

# THESPIE AWARDS

*Presented by Liberty Playmakers*

2019-2020

## PARTICIPATION GUIDE

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Liberty High School Playmakers

850 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Brentwood, CA 94513



# ABOUT THE THESPIE AWARDS

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The Thespie Awards program is an education initiative which celebrates and supports the educational value, artistry and community of educational theater programs while developing confidence, creativity, and collaboration among students in California. The Thespie Awards strives to embody a spirit of camaraderie and celebration for the arts.

## Program Overview

Each participating school or non-profit organization (501(c)3) registers their school's musical for review by an adjudication team of arts professionals who will provide feedback for the performance. Each reviewer submits a completed rubric with comments regarding all aspects of the production within a few weeks after the performance. Teachers and students use these insights to make their next show even stronger. Outstanding nominees in each category are announced in April. At the culmination of the program, an annual showcase will celebrate the outstanding achievements of participating educational musical theater productions and students.

Throughout the season, students and directors will be invited to participate in learning opportunities in connection to the performing arts. These opportunities may include but are not limited to: discounted tickets for LHS performances and workshops, performance opportunities, workshops with industry professionals and professional development for educators.

## Program Goals

- To celebrate, support and advocate for educational theatre by recognizing excellence in area youth theater productions
- To provide high quality educational experiences in dance, theater and music for students, directors, and school arts programs
- To build confidence, creativity and collaboration in students participating in the arts in our community
- To engage local families and community members in a celebration of theater
- To grow and develop theater audiences and arts advocates in California by building a educational theater community

# PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

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The Spotlight Awards are open to youth educational theatre programs producing musical theater productions. To be eligible for participation, a school must meet the following criteria.

## **Production Dates**

The production must take place between May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and April 25, 2020.

## **Rights and Royalties**

The Thespie Awards Selection Committee requires all schools to have obtained the appropriate licensing for their production. If the committee needs verification, the organization must be able to do so

## **Production Type**

In order for a production to be nominated, the production must adhere to the following criteria:

- Be a production of 45-minutes or longer
- Have a cast size that does not include any actors above the age of 18 years

## **Expectations**

Schools are expected to respect the program and its goals and demonstrate this throughout the process. Schools that do not demonstrate respect for the Thespie Awards program and its goals will not be accepted into the program the following year.

## **Workshop and Awards Ceremony Attendance**

Schools are expected to participate in the Awards Ceremony at the LHS PAC on May 22, 2020. Any schools that choose not to attend this event will be placed on probation the following year.

**Time Commitment**

The TASC adjudicators know that many hours of hard work go into preparing a musical theater production. The program does not wish to create additional work for directors and teachers, but instead hopes to provide visibility for the work that is already being produced. During the school year, there is little additional time commitment required of the directors/teachers other than communicating pertinent information. However, if your show or students are selected to perform at the Awards Ceremony, it may require additional time committed to brushing-up, staging or solo performance rehearsals.

# REGISTRATION

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Registration opens on April 19, 2020 and is available online at <https://lhsplaymakers.weebly.com/> . A director of the production should submit the online intent to participate application

Once registration opens to the public on April 19, applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

The registration deadline is May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

# HONORS AWARDED

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Participating schools will have their musical reviewed by a panel of adjudicators. Based on the adjudicators' comments and scores, schools and individuals will be nominated in specific categories to be recognized and honored at the awards Ceremony at the LHS PAC on Friday, May 22, 2020.

## **Award Categories for 2019-2020:**

### **Organization Awards**

- Outstanding Direction of a Musical
- Outstanding Choreography of a Musical
- Outstanding Music Direction of a Musical
- Excellent Performance by an Ensemble in a Musical
- Outstanding Lighting Design of a Musical
- Outstanding Scenic Design of a Musical
- Outstanding Costuming of a Musical
- Outstanding Prop Design of a Musical
- Excellent Front of House Operations of a Musical
- Best Publicity Campaign
- Overall Exceptional Conceptual Design of a Musical
- Outstanding Contribution to the Community
- Outstanding Musical

### **Individual Awards**

- Excellent Performance by an Actor in a Musical
- Excellent Performance by an Actress in a Musical
- Excellent Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Musical
- Excellent Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Musical
- Excellent Performance by an Ensemble Member in a Musical
- Broadway's Rising Stars
- All Star Cast and Crew of a Musical

**Nominee Announcement**

Nominees for all awards (except All-Star cast and crew) will be announced on April 30, 2020. All-Star Cast and Crew will not be announced until the Awards Ceremony.

All nominees stand up during the ceremony to be acknowledged, and each school should plan who is representing them for each nomination.

**Eligibility**

Eligibility is at the discretion of the Thespie Awards administration, which reserves the right to amend rules as necessary to maintain a fair process.

# AWARD ELIGIBILITY

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## **Performance Award Categories Eligibility**

Includes: Outstanding Ensemble Actor/Actress, Outstanding Supporting Actor/Actress, Outstanding Actor, Outstanding Actress, Outstanding Music Direction, Outstanding Ensemble, and All-Star Cast.

Eligible actors must be registered in grades K-12. Roles performed by a professional/guest actor are not eligible.

If a school presents a co-production or shares performers with another school, a student may only be nominated for their role in one musical production. In the event that a student participates in more than one production and is nominated for their role in both musicals, the student's role that receives the higher judge's score will receive the nomination.

In the event that a school has multiple casts performing the musical, the school must select one cast to be adjudicated and eligible for awards.

## **Outstanding Musical**

Comprehensive look at the production as a whole based on the school's available resources. This category combines scores from 5 evaluation categories – Overall Direction, Overall Design, Overall Staging and Movement, Overall Music Direction, and Overall Student Performance, and reflects the musical's overall synergy, sync, and dynamic.

## **Outstanding Lead Actor and Outstanding Lead Actress**

Comprehensive look at the actor/actresses ability to carry an audience through a show based on acting, singing, and dancing.

## **All-Star Cast and Crew**

The All-Star Cast and Crew will include 2 students from each school who are nominated by their teachers. Teachers will be asked to nominate students they feel deserve this honor, based on their hard work, team spirit, and leadership skills.



### **Design, Concept and Technical Award Categories Eligibility**

Thespie Awards are intended to honor school theater programs and encourage participants to use their available school resources. Therefore, schools using a professional/guest designer are not eligible for the corresponding Thespie Awards. Additional details regarding specific guidelines can be found below.

#### **Outstanding Costume Design**

Eligible for designs created by students and/or faculty at the school. Schools using a professional/guest designer are not eligible. Volunteers may help construct/build costumes.

#### **Outstanding Lighting Design**

Eligible for designs created by students and/or faculty at the school. Schools using a professional/guest designer are not eligible. Volunteers may run this element during the performance.

#### **Outstanding Scenic Design**

Eligible for designs created by students and/or faculty at the school. Schools using a professional/guest designer are not eligible.

#### **Outstanding Design Concept**

Eligible for designs created by students and/or faculty at the school. Schools using a professional/guest designer are not eligible.

#### **Outstanding Choreography**

Eligible for choreography created by students and/or faculty at the school. Based on choreography, not implementation. Schools using a professional/guest choreographer are not eligible.

#### **Outstanding Music Direction**

Schools using live music accompaniment or tracks are both eligible for this award. Schools using a professional/guest musical director are not eligible.

#### **Outstanding Direction**

This category combines scores from 5 evaluation categories – Director’s Concept, Stage Movement, Preparedness, Characterization, and Pace/Timing. Schools using a professional/guest director are not eligible.

# ADJUDICATION

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Adjudicators will evaluate how well a school is meeting or exceeding their own potential based on that school's unique resources and challenges, regardless of budget or size of the production. Different teams of reviewers attend each production, meaning that each school is evaluated independently of other school productions. Adjudicators are asked not to compare, but to provide valuable feedback in hopes of celebrating the achievements of each production and offering insights for strengthening future shows.

## **Community instead of competition**

Schools are not directly competing against each other, but rather challenging themselves to continually grow and create the best possible work they can in their circumstances. The Thespie Awards program works to create a spirit of community and growth among high school theater programs. Our ceremony is based on the Tony Awards, acknowledging nominees as well as award recipients, and celebrating the overall arts happening in our community. We hope that each school will cultivate the arts community by supporting each other during the year, as well as at the ceremony.

## **About our adjudicators**

Our adjudicators are volunteers with substantial education, experience and passion for the performing arts. Among their ranks are students, theater critics, seasoned performers, directors, choreographers, arts administrators, teaching artists, and musical theater aficionados. All of our adjudicators have been trained in musical theater as well as by the Thespie Awards administrators. A full listing of adjudicators will be posted online in May.

## **Conflict of Interest**

Adjudicators are required to alert the Thespie Awards administrators immediately if there is a conflict of interest with a participating school. Adjudicators having a relationship, either professional or personal, with a particular school are not assigned to evaluate that school's production.

## **Anonymity**

The Thespie Awards strongly recommend schools allow the adjudicators to attend performances anonymously, so they can fairly evaluate the production without lobbying from cast members' families and friends or other school representatives. Adjudicators should not receive preferential seating, treatment or gifts of any kind. Schools may be disqualified for providing special treatment.

## **Performance Tickets**

Up to 2 complimentary tickets should be placed at will call for the adjudicators and program administrators for Opening Night of your performance (Unless otherwise contacted by the Chair of TASC). Tickets should be listed under the name Thespie Awards.

Please remember to respect the anonymity of the adjudicators. Do not provide preferential treatment. Seating on aisles or towards the rear of the theater are preferred.

## **Feedback**

Each adjudicator is asked to focus their feedback in a positive way, with the goal of encouraging and growing the arts in our community in mind. Adjudicator feedback is meant to serve as an educational tool, for teachers and students to use these insights to make their next show even stronger.

Adjudicators have 1 week to turn in their ballots to the Thespie administrators. Every effort will be made for each school to receive their feedback within 2 weeks of their performance close.

## **Questions for the Director**

After the show closes, adjudicators may have questions about who an actor or stage hand was, or who designed something, etc. If so, you will hear from Thespie administration with those questions. Please answer them as quickly as possible so that ballots and feedback can be completed. Adjudicators will NOT stay after the performance to speak to school representatives.

**Confidentiality**

Adjudicator feedback is submitted through a secure form. Adjudicators will not provide oral critiques following the performance, nor should school expect to speak to the adjudicators at all. Adjudicators are not allowed to discuss the results, evaluations, scores, or feedback with anyone other than Thespie Awards administrators in any format. This includes, but is not limited to: faculty, staff and students from a participating high school, other adjudicators, colleagues, social media networks, etc.

# THESPIE AWARDS CEREMONY AT LHS PAC

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The Thespie Awards Ceremony is a community celebration of local arts education that acknowledges outstanding achievement and artistry in educational musical theatre, and provides an opportunity for students to share their art with each other.

## **Time and Place**

The Thespie Awards Ceremony will take place May 22, 2020, 7:00-10:00 pm in the Liberty High School Performing Arts Center (850 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Brentwood, CA, 94513).

## **Awards Ceremony Attire**

The Thespie Awards is a red-carpet-style event based on the Tony Awards. The dress for this event is formal.

## **Seating**

All participating schools and nominees will be seated in an assigned location in the auditorium separate from the rest of the audience. Nominees will be seated near the aisles to provide an easier transition to the stage, and may be separate from the rest of their school. Additional audience members will be seated in the remainder of the house.

## **Award Presentation**

The Thespie Awards will present both school and individual awards, and will acknowledge both students and teachers. The full outline of the ceremony and award presentations will be provided as we get closer to the ceremony.

# CONTACT

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If you have any questions, please email the Thespie Award Selection Committee at [thespieawards@gmail.com](mailto:thespieawards@gmail.com)

We can't wait to share the magic!

Sincerely,

Isaiah Mateas

Chair of the Thespie Awards

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