



Blumey Awards Student Critic Program *for students in grades 9-12 attending Charlotte area high schools or home schools*

Program Highlights

- Students selected for the program will participate in a seminar to learn the basics of critique and receive training in the mediums of traditional print media, podcasts, and/or vlogging. Workshop panelists and instructors will include Liz Bertrand, freelance feature writer and editor for Blumenthal's *Spark Magazine* and *The Charlotte Observer*, Tim Miner, editor of *The Biscuit* and co-founder of *Charlotte is Creative*, and Brigida Mack, journalist and former TV anchor.
- Students will attend and review three musical theater performances of three high schools participating in The Blumey Awards at their respective home venues.
- Each student will submit two traditional, written reviews and one review using an element of new media (podcast recording, vlog, Tik Tok, etc).
- Students will receive up to two tickets for each performance they review.
- Written reviews must be submitted within one week of each performance reviewed; new media submissions may be submitted within two weeks of each performance.
- Written reviews will be adjudicated by Liz Bertrand, Brigida Mack, and Tim Miner. The student with the highest cumulative score will win *The Blumey Awards Student Critic Award*.

What does the Winner Receive?

- one review posted on *The Biscuit* website at the end of the program (All participants will have their picture published on the website as part of a story at the end of the program.)
- opportunity to join Blumenthal's media team to cover Blumey Awards rehearsals (May 22-28) and the Blumey Awards Ceremony (May 29, 2022)
- the Student Critic Award trophy, presented at the Blumey Awards ceremony, May 2022
- ability to compete for the Jimmy Awards Student Report Search (the national high school musical theater awards program) and a chance to go to NYC (all expenses paid) for The Jimmys week in late June 2022.

Participation Requirements

Students accepted into the program must commit to the following:

- participation in the Student Critic Workshop (briefly described above) on Sunday, February 6, 2022 (1-4pm) at Blumenthal's Booth Playhouse Lobby in Uptown Charlotte
- attendance at three assigned high school musical theater performances between February 11 – April 28, 2022
- submission of a theatrical critique for the three corresponding shows above – two submissions following a traditional print media format and one utilizing new media
- meeting the prescribed short deadlines for submission of reviews

Eligibility & Application Process

Students attending any Charlotte region high school or home school who are interested in journalism, broadcasting, writing, PR, and/or new media involving the performing arts are encouraged to apply for the Student Critic program. ***Students who are cast in a 2022 Blumey Awards musical production are NOT eligible to apply.*** A maximum of 20 students total will be accepted into the program. To be considered for participation, students must submit the following items to Blumenthal's Education team no later than

Monday, January 31st at 5pm.

- a completed application form
- a one-page writing sample (may be an essay or critical review of a performance)
- a one-paragraph summary of your interest in writing, journalism, podcasting, social media, and/or marketing
- a completed teacher recommendation form