

The **National** High School **Musical**Theater**Awards**



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Inspiring Future Generations

“This has been the most incredible, exciting night of my life.”

- Stephen Mark, 17, The Connecticut High School Music Theater Awards

The National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA) is a celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theater. Established by Pittsburgh CLO and Nederlander Alliances, LLC, this program recognizes individual artistry in vocal, dance and acting performance, and honors teachers and their schools' commitment to excellence in performing arts education.

The NHSMTA program focuses much needed attention on the meaningful work being done by dedicated teachers and celebrates real kids who have wide ranging talents related to the stage. Because high school musicals are often the first (and sometimes only) creative outlet available to emerging performing artists, they offer a unique ability to promote participation in and enjoyment of the live arts in every community in the nation – urban, suburban and rural. The program recognizes and celebrates the value of participation and achievement in the performing arts and creates a pathway to connect promising high school performing artists with the professional theatre industry.

In 2010, more than 54,000 students at 900 high schools in more than 30 communities across the United States participated in a high school musical awards program. Such programs have been presented annually by professional theaters in a variety of cities for a number of years; the NHSMTA is the first program to connect these regional programs to one another and to professionals in the industry via a forum for identifying and recognizing exceptional singers, actors and dancers - similar to the opportunities provided to outstanding high school athletes and scholars.



2009 NHSMTA Winners
Jenny Wine & Stephen Mark



NHSMTA program goals are to:

- Encourage student participation in the performing arts at the high school level and provide a new incentive for schools and communities to invest time and resources in performing arts programs.
- Encourage and honor excellence in high school musical theater programs.
- Develop new audiences for musical theater and promote cultural literacy through increased interest in high school musical theater programs.
- Provide a national forum to recognize and celebrate individual achievement in high school performing arts similar to the forums that already exist for recognizing individual achievement in high school athletics and academics.
- Provide a national forum to identify exceptionally talented emerging artists from all parts of the country and connect them to educational and professional opportunities in the performing arts.

The NHSMTA program consists of three major components:

- The “Jimmy™ Awards” (named for legendary Broadway producer and theater owner James M. Nederlander). At this event a “Best Performance by an Actor” and “Best Performance by an Actress” is chosen from a competition held for winners of regional high school musical theater competitions that take place around the country each spring. Participants and winners are eligible for merit scholarships and professional opportunities.
- A five-day program of rehearsals, private coaching and interviews. Contestants are evaluated by a panel of prominent industry professionals via auditions and rehearsals and a special performance at the Jimmy™ Awards ceremony.
- A media-rich Web site, www.NHSMTA.com, provides information about the program and allows more than 50,000 students involved in high school musical theater to interact with each other online. Students can upload pictures and video of their school productions.



“All these kids are terrific, fantastic. I consider this a great honor.” - James M. Nederlander

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To be eligible for the National High School Musical Theater Awards program, student performers must be selected by participating professional theaters (members of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre, Theatre Communications Group or the Broadway League) that sponsor high school musical theater awards programs. This ensures that the participating students will be adequately prepared for the workshops, classes, rehearsals and the Jimmy™ Awards performance ceremony.

For more information on how to participate, make a donation or become involved, please email us at mail@nhsmta.com.



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