



Music Theatre Wichita (MTWichita) Jester Awards Rules and Guidelines for the 2020-21 School Year

Application

Due to the unusual circumstances presented this year, the Jester Awards will be based off video submissions from schools wishing to participate. Any school wishing to be considered for the 2021 Jester Awards must submit a single camera, full stage, unedited video for review. The video must be submitted within two weeks of the show closing. Complete instructions can be found below under the Video Submission heading.

Schools wishing to participate should be within approximately 200 miles of the Wichita area and not eligible to participate in any other similar awards program.

Productions entered must fall into one of the following categories and must be billed accordingly in the program:

- A published musical, operetta or revue (either currently held by a licensing house or having entered public domain);
- An original piece which features an original script, music and/or lyrics and which is covered under a valid copyright;
- An original compilation of material from other sources that is presented with the approval or permission of the original creators or their representatives.

Schools may submit one application per school year.

Applications (<https://mtwichita.wufoo.com/forms/w121sfv70mhpodk/>) and payment must be received at least two weeks prior to opening night. There is a \$30.00 non-refundable application fee per school. Checks should be made payable to Music Theatre Wichita.

It is the responsibility of the coordinating instructor to communicate any changes from the original application to the Jester staff at least two weeks prior to their show opening. This is your opportunity to communicate the resources available to your school, challenges you face and any other factors adjudicators may need to consider.

All productions must take place prior to March 28, 2021.

Eligibility

Productions shall be nominated in the category of Outstanding Overall Production based on the following criteria:

- Continuity and appropriateness in all production elements according to the demands and specifications of the scripts
- Balance between attending to the physical aspects of the production and the performances of the students
- Demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment from the cast
- The average numerical value awarded each school (as provided by the adjudicators)
- The number of nominations received by each school in individual categories

Productions shall be nominated in the category of Outstanding Orchestra Direction based on the following criteria:

- Orchestra must consist of at least 10 musicians
- Orchestra must be at least 75% students
- Eligibility in this category will be based on information provided in the school's application form and program listings and shall be at the discretion of the awards committee.

To be eligible for Jester Awards, individuals must be current faculty members or students of the school whose production is being adjudicated. Independently hired guest artists (directors, choreographers, musical directors, scenic designers, costume designers, lighting designers, sound designers, and program designers) may only be recognized in two special guest award categories. However, the scores for all contributors (faculty, students, and guests) will be included in the Overall Production total.

MTWichita employees that serve as director, choreographer, designer or work in other prominent positions on the creative or technical staff of a participating production are not eligible for nomination, but their score will be included in the Overall Production total.

Productions nominated in the category of Outstanding Scenic Design cannot rent or borrow more than 25% of the sets/props used to be eligible in that category, but their score will be included in the Overall Production total.

Productions nominated in the category of Outstanding Costumes cannot rent or borrow more than 25% of the total costumes to be eligible in that category, but their score will be included in the Overall Production total.

Nominations for the Behind the Scene Student Achievement Award are based on the following criteria:

- Instructors are invited to make recommendations on one student who has given his or her time and talent in a backstage capacity (e.g., stage manager, stage crew, light board operator, costumes, etc.).
- Instructors are asked to complete the online nomination form (<https://mtwichita.wufoo.com/forms/p10nbxm515jqzjz/>).
- Instructors are asked to submit a one-page essay/letter outlining the student's contributions to the production.
- Recommended students will submit a self-created portfolio in support of their work on the production. Portfolio Requirements: 1) One page personal essay about his/her experience with

the production. 2) At least one supplemental piece or artifact that demonstrates the student's work on the production. The amount of supplemental materials provided in the portfolio is at the discretion of the student and their instructor. Please note that more information included in the portfolio allows for a stronger evaluation and sets up an application for greater success. Supplemental materials can include but are not limited to: a) Prompt book, b) Crew lists, c) Shift lists, d) Lighting plots, e) Sound plots, f) Design renderings or sketches, g) Cue scripts, h) Rehearsal materials, i) Video support or a highlight reel of a student's process or work, j) Resume, k) Photos, l) Other relevant evidence of the student's planning and execution. All information must be received by the deadline listed in the application.

Nominations for Program Design will be scored by our adjudicators regarding the overall appearance and usefulness of its information. In addition to their score, points will be awarded for the following items that would be found in a professional program:

- Proper credit given to authors
 - Proper credit given to licensing house
 - Correct spelling
 - Cast and Crew listed
 - Musical numbers listed
 - Acknowledgement given to rented/borrowed items
 - Authorized Jester participation logo included (see below)
 - Bios are not required but will add an additional point to the overall score
- Final score will include the adjudicators overall score plus the total from above

Please submit a digital copy of your program to Jesters@mtwichita.org.

Video Submission

Production videos must be submitted to the Jester program within two weeks of the show closing. Please follow the instructions below for submission:

If mailing a DVD, please send to:

MTWichita Jester Program
225 W Douglas, Ste 202
Wichita, KS 67202

If submitting online:

- Send videos in as raw a format as you have, free from editing, text overlay, etc.
- If sending via Google Drive, please send a link to mtwichitaproduction@gmail.com
- If sending via Dropbox, please send an invite to mitch@mtwichita.org
- Once you've sent a link / invite, please email Mitch at mitch@mtwichita.org and let the Jester program (Jesters@mtwichita.org) know:
 - School name
 - Show name

The video will be reviewed by selected adjudicators and scored. The file will be deleted or destroyed after the completion of the Jester Awards, May 2, 2021.

Show Program and Documentation

The link below is the MTWichita Jester program's official Jester logo and participation statement that must be included in each school's printed program.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/12qnvudqwadnjwr/AADdHKvIW5xPkZVW-K8CoOZa?dl=0>

We ask that you take plenty of digital photos (professional if possible) of

- Full cast (in costume) and crew, on the set of the show
- Leads in costume
- Sets
- Lobby display
- Your favorite moment
- Other photos (supporting, pre-high school or cameo performers as well as Behind the Scene Student Achievement Award nominee) may be requested for use in the Jester Awards

These can be emailed to Jesters@MTWichita.org after your show has finished.

Adjudicators

The Jester Program utilizes volunteers to serve as adjudicators. These individuals will:

- Have a degree in a relevant field such as music, theatre dance, etc.
- And/or extensive work experience in one of those disciplines on a professional or academic basis
- And/or professional artists or educators with wide knowledge of theatre
- And/or demonstrated experience in or knowledge of musical theatre

Adjudicators are required to have attended mandatory meetings and received extensive orientation of the program and the evaluation process.

At least four adjudicators representing MTWichita will be scheduled to view each production's video with the three highest scores being tallied for the Jester Awards consideration.

Adjudicators evaluate how well a school does, based on that school's unique resources and challenges. Achievement is emphasized rather than budget or size of production. Reviewers are trained to observe and provide feedback based on what they saw or didn't see in your production. Your school size and budget size are considered when the reviewers look at how you used your resources. By looking at the show this way, schools with big and small budgets and large and small student populations are looked at through the same lens.

In order to achieve this goal, production categories will be broken down by budget size (the cutoff may vary from year to year based off the schools enrolled in that year's program). This would include categories of Stage Direction, Choreography/Musical Staging, Musical Direction, Orchestra, Scenery, Costumes, Lighting, Sound, Lobby Display, Graphic Design and Overall Production.

If a school chooses to double cast one or more roles, the school must select which cast is to be adjudicated.

Jester Awards Nominations and Ceremony

A preliminary list of nomination for the Awards shall be emailed to each school's instructor in early-April. This email is to confirm the names and spelling in each category your school is nominated for. Please do not share this information with students, social media, or media until the press release has been issued. Be aware that this information is subject to change before the nominee list is finalized. A press release will be issued in mid-April and emailed to each school and the newspaper offices for that area.

If a live show is allowed, each participating school will receive up to 10 complimentary tickets to the Jester Awards. Additional general admission tickets to the May 2nd Awards Ceremony can be purchased on line at www.MTWichita.org or at the door before the awards for \$15.

Attire for the Jester Awards is formal. Students involved in a performance number may bring a change of clothes.

Leading Actor and Actress nominees may be asked to participate in a group number to be arranged and choreographed by MTWichita staff. Rehearsal information will be distributed after nominees are released.

Schools nominated in the Leading Actor, Leading Actress, and Overall Production categories will be asked to present at least one musical number from their production at the Awards Ceremony in May. Selection of the number will be made by the school's instructor and approved by the Awards Committee. No scenic or lighting elements will be allowed for the performance, but costumes and hand props that can be easily transported by the students will be permitted. Production numbers will be performed with limited accompaniment only, and the accompanists can be provided by the school. (To give our performers the most professional experience possible, no recorded accompaniment will be allowed.) Leading performer solo will have 2.5 minutes maximum. Overall Production will have 2 minutes maximum.

Lighting and sound decisions are at the discretion of the Jester Award Staff.

Scholarships are awarded to three students who exhibit the highest level of excellence in their craft (Actor, Actress and Behind the Scene Student Achievement.) Previous recipients of scholarship awards will not be eligible again.

Feedback

Schools may request a copy of the comments from the adjudicators who review their production. The information will be emailed to the requesting instructor after the Jester Awards. This feedback is meant to help the school realize its full potential based on its resources.

*Dates and rules are subject to change. Schools will be notified of any changes made.