



## **Blumey Awards Student Reporter Program** *for students in grades 9-12 from Charlotte area high schools or home school groups*

### **Program Highlights**

- Students selected for the program will participate in a one-day workshop to learn the best practices for theater criticism while receiving training in the mediums of traditional print, social media, vlogging and on-camera reporting. Workshop panelists and instructors will include three local media professionals and/or journalists who will also serve as the adjudicators of the Blumey Award for Best Student Reporter.
- 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 submission 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 must be submitted by the end of March.
- All submitted reviews will be scored by four adjudicators who are all local media professionals and/or journalists. The student with the highest cumulative score for all four submissions will win the Blumey Award for Best Student Reporter.

### **What does the Winner Receive?**

- one review posted or published in a local publication 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 19-25) and the Blumey Awards Ceremony (May 26, 2024)
- the Student Reporter Award trophy, presented at the Blumey Awards ceremony, May 2024
- the possibility to compete for the Jimmy Awards Student Reporter Search (the national high school musical theater awards program) and a chance to go to NYC (all expenses paid) for the Jimmys Awards ceremony in late June 2024.

## **Participation Requirements**

Students accepted into the program must commit to the following:

- participation in the Student Reporter Workshop (briefly described above) on Saturday January 27, 2024 (1-4pm) at Blumenthal's Founders Room in Uptown Charlotte
- attendance at three assigned high school musical theater performances between February 1 – April 21, 2024
- submission of a theatrical critique for the three corresponding shows above – two submissions following a traditional print media format and one utilizing new media
- submission of a one-min student reporter video pitch that will be adjudicated
- meeting the prescribed short deadlines for submission of adjudicated materials

## **Application Process**

Students in grades 9-12 from Charlotte area high schools or home school groups interested in journalism, reporting, creative content, and social or digital media involving the performing arts are encouraged to apply for the Student Reporter program. ***Students cast in principle & supporting roles in their high school 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 **Friday, January 12th at 5pm.**

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