

MUSIC THEATRE WICHITA

JESTER

A W A R D S

2022

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Hello Kansas Educators!

Music Theatre Wichita is proud to be presenting the 20th Anniversary of the Jester Awards. After over a year of very little theater and live performances we are excited to celebrate and honor high school musical theatre throughout the state of Kansas!

My name is Joshua Larson and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Jester Awards Director. Throughout my 15 years with MTWichita, I have loved seeing the Jester Awards grow and evolve and I am excited to lead it to the next level. I would like to give special thanks to Angela Trotter who has led this program for the past nine years and made it what it is today.

Included in this document are the rules and guidelines for the 20th Anniversary Jester Awards. We think it is a great time to make some changes and strive toward expanding the best representation and adjudication throughout the program.

Please read over the rules and guidelines and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. I can be reached via email at Josh@mtwichita.org or through my phone number (316) 265-3253. I look forward to receiving your application and hope your school will participate, making the 20th Anniversary the best one yet!

Please visit our website MTWichita.org for links to the rules, guidelines, and application. The [Jester Application](#) is also linked here.



Application Requirements

- Participating schools should be within approximately 200 miles of the Wichita area
- Schools are not eligible to participate in any other similar awards program
- Applications must be received by **September 17, 2021**
- Completed applications and fees must be paid before judges are confirmed
- Coordinating teacher must communicate any changes from original application no less than two weeks before production opens
- Judges will have access to your application prior to attending
- Schools may submit one application/production per school year
- There is a \$75.00 non-refundable application fee per school*
- Checks should be payable to Music Theatre Wichita
- All productions must take place before **March 28, 2022**

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

- A published musical, operetta, or revue either 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.

*Please reach out to Joshua if there are concerns or problems with the new application fee. This fee helps cover the costs to run the Jester program, awards, show, and to assist in getting the best adjudicators for your productions.

Award Categories and Nomination Eligibility

Overall Production	Ensemble/Chorus	Technical Achievement
Direction of a Show	Small Ensemble	Scenic Design
Leading Actress	Production Number	Costumes
Leading Actor	Orchestra Direction	Lighting Design
Supporting Actress	Vocal Musical Direction	Sound Design
Supporting Actor	Choreography/Staging	Design Guest
Cameo Performer	Artistic Guest	Program Design
Pre-High School Performer	Stage Crew	Lobby Display

To be eligible for Jester Awards, individuals must be current faculty members or students of the school whose production is being judged. 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 who serve or work in 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.

OUTSTANDING OVERALL PRODUCTION NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Production elements that have continuity and appropriateness in accordance to the demands and specifications of the scripts
- Balance between the performance of the students and physical aspects of the production
- Enthusiasm and commitment from the cast and crew
- The numerical value awarded each school by adjudicators and judges

OUTSTANDING ORCHESTRA DIRECTION NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Orchestra must be made up 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 listing and shall be at the discretion of the awards committee

OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Cannot rent or borrow more than 25% the sets/props used

OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Cannot rent or borrow more than 25% of total costumes

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Teachers will recommend one student who has given their time and talent in a backstage capacity including but not limited to stage manager, stage crew, light board operator, costumes, etc.
- Teachers must complete and fill out the online nomination form, linked [HERE](#)
- Teachers should submit a one-page 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. Requirements: 1) One-page personal essay about their experience in 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 teacher. 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.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM DESIGN NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- 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 Show Program and Documentation below)
- Final score will include the Judges overall score + the total required above

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.**

Jester Artwork 2021-22

We ask that you take plenty of digital photos of performers in costume, full cast photo, sets, lobby display, etc. so that they may be used for the Jester Awards program. These will be requested after nominations are released. Please do not send unless requested.

JUDGES

For the 2021-2022 Jester Season the Jester Awards will be allocating attendance of at least three performing arts professional at each production. These arts professionals have a wide array of knowledge and education in the performing arts and will include but are not limited to those that are professional actors, professional directors, musical theater and dance collegiate professors, arts administrators, etc.

The Jester Program will continue to utilize volunteers from the community to serve as Jester Judges. These volunteers are required to have training, education, or experience in the realm of musical theater. They must attend mandatory meetings and receive extensive orientation of the program and the evaluation process.

JUDGES EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Evaluation based on school's unique resources and challenges
- Achievement is emphasized, not budget or size of production
- Observe and provide feedback based on what they saw or didn't see
- School size and budget are considered when reviewing how resources were used

By instilling these evaluation criteria, productions with varying budgets and student populations will be reviewed and evaluated as equitably as possible.

OTHER ITEMS TO NOTE REGARDING JUDGES

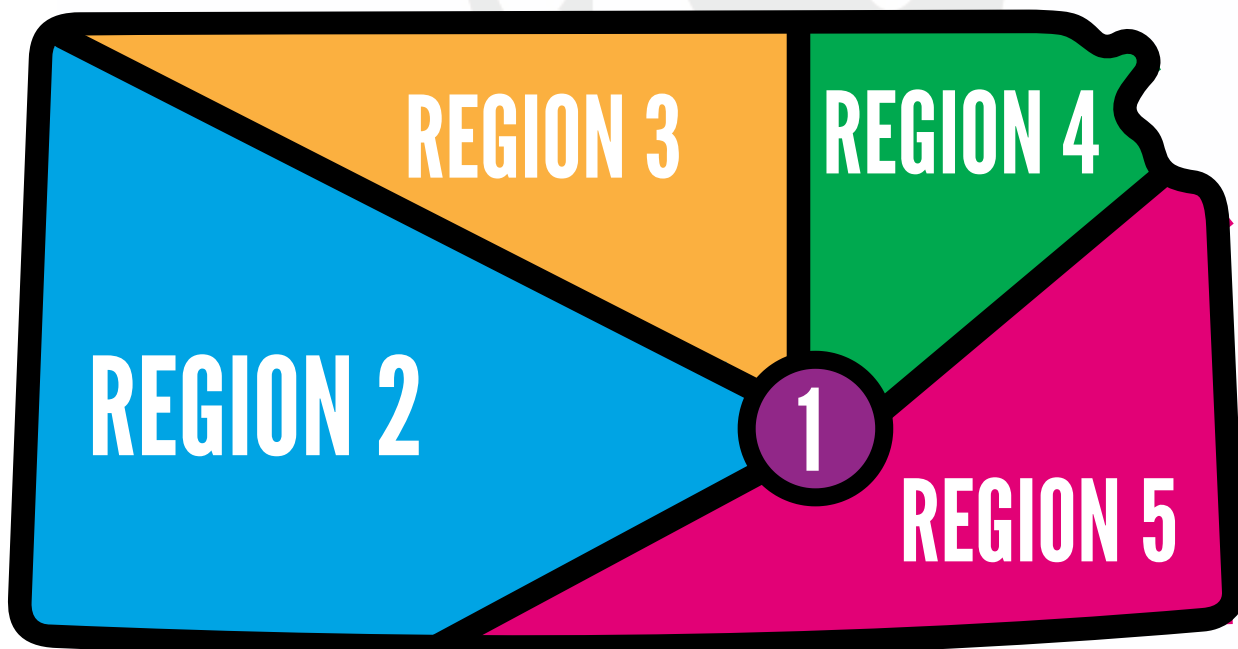
- At least three performing arts professionals/volunteer judges will be scheduled for each production. Other options will be discussed if MTWichita is unable to assign three judges to each production
- If a school chooses to double cast one or more roles, that school needs to select which cast is to be judged
- Participating Schools must furnish MTWichita/Jester Judges with complimentary tickets
- Performance times and number of tickets for judges/MTWichita Staff Members will be arranged no less than one week in advance
- If you anticipate a full house, please reserve seats for judges. Please do not indicate on signage that seats are reserved for Jester Judges. If you anticipate ample open seating, judges will select their own seats upon arrival
- Judges may bring a guest and tickets for these individuals will be arranged by MTWichita when reservations are made
- Additional tickets shall not be unreasonably requested by Music Theatre Wichita nor unreasonably denied by participating schools
- MTWichita requests that schools provide the dates and times of dress rehearsals and school matinees in addition to regular performances

Regional Honorees and Jester Award Nominations

To get the best representation and recognition of high school musical theater, the Jester Awards Committee have created five regions throughout the state. Each region will compete against the other schools within the same region. In each region the top 1 or 2 (dependent on category) honorees will advance to the Jester nominations and to the awards ceremony.

- Each region will consist of up to five honorees in each category
- The top two honorees in each region for Leading Actress, Leading Actor, and Overall Production will advance to the Jester Award Nomination list and Ceremony
- The top honoree in all other categories will advance to the nomination list and awards ceremony
- Regions, boundaries, and schools are subject to change at the Jester Committee's discretion

A preliminary list of regional honorees and Jester Award Nominees 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 honored/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.



REGION 2
LEADING ACTRESS
JESTER HONOREES

REGINA GEORGE
ANGELICA SCHULYER
***ELPHABA**
***NINA ROSARIO**
DIANA MORALES

REGION 4
LEADING ACTRESS
JESTER HONOREES

EURYDICE
MOTORMOUTH MAYBELL
***CELIE**
JENNA HUNTERSON
***EFFIE WHITE**

REGION 3
**CHOREOGRAPHY/
STAGING**
JESTER HONOREES

***BOB FOSSE**
CASEY NICHOLAW
GWEN VERDON
TWLA THARP
JOE TREMAINE

REGION 1
**CHOREOGRAPHY/
STAGING**
JESTER HONOREES

MARTHA GRAHAM
***ALVIN AILEY**
JEROME ROBBINS
AGNES DE MILLE
ISADORA DUNCAN

LEADING ACTRESS
JESTER AWARD NOMINEE

***NINA ROSARIO**
***ELPHABA**
***CELIE**
***EFFIE WHITE**

LEADING ACTRESS
JESTER AWARD WINNER

***EFFIE WHITE**

CHOREOGRAPHY/ STAGING
JESTER AWARD NOMINEE

***ALVIN AILEY**
***BOB FOSSE**

CHOREOGRAPHY/ STAGING
JESTER AWARD WINNER

***BOB FOSSE**

Additional Adjudication and Judging

The Leading Actor, Actress and Overall Production will be receiving three different adjudications from different groups of judges. This will allow for more diverse and accurate scoring from years past.

1) **Arts Professional/Volunteer Judges who see the show in person**

Jester Judges attend a performance and submit their scores, following the judge's rubric.

2) **Video Submission Adjudication**

Each school will submit a video of the Leading Actor and Actress performing a musical number they performed in the production. No costumes or sets will be allowed. A simple recording on a phone will do. Instructions will be sent out to the school on how and when this must be submitted.

Each school who is nominated for Overall Production will submit a video of one production number. No costumes or sets will be allowed. A simple recording of the cast performing the number will do. Instructions will be sent out to the school on how and when this must be submitted by.

3) **Live Panel**

There will be a panel of judges at the awards ceremony who will give scores and adjudications during the opening number medley, Leading Actor and Actress medleys, and during each production number.

All three scores will be combined from the different groups of judges to select the winners at the end of the evening.

After the regional honorees and Jester nominations go out, Emily Sternfeld-Dunn who serves as the Jester Awards Music Director, will be contacting each school nominated in the Leading Actor and Actress for additional materials and instructions.

CEREMONY

- Ceremony will be held on Sunday April 24, 2022 at 3:00pm at Century II Convention Hall
- Each participating school will receive 10 complimentary tickets to the awards ceremony
- Additional tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased online at MTWichita.org or at the door before the ceremony
- Leading Actress and Actor nominees will be asked to be involved in an opening group number for the awards ceremony
- Leading Actress and Actor nominees will be asked to participate in a medley with the other nominees that will showcase their talents and specific character they were nominated for
- Overall Production nominees will be asked to present a musical number from the production at the awards ceremony
- Selection of musical number will be made by school's instructor and approved by the awards committee
- No scenic or design elements allowed. Costumes and hand props that can be easily transported by students will be allowed
- Production numbers will be accompanied by the Jester Awards Band for rehearsals and performances. Emily Sternfeld-Dunn (Jester Musical Director) will be in touch to get sheet music from nominated schools
- Overall Production nominees will have a maximum of 4 minutes for their performance. No exceptions will be made for performances over the 4-minute time limit
- Lighting and sound decisions are at the discretion of the Jester Award Staff
- Scholarships are awarded to three winners in the Actor, Actress, and Technical categories
- Previous scholarship winners will not be eligible to win again

FEEDBACK

Written feedback from the Performing Arts Professionals who attended the live performance will be sent to the instructor if requested. This feedback is meant to assist the school in hopes to continue to keep improving and to reach its full potential with its resources.