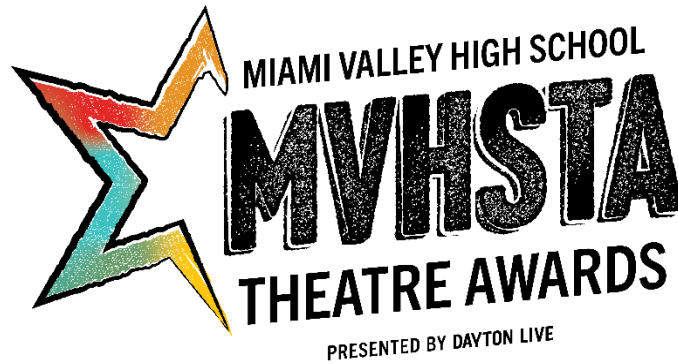




2026-2027 Participating High School Handbook

Purpose

The Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards (MVHSTAs) and Showcase, presented by Dayton Live, are designed to **celebrate**, **support**, and **advocate** for high school theatre education throughout the Miami Valley region. The program celebrates high school plays, musicals, students, and educators by formally recognizing the extraordinary achievements of our community's productions.

About the Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards

The Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards (MVHSTAs), presented by Dayton Live, celebrate the accomplishments of area high school teachers and students by recognizing achievements in productions by participating Miami Valley area high schools. To participate, schools register to have their productions reviewed by a qualified team of Adjudicators, who then provide directors with valuable feedback. During the spring, the Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards will present an Awards Showcase to recognize the outstanding achievements of high school productions and students. Modeled after the Tony Awards®, the showcase features outstanding performances from participating high schools and celebrates their enthusiasm, dedication, and talent while encouraging participating schools to grow and continue improving their programs. To learn more, go to mvhsta.org.

Goals

1. To recognize, honor, and encourage excellence in high school theatre through a constructive review process of nominated productions by qualified Adjudicators.
2. To provide educational workshops and advancement in dance, voice, acting, and stagecraft for high school students locally, regionally, and nationally.
3. To provide professional development and networking opportunities for students, directors, and school programs.
4. To give students an opportunity to perform on a Dayton Live stage.

A Note on Time Commitment

The MVHSTAs know that many hours of hard work go into preparing a high school musical theatre and/or play production. One of the goals of the program is to recognize, honor, and encourage excellence in high school theatre through a constructive review process of nominated productions. During the school year, there is little additional time commitment from directors/teachers other than communicating pertinent information to the MVHSTAs. However, if your show or student(s) is/are selected to receive a MVHSTA, it may require an additional time commitment for brush-up and/or staging rehearsals in addition to the showcase performance.

Participant Eligibility

The MVHSTA program is open to public and private high schools producing plays and musicals in the Miami Valley region. To be eligible for participation for the 2026-2027 Season, a school must meet the following qualifications:

❖ School Location

- High schools **must** be in the Miami Valley (Montgomery, Butler, Warren, Clinton, Greene, Clark, Champaign, Logan, Miami, Shelby, Darke, and Preble Counties).

❖ Production Dates

- Adjudicated productions must take place between September 17, 2026, and May 2, 2027.
- There must be more than one (1) performance of each nominated production or cast. *See note about double-casting on page 12.*

Production Eligibility

Production Types

- **Musical theatre** productions will fall into one or more of the following categories:
 - A published musical, operetta, or review (either currently held by a licensing house or in the public domain) presented with the approval or permission from the original creators or their representatives.
- **Plays** will fall into one or more of the following categories:
 - A published play (either currently held by a licensing house or in the public domain) presented with the approval or permission from the original creators or their representatives.

One-Act Eligibility

To ensure fairness, one-act plays and musicals are only eligible for student design or student direction for official adjudication. One-act plays are not eligible for adjudication in “Overall,” “Ensemble,” or any performance categories.

For the purposes of the MVHSTAs, a one-act play or musical is a production performed without intermission, with a run time of 45 minutes or less.

One-act plays and musicals do count as one of the school’s two productions that are included in the participation fee. Otherwise, the request would result in the additional fee of \$100 per production.

The MVHSTAs cannot adjudicate new and/or original work, and/or unpublished, and/or student-written work during the 2026-2027 Season. If your program commissions a play or musical from a professional playwright or composer, with plans for the work to be published, please contact the MVHSTA team.

How To Register

1. A Theatre Director, or an official representative from the school will go to mvhsta.org and click on the **DIRECTORS** tab at the top of the website.
2. Read through the page for details about eligibility, fees, etc. Then, click on the “Register Now” button near the middle of that page (if you’ve already read through all the eligibility information, you can go directly to mvhsta.org/register).

Registration must be completed no later than:

October 9, 2026

****The MVHSTA team reserves the right to decline participation based on the number of schools already registered.****

3. Once you are on the Registration page, scroll down and you will see boxes to fill in your information including contact info, school info, show info, dates, etc. Please fill out as much information as you can, including clicking the button(s) if you need a copy of Dayton Live’s W-9 and/or an official invoice emailed to you directly.
A reminder that any change to performance or other dates AFTER registering is the responsibility of the Theatre Director to communicate to the MVHSTA Team.
4. Once you are finished filling in as much information as possible, click **SUBMIT** at the bottom of the page. You will see a little message pop up on the page thanking you for starting the process. Your information is sent to us and will quickly be downloaded into our database.
5. That’s it! You have completed the initial registration.

Participant Fees and Payment

The cost of the program is \$200 per school. This fee gives each school the opportunity to nominate two (2) productions. These two productions can be any combination of a play and/or musical. If a school would like to nominate an additional play or musical, an additional fee of \$100 per production will be assessed. *If a school only wants to nominate one (1) play or only one (1) musical, the fee is still \$200.*

If a school would like to nominate more than three (3) productions, please contact the MVHSTA Team before registering.

Once we receive your initial registration, the MVHSTA Team will send you any documentation you need to start your school’s payment process. This includes Dayton Live’s W-9 and/or an official invoice outlining costs of participation based on the information submitted.

Remember, you will not be officially registered until payment has been received.

Once you submit your fee payment, you will receive a confirmation email that acts as your receipt. Checks should be made payable to **Dayton Live**.

General Timeline

Registration Opens for Schools for Fall Productions:	Friday, August 7, 2026
Director Training:	August/September 2026
Adjudication Period Begins:	Thursday, September 17, 2026
Deadline to Register School:	Friday, October 9, 2026
MVHSTA Showcase Tickets on Sale:	April/May 2027
Adjudication Period Ends:	Sunday, May 2, 2027
Jimmy Award Workshop:	Saturday, May 8, 2027
Award Recipients Notified:	By Sunday, May 9, 2027
Music Submission Deadline:	Wednesday, May 12, 2027
Opening/Closing Performers:	Wednesday, May 12, 2027 (names/contact info due)
Timeline for Showcase Rehearsal:	May 17 – May 26, 2027
MVHSTA Showcase:	Thursday, May 27, 2027 at 7:30pm

Publicity

As an endorsement of your school's participation in the program, **[schools are required to include the text below in their show programs/playbills:](#)**

*"This production has been submitted for adjudication for the Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards (MVHSTA), presented by Dayton Live. The MVHSTA Showcase is on **Thursday, May 27, 2026**, at the Schuster Center. Go to mvhsta.org for details on how you and your family can attend the MVHSTA Showcase and support high school theatre in the Miami Valley."*

Dayton Live encourages high schools to announce their participation and promote ticket sales for the MVHSTA Showcase in school newspapers, school/department websites, social media sites, and newsletters. Digital marketing such as logos, copy, and photos will also be provided. Additional ads, press releases, and permission forms can be found under the DIRECTORS tab on the website.

Production Photos

Directors are required to send high quality production photos to MVHSTA@daytonlive.org within two weeks of the show closing. Cast shots, candid backstage pictures, and student technical crew members should be included.

Liability and Media Release Form

This form is available for download on the MVHSTA website. Each form is required to be signed by each student and educator participating in the MVHSTA Showcase and other select Dayton Live activities offered throughout the year.

Mail all forms to: Dayton Live, c/o MVHSTAs, 138 North Main Street, Dayton, OH 45402, or email to MVHSTA@daytonlive.org.

Social Media

Every participating school is invited to do an “Instagram Takeover” during their production(s). This takeover will happen during tech week, or during the production week/weekend, **when possible**. The Dayton Live MVHSTA Manager will coordinate with schools as to when their takeover will be. This takeover may be student or director run.

Each school will receive a document with log in information, rules, and expectations for the takeover from MVHSTA@daytonlive.org, once their takeover is scheduled.

To be eligible for the Social Media Star Award, presented each year at the MVHSTA Showcase, schools must adhere to all rules listed in the document. Eligibility is determined by the MVHSTA Manager at the end of the season.

Dayton Live will also post promotional information on each participating high school’s production(s) on the MVHSTA website.

MVHSTA Showcase

On **Thursday, May 27, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.**, the Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards will present a Tony Awards®-inspired showcase at the Schuster Center honoring schools, students, and directors for artistic excellence in high school theatre. Participants will have the opportunity to receive awards and perform on the Schuster Center stage as a part of the evening’s program. Students, faculty, administrators, and staff from participating high schools are encouraged to promote and attend the awards showcase.

Awards Showcase Tickets

Tickets will be available for purchase through the Dayton Live Ticket Office and online at daytonlive.org. The ticket price will range from \$15-\$25. We encourage all participating schools to attend.

Students performing in the MVHSTA Showcase have a designated seating area and do not need a ticket.

Two complimentary tickets are available for the Primary Contact of each program who organized their school’s involvement with the MVHSTAs. We cannot provide additional complimentary tickets. Additionally, each school’s Principal and district Superintendent will be invited to attend the Showcase at no cost.

Music Submissions for Outstanding Musical/Outstanding Lead in a Musical

Schools invited to perform as a part of the MVHSTA Showcase will be asked to submit the arranged music from the production by Wednesday, May 12, 2027. Music must also be submitted for any Outstanding Production and Outstanding Performer Award winners who are performing.

Directors and Music Directors of ALL Musical productions are encouraged to retain a copy of the CONDUCTOR'S SCORE in case that production, or individual performer from that production, is selected to perform in an Outstanding Performer Medley.

The MVHSTA Team reserves the right to make additional modifications to submitted numbers.

Opening & Closing Company Nominations

Regardless of whether your nominated musical or play is recognized with an award or not, each participating school may select two students to perform in the opening and/or closing numbers at the MVHSTA Showcase. These students are selected at the Theatre Director's discretion. Students who are selected to perform in Outstanding Performer Medleys during the Awards Showcase are not eligible to perform in the opening and/or closing number. **The deadline for this nomination is Wednesday, May 12, 2027.**

Award Notification

In May 2027, the MVHSTA team will meet to decide which of the nominated individuals and performances will receive awards. Schools will be notified of Overall Production and Outstanding Actor/Actress award recipients no later than **Sunday, May 9, 2027**. Please note that not ALL MVHSTA award recipients will be released to schools or the press. By keeping some awardees secret, we hope to create an atmosphere of excitement at the Showcase for many of the categories.

MVHSTA Showcase Performance and Rehearsal Schedule

High schools invited to perform as part of the MVHSTA Showcase will have approximately three weeks to select and prepare numbers, solos, and/or medleys from their adjudicated productions. Performers are required to attend rehearsals at the Schuster Center or other rehearsal space. Most rehearsals will be scheduled during the evenings and/or weekends.

The top scoring productions being recognized with an Outstanding Musical Award are invited to perform a 5-minute (or less) number from its award-winning production. If more than one production is being recognized for Outstanding Musical from a participating school, that school may only perform one production number from one of the musicals.

Any student winning an Outstanding Performer Award from a musical is invited to perform a 2-minute (or less) solo from the nominated show, within an Outstanding Performer Medley.

The MVHSTA Team will assess performance readiness for all Outstanding Performers and Outstanding Musical numbers and reserves the right to make creative changes to the performances during spacing rehearsals.

Rehearsals are required for ALL MVHSTA Showcase performers and are mandatory. Technical Rehearsal with the band will be scheduled for May 17 – May 26, 2027. Exact times/location TBD. The MVHSTA Showcase takes place on **Thursday, May 27, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.** at the Schuster Center.

Awards T-Shirts and Costumes

All student performers in the MVHSTA Showcase are given a T-shirt to keep and wear for the performance.

Outstanding Lead Performers invited to perform are asked to wear something appropriate that reflects the nature of their role in the musical (but not a complete costume). These performers will receive a tee shirt but do not wear them during this portion of the awards showcase. Any additional costume accessories, set pieces, or other props must be approved by the MVHSTA Team.

Scholarships

The Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards is happy to announce scholarship opportunities for rising and graduating seniors working in a participating MVHSTA school's theatre program.

Supporting students in their academic journey beyond high school is one of our goals, and thanks to the generosity of Wright State University and the Lambert Family, we are doing just that with these scholarships.

THE WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY MVHSTA SCHOLARSHIP

As a proud sponsor of Dayton Live's Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards, Wright State University is pleased to award two scholarships annually to graduating seniors at the MVHSTA Showcase. Each scholarship will have a total value of \$12,000, with an annual award amount of \$3000; scholarships are renewable for four years. It is the intention of the MVHSTAs to award one performance scholarship and one production or design scholarship.

THE RON LAMBERT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Lambert Family has always loved theatre – especially high school theatre – and their support of Dayton Live's Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards reflects that love. In memory of Ron Lambert, the Ron Lambert Memorial Scholarship has been created to support advanced training for students who exhibit the same love and affection for the theatre that Ron demonstrated.

The Ron Lambert Memorial Scholarship awards \$1,000 scholarships annually to two students who exemplify their love and dedication to live theatre, work tirelessly in their high school theatre program, demonstrate a spirit of collaboration with their peers, and has a deep desire to continue training in the theatre arts in any discipline. One award will be specifically designated for a design or stage management student. The other award will be given based on submitted criteria and can be from any individual award category.

Directors and Students can go to <https://mvhsta.org/scholarships/> to learn how to apply for these scholarship opportunities.

THE National High School Musical Theatre Awards JIMMY AWARDS®

The Jimmy Awards®/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®)

The Jimmy Awards®/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®) program impacts more than 100,000 students who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by presenters of Touring Broadway productions throughout the United States. Presented by the Broadway League Foundation, the program sends a Best Actress and Best Actor winner from each of these competitions to New York for a week-long theatre intensive of coaching and rehearsals with industry professionals in preparation for a one-night-only talent showcase on Broadway. Named for Broadway impresario James M. Nederlander, the program has been the catalyst for more than \$9,000,000 in educational scholarships. For more information, please visit www.JimmyAwards.com.

The Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards is participating in the 2027 National High School Musical Theatre Awards® in New York City as a Regional Awards Program (RAP). **Although the purpose of the MVHSTAs is to celebrate, support and advocate for high school theatre in our area, the process of selecting two students to send to New York City is competitive and includes an additional selection process.** Rules and regulations for the program may be found at <https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/rules-and-regulations/>.

Please note that students will be selected from both the MVHSTA “Lead Actor / Actress in A Musical” or “Supporting Actor / Actress in A Musical” categories, even though the NHSMTA® language now uses “Qualifying Role” to denote the category. Some “Qualifying Roles” may fall in our “Supporting Actor / Actress” category.

To be eligible for the NHSMTA program, student performers must qualify by:

1. Performing a Qualifying Role in an Approved Musical. This list is available at <https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>.
2. Being available to perform at the MVHSTA Showcase on Thursday, May 27, 2027.
3. Being one of the top performers who receive “Outstanding” scores in either “Actor” or “Actress” in a “Qualifying Role” in their MVHSTA-nominated performance.
4. Being conflict free and available for all days during the NHSMTA® week, scheduled for Friday, June 11th - Tuesday, June 22nd, 2027, in New York City.
5. Attend a **MANDATORY** workshop and audition with theatre professionals on Saturday, May 8, 2027, at Wright State University. Invited students **must** be available from 9 AM – 5 PM.

The MVHSTA Team reserves the right to determine performance readiness of all qualifying students. After the workshop on May 8, 2027, the MVHSTA Team and panel of theatre professionals will use all available information including scores, experience, behavior, investment, and skill to determine who will be selected to attend The Jimmy Awards®. Adjudicator scores are only one factor in determining selection.

A student may be selected as a MVHSTA Jimmys® nominee up to (2) times in their high school career.

Requirements of the MVHSTA Jimmy® Nominees

Once selected as the MVHSTA Jimmy® nominee, student performers will be required to create and deliver a variety of materials needed to submit to The Jimmy production team. When a student agrees to be the MVHSTA Jimmy nominee, they agree to deliver these items in a timely manner. These items include, but are not limited to:

- Video submissions.
- A specifically formatted resume.
- A specifically formatted essay.
- A headshot.
- Release and liability forms.
- Biographical information for The Jimmys.

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Requirements may be added or removed at any time by the Jimmy Awards® or the MVHSTAs.

Once selected, students agree to be available for a variety of press engagements including but not limited to interviews (on and off camera), public performances, special appearances, and more.

Flights, room, and board will be provided to both Jimmy® Nominees at no cost.

It is expected that selected students become MVHSTA ambassadors for our community and high school awards program for the year they are selected and beyond.

This information is subject to change due to a variety of factors. Any changes will be communicated to all MVHSTA Directors in a timely manner.

Previous MVHSTA Jimmy Award Nominees

2021-2022 Season

Zach Ahrens (Versailles High School) and Isabel Rawlins (Versailles High School)

2022-2023 Season

Patrick Comunale (Centerville High School) and Maggie Weckesser (Chaminade Julianne High School)

2023-2024 Season

Connor Egloff (Stivers School for the Arts) and Sydney Korpusik (Centerville High School)

2024-2025 Season

Griffin Greear (Oakwood High School) and Lynn Dauterman (Kettering Fairmont High School)

2025-2026 Season

Griffin Greear (Oakwood High School) and Addison Haines (Springboro High School)



Awards Categories

Awards will be assigned for each category to a top percentage of all submitted productions. **Outstanding Awards** and **Awards of Merit** for high school musical theatre and play productions, as well as student performances and additional awards, are based on adjudication scores. The MVHSTA Team encourages all Directors to alert their students of each nomination in a manner that works for you and your program. Winners will be honored in each of the following award categories:

Core Awards (Adjudicator Scored):

Play Awards
Musical Awards
Lead Role in a Play Awards (Actor/Actress)
Lead Role in a Musical Awards (Actor/Actress)
Supporting Role in a Play Awards (Actor/Actress)
Supporting Role in a Musical Awards (Actor/Actress)
Ensemble Awards

Special Recognition Awards (Adjudicator Scored/Additional Documentation for some Awards):

Student Director (Direction, Music Direction, Choreography) Awards
Student Designer (Lights, Set, Costumes, Sound, Make up, Props) Awards
Student Stage Management Awards
Featured Student Dancer Awards
Student Orchestra Awards
Theatre Program Director of the Year Award *

** This award is community nominated. Go to <https://mvhsta.org/directors/categories/> for information on this process.*

Helpful Hints for Nominating a Student for a MVHSTA

It is challenging to nominate students for awards of any kind. The MVHSTAs are no exception. As you are thinking about your nominations, please consider these thoughts:

- ❖ Are you confident your student performer, designer, or technician is being nominated in the proper category?
- ❖ Are you comfortable explaining to your students (both nominated and not) the reasons they were, or were not, nominated?
- ❖ If your production is an “Ensemble” show where characters are hard to discern, how will an adjudicator know which performer to focus on at any given time?
- ❖ Have you considered the other categories? Do you have a student designer or stage manager you can nominate? Are you prepared to submit the **required additional documentation** to the MVHSTAs?
- ❖ Are you willing to share feedback in a way that helps the student grow in his/her role?

Theatre Directors may submit for Additional Awards. Directors must list them on their Performance Details Form to be considered. ***Please note, awards in these categories are NOT automatically given, and most of the awards require additional documentation to be submitted to the MVHSTAs under a deadline***

Limitations to Nomination Numbers

Each qualifying MVHSTA production is limited to no more than 15 individual nominations. These nominations include performance and additional categories but do not include Overall and Ensemble. If your production is expected to have more than 15 individual nominations, you can choose to pay an additional production fee of \$100 to allow for a second set of adjudicators to attend. Each set of adjudicators would score half of your nominations. **You must alert the MVHSTA team no less than 1 month prior to your production opening if another set of adjudicators needs to be added.**

“Actor” / “Actress” Delineation

For the purposes of the MVHSTAs, students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role that they played. Students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select the category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of the gender of the role) OR they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they played.

Double-Casting

If a school decides to double cast one or more roles, the school must select only one set of cast members to be adjudicated. It will not be possible to adjudicate multiple students for the same role. ***However, if you wish for an additional cast to be adjudicated independently, Theatre Directors can submit to have an additional performance of the same show adjudicated for awards by paying an additional fee of \$100.*** All double-casting decisions must be communicated to the MVHSTA Team as soon as casting is complete. **You must alert the MVHSTA team no less than 6 weeks prior to your production opening if double casting has occurred.** Please contact the MVHSTA Team with information about which performances have been selected for the adjudication panel.

“Supporting” Role Definition

For the purposes of the MVHSTAs, a character that is considered “Supporting” is a speaking character who appears in more than one scene. They are important to the storyline, but recognizably not a lead character. A supporting role is *not* a character that has (approximately) one scene with no or few lines, and could be cut from the script without dramatically altering the story.

Shared Role in Script vs. Playing Multiple Roles in a Production

Students may not be nominated for more than one role for the MVHSTAs in the “Supporting Actor/Actress” categories. Directors may feel compelled to nominate a student who is playing multiple smaller featured roles within a show as a “Supporting” performer. This proves problematic for Adjudicators to properly evaluate that student’s contribution to the production, acting ability, or any other metrics used to evaluate performers.

The only time a student may be nominated for more than one role is if the show is written with that intention.

For example, Cedric / Mr. Voldy in *PUFFS* or Chris / Inspector Carter in *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG* are examples where a student may play two (or more) roles that are expressly written for one actor to perform.

If you have a question as to whether a character should be nominated in the supporting role category, please reach out to MVHSTA@daytonlive.org.

Non-High School Performers in Productions

If your production has students performing who are not in high school, they are ineligible to be adjudicated for MVHSTA recognition. Likewise, if you have an adult performing in your production, they will not be adjudicated. In either case, please alert the MVHSTA Team to discuss those non-high school performers so that a determination can be made about the production's eligibility for the MVHSTAs.

Performers **must** be enrolled at the high school for which they have been nominated. The MVHSTA Team is unable to consider a student for adjudication if they do not attend the school for which they are nominated.

If your production qualifies as an “Outstanding Musical,” and your show includes elementary, middle school, or junior high performers, please note that those students will not be invited to perform at the MVHSTA Showcase in May.

The MVHSTA team reserves the right to remove your show from Overall and Ensemble award consideration if your cast is comprised of more than 25 percent non high school students.

Performance Details Form, Nominations, and Performer Photos

Theatre Directors are responsible for completing their Performance Details Form(s) through the MVHSTA website and submit it no later than three (3) weeks before the first performance of the nominated production.

Failure to submit by the three-week deadline may result in the production being removed from adjudication consideration.

All Directors must email an individual photo of each nominated performer to MVHSTA@daytonlive.org by the performance details form three-week deadline.

Headshots should show each performer's face clearly. These do not need to be professional photos – they can be taken on an iPhone or can be school photos. Files should be named as the student's name. They should not be full body pictures, selfies, or photos pulled from the student's social media.

Good examples from the 25/26 season include:



Additional Documentation for Specific MVHSTA Special Recognition Award Nominations

To support the growth and artistry of student designers, directors, and stage managers, the MVHSTAs has implemented additional requirements for any Student Designer, Director or Stage Management nomination. The requested documents are listed below, and templates are available from the MVHSTA website to be used **BEFORE and DURING the production – not afterward**. Any questions about these documents should be sent to the MVHSTA Team.

Directors must send copies of the requested documents from the lists below for the nomination to be adjudicated within two weeks of the closing of the production. More detailed information is available at mvhsta.org.

Outstanding Student Stage Manager

- 1-2 pages out of the prompt script that clearly shows use of blocking shorthand.
- 1-2 pages out of the production calling script that shows clear, noted light and sound cues.
- 1 sample tracking document like a shift plot, costume plot, or prop tracking, etc.
- 1 letter of recommendation from the Director of the production, or Director of the program.

Outstanding Student Designer (Set, Lights, Sound, Props, Makeup)

- 1-2 pages of research that shows the designer developing an approach to the play/musical.
- 1 exemplar of a sketch, audio file, drawing, schematic, or other artful document that plainly shows the student designer's research moving into application for the play/musical.
- The student designer's artistic statement about their approach and design aesthetic.
- 1 letter of recommendation from the Director of the production, or Director of the program.

Outstanding Student Director or Music Director

- 1-2 pages of research that shows the director developing an approach to the play/musical.
- 1-2 pages from the student director's script/score showing blocking notes, ideas, etc.
- The student director's artistic statement about their approach and influence.
- 1 letter of recommendation from the "Producer" of the production, or Director of the program.

Outstanding Student Choreographer

- 1-2 pages of research that shows the choreographer developing an approach to the play/musical.
- 1-2 pages from the script/score showing blocking notes, choreography ideas, etc.
- The student choreographer's artistic statement about their approach and influence.
- 1 letter of recommendation from the "Producer" of the production, or Director of the program.

Adjudicators

As mentioned earlier, nominated productions of plays and musicals will be adjudicated by a group of trained, experienced community members who have a background in the performing arts. Adjudicators will complete mandatory training and adjudicate each production on its own merits. Adjudicators will remain as anonymous as possible while attending productions. Adjudicators are required to submit scores electronically to the MVHSTA team within 72 hours after attending a nominated production.

Each production is evaluated on its own merits, not against other school productions; thus, schools are encouraged to create the best possible work for their unique circumstances and environment.

It is the intent of the MVHSTAs that every production has three Adjudicators attend and score. It is our intention that if a production receives only two official adjudications for any reason, individual awards will still be tabulated, but “Overall” categories will not. If for any reason a production receives only one official adjudication, no awards will be tabulated for that production.

For a student who is nominated for a Jimmys Qualifying role to be considered for a spot in the Jimmy Award Workshop, they must be evaluated by three (3) Adjudicators.

If a student is unable to be evaluated by three Adjudicators for any reason, they will no longer qualify.

Adjudicator Production Attendance

CONFIDENTIALITY

Feedback and scoring will be submitted through a secure online form. Please note that Adjudicators will not provide oral critiques following the performance, nor should schools expect to receive feedback verbally. *Adjudicators must not discuss their opinions, evaluations, scores, or feedback with anyone, in any format.* This includes faculty, staff or students from participating high schools, other adjudicators, colleagues, reviewers, social media networks, etc. Please do not contact Adjudicators with questions. Adjudicators are also required to disclose any conflicts of interest for a school or a show prior to attending to determine eligibility. Any inquiries about confidentiality should be directed to Taylor Benjamin at Taylor.Benjamin@daytonlive.org

SURVEYS

Adjudicator surveys will be used to determine “Outstanding” and “Merit” awardees in each award category for the 2026-2027 Season. On a scale of Emerging - Thriving, Adjudicators will rank how well the evaluation criteria are executed by students. Scores are strictly confidential.

FEEDBACK

Directors will receive feedback on various elements of their high school productions. The MVHSTA team will email Adjudicator feedback to the primary contact teacher after the production has been evaluated. It is up to each director as to what to share with their students. It is understood that all feedback is meant to be constructive and supportive.

**Do not forward the entire PDF to students and/or families.
Use discretion when sharing individual scores and feedback with the nominated students.**

A Note About Adjudication Surveys

We understand that seeing feedback from adjudicators during the year can have a positive and/or negative impact on a director, student, or anyone else connected to a production. As mentioned above, how a student or production qualifies for recognition is based on that year's averages within a category. Those averages are not consistent year to year, so please understand that the MVHSTAs do our absolute best to address outlier scores with adjudicators and adjust accordingly.

Adjudicator Production Tickets

MVHSTA team will contact schools to confirm which performances adjudicators will attend.

Participating schools agree to reserve two complimentary tickets to their production for each Adjudicator in attendance — a total of up to six tickets per production should be reserved. It is suggested that schools reserve/hold six tickets for each performance until adjudicator dates have been confirmed by MVHSTA Team. Tickets should be reserved under the name of "MVHSTA Adjudicator." Please note that the three Adjudicators assigned to your production may or may not attend the same performance.

If a school is being adjudicated by two sets of adjudicators due to nominations numbers or double casting, twelve tickets per production should be reserved.

What to Expect on the Adjudication Survey Forms

Depending on the needs of the nominated performance, the categories will change for each survey. For all surveys, the Ranking Rubric will remain the same. This reference document is meant to shed light on the adjudication process for Theatre Directors.

Ranking Rubric on Survey Monkey:

Emerging: Beginning to demonstrate basic understanding or skills; needs significant support

Emerging +: The *Emerging* category is generally appropriate, with some moments, elements that may fit into a higher category

Progressing: Demonstrates partial understanding or skills; requires some guidance

Progressing +: The *Progressing* category is generally appropriate, with some moments, elements that may fit into a higher category

Achieving: Meets expectations with consistent performance and understanding. Consistent with a strong-but-average high school production.

Achieving +: The *Achieving* category is generally appropriate, with some moments, elements that may fit into a higher category

Exceeding: Exceeds basic expectations with strong performance/execution. *"I would pay money to see this production."*

Exceeding +: The *Exceeding* category is generally appropriate, with some moments, elements that may fit into a higher category

Thriving: Demonstrates exceptional understanding or mastery; surpasses expectations. *"I would travel to see this production."*

Thriving +: This element of the show could not have been better, even at the professional level. *"We could all learn from you."*

Sample Survey Adjudication Categories

Overall Production:

1. Concept (The unifying vision or interpretive approach).
2. Staging (The blocking, movement, and overall use of the stage space).
3. Casting and Coaching (The appropriate casting of each performer and the overall acting execution).
4. Audience Experience (The non-performance and non-technical elements that affect the audience member's overall experience).
5. Production Design (The creativity and execution of production design elements including sets, lights, costumes, sound, props, etc).
6. Music Direction (Coaching and Technique - the performers knowledge of the score and the displayed vocal quality and skill) *MUSICALS ONLY*
7. Choreography (Creativity and Execution - the displayed work of the performed choreography) *MUSICALS ONLY*

Lead/Supporting Actor/Actress:

1. Acting.
2. Voice & Body.
3. Movement.
4. Presence & Focus.
5. Singing Performance. *MUSICALS ONLY*
6. Singing Technique. *MUSICALS ONLY*
7. Dancing. *MUSICALS ONLY*

Student Hair & Makeup Design:

1. Creativity (Choices in hair style and makeup design product & design).
2. Execution (Application of makeup products and execution of hair styles).

Student Lighting Design:

1. Creativity (Choices in intensity, color, texture, movement, aiming, & focus).
2. Execution (Programming and operation).

Student Choreographer:

1. Creativity (The work of the choreographer).
2. Execution (The work of the performers).

Student Orchestra:

1. Conducting (The conductor's knowledge of the score and leadership of musicians).
2. Performance (The musicians' knowledge of the score and skill/technique).

Student Stage Management:

1. Name of student has been nominated for this award and will be adjudicated outside of Survey Monkey. A PDF of the requirements can be found on the MVHSTA website. If you have any additional notes regarding stage management for this production, please type below.

A Checklist of Responsibilities for Each Participating High School

Please read through this list of responsibilities for each participating school. If you have questions, please contact Dayton Live.

- ☐ Register your school's productions by submitting the registration form online. Registration begins August 7, 2026. The last day to register a school is October 9, 2026. **Only one Theatre Director or official school representative may register a school.**
- ☐ Pay the appropriate fee based on the shows you are registering. You will receive email confirmation once registration is complete.
- ☐ Complete Performance Details Form online at mvhsta.org, no less than 3 weeks prior to the production's opening night.
- ☐ Work with the MVHSTA Team to confirm nominations, performance details, and the dates of performances that the MVHSTA Adjudicators will be attending, and when you can release the other seats on hold.
- ☐ Reserve six (6) complimentary tickets for MVHSTA Adjudicators at each performance. You will be contacted with information regarding which performances an Adjudicator is attending.
- ☐ Contact the MVHSTA team immediately if you have any questions about scheduling, dates, or changes to your production calendar that was previously submitted.
- ☐ Send production photos to the MVHSTA Team.
- ☐ Communicate to nominated students about their nominations and any feedback that you may receive.
- ☐ Pass along information about the end of the year MVHSTA Showcase so that students can attend and meet other theatre students in the area.
- ☐ Publicize your participation in the MVHSTAs by adding the MVHSTA ad (downloadable at the MVHSTA website) and adding the language on page 4 to your playbill.
- ☐ Request from your licensing house/rights holder that you keep the **Conductor's Score** of the musical for any number of group or individual performance categories, for the MVHSTA Showcase.

Additional Learning Opportunities

All participating high schools can participate in theatre education activities throughout the year at Dayton Live. Education activities for the 2026-2027 Season include:

- Free and fee-based master classes, workshops, and intensives in musical theatre, dance, voice, music, acting, and technical theatre, led by Broadway touring artists and other industry professionals.
- Discounted ticket packages for select Broadway in Dayton performances, when available.
- Talkbacks with touring artists and performing arts professionals.
- Attend Bagels & Broadway to watch a Broadway tour load in their sets to the Schuster Center.
- Educational tours of theatres operated by Dayton Live.

Questions/Comments/Help

If you have any questions please contact the Dayton Live Team directly. We are always happy to help! You can email general inquiries to: mvhsta@daytonlive.org or

Taylor Benjamin

Manager – MVHSTA

937-637-8103 (call or text)

taylor.benjamin@daytonlive.org