the winner in this category. Stage management teams are not permitted; individual lead stage managers are eligible for the 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 until after the ceremony without additional cost.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

Participating schools are REQUIRED to provide quality, high resolution, digital, color photos in JPEG format that represent their production. Please include the school or individual's name in the file name. The following photos are mandatory and are due no later than one weeks after adjudication:

- Full cast photo.
- 10-15 production photos including process photos of rehearsal, crew working/building, final dress rehearsals, etc.
- Orchestra photo (if eligible for Best Student Orchestra).
- A photo representative of the production's choreography.
- Full color headshots for ALL Best Actor/Actress eligible performers.
- Full color headshots for all eligible Student Costume Designers, Student Set Designers, and Student Stage Managers.
- Full color head shot for Best Supporting and Best Featured Performer nominees (due within 48 hours of nomination announcement).

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. Should a Best Actor or Actress finalist not be able to commit to the ceremony, the production's Best Supporting Actor or Actress many serve as a substitution. Substitutions must be made by the final day of Blumey Bootcamp. No other substitutes 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 5, 2024. The six nominees for both of these categories will be chosen after the auditions and announced by May 7, 2024. 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 2024. 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 eligible 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-identified 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 19 from 1:00-6:00 PM
- Monday, May 20 from 5:00-9:30 PM
- Tuesday, May 21 from 5:00-9:30 PM
- Wednesday, May 22 from 5:00-9:30 PM
- Thursday, May 23 from 5:00-9:30 PM
- Saturday, May 25 from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM
- Sunday, May 26 from 1:30-9:30 PM

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 tickets must be held at the school's box office under "Blumey Awards Judges" as well as up to four complimentary tickets under "Blumey Student Reporter". Please make sure these seats are in a good location. Please do not indicate who the judges or student critics are to the students or public, i.e., do not label seat holds. Please reserve parking for judges if your parking is limited or spaces close to the facility are limited.

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

- 5. Participating shows **must** have an intermission.
- 6. A completely private space must be available for judges to meet pre-show, during intermission, and post-show.
- 7. Following the performance, the house should be cleared 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 16-32 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.
- 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 a digital management system and submit their feedback electronically 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 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. In the case of a technical error with accompanist or track, the Blumenthal representative 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. The judges should not be provided printed copies; 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. Microphones may not be utilized for auditions.

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS SECOND ROUND AUDITIONS

The second and final round of adjudication will occur May 5, 2024, 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 16-32 bar selection.

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 23, 2024.
- 3. There will be up to six nominees for each category.
- 4. Each school's Best Actor and Best Actress finalist will be announced on April 23, 2024. The top 6 nominees for these categories will be announced by May 7, 2024.
- 5. Best Student Stage Manager, Best Student Set Designer, Best Student Costume Designer, and Best Student Reporter nominations will be announced by May 7, 2024.
- 6. 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.

2024 BLUMEY AWARDS IMPORTANT DATES

6:30-8:00 pm	I VITTURI KILIMAV INTORMATION SACCION - 700M	
0.00 0.00 p	Virtual Blumey Information Session - Zoom	
	Early Registration for Information Session Attendees	
	General Registration Window – First Come, First Served	
•	What's Next? Panel	
•	Student Costume Designer Workshop	
2:00-5:00 pm	Student Set Designer Workshop	
2:00-5:00 pm	Student Stage Manager Workshop	
6:00-8:30 pm	TBD Masterclass	
	Performance details, cast roster, production budget	
	forms (Due at least 4 weeks before home venue's first	
	performance.)	
1:00-4:30 pm	Resume, Headshot, and Audition Selection Workshop	
	Deadline for schools to submit photo requirements	
	(Due within 1 week of home venue production closing	
	date.)	
1:00-4:00 pm	Student Reporter Workshop	
	Adjudication Window	
6:00-8:30 pm	TBD Masterclass	
5:30-8:30 pm	Tap Masterclass with Syncopated Ladies	
6:00-8:00 pm	Tech Portfolio and Presentation Workshop	
	Student Orchestra Application Deadline	
	Student Stage Manager Evaluation Deadline	
	Nominations Announced	
8:30 am-4:30 pm	Best Actor/Actress Nominee Blumey Bootcamp	
	Private Production Ticket Pre-Sale	
	Payment Deadline for Production Ticket Pre-Sale	
10:00 am	Public Ticket On-Sale	
By appointment	Student Orchestra Auditions	
By appointment	Tech Award Portfolio Presentations	
11:00 am-3:00 pm	Best Actress Auditions	
3:00-7:00 pm	Best Actor Auditions	
	Best Actor/Actress, Tech and Student Reporter	
	Nominations Announced	
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	
1:00-7:00 pm	Mandatory Blumey Awards Ceremony Rehearsals	
5:00-9:30 pm	Mandatory Blumey Awards Ceremony Rehearsals	
9:00 am-6:00 pm	Mandatory Blumey Awards Ceremony Rehearsals	
9:00 am-5:00 pm	Mandatory Blumey Awards Ceremony Rehearsals	
7:00 pm	Blumey Awards Ceremony	
•	Adjudication Feedback Shared with Directors	
	6:00-8:30 pm 1:00-4:30 pm 1:00-4:00 pm 6:00-8:30 pm 5:30-8:30 pm 6:00-8:00 pm 8:30 am-4:30 pm 10:00 am By appointment By appointment 11:00 am-3:00 pm 3:00-7:00 pm Before 4:00 pm 1:00-7:00 pm 5:00-9:30 pm 9:00 am-6:00 pm	