

What determines a good musical production for a high school?

Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical

- Appropriateness for the school's presenting space, student abilities, etc.
 - Were the technical requirements of the story within the capabilities of the staff?
 - Were the singing / dancing demands within the limits for young voices and bodies?
- Appropriateness of the material for the students
 - Was the subject matter so "adult" that it seemed disjointed, as if it had to be severely cut or re-written?
 - Were the themes expressed in the story meaningful or appropriate for students?
- Polish and technical efficiency
 - Did the pace of the afternoon or evening flow?
 - Were any set changes handled well, or did they bring the performance to a halt?
- Showcasing specific talent
 - Sometimes a show is worth doing if only because a current student has a unique combination of talents that are well shown by his/her role in it.
- Representing the best qualities of the original show
 - If the story was meant to be inspiring, did it inspire?
 - If it was meant to be comedic, did you laugh?
 - If it was meant to be moving or sad, did it touch you?

Individual/Small Group Award Categories

- 1) Outstanding Achievement by a Director
 - Did the students seem confident and comfortable in their roles?
 - Did the show flow smoothly and interestingly?
 - Was diction good, and the story clear to understand?
 - Did the students seem happy to be performing?
- 2) Outstanding Choreography/Musical Staging
 - Were the students' dance abilities used effectively?
 - Did actors move with confidence?
 - Was there cleverness in the comedy numbers, beauty in the lyrical moments?
- 3) Outstanding Vocal Musical Direction
 - Did the characters sing their songs musically, and with dramatic intention?
 - How effective was any choral singing?
 - How well was the show accompanied?
 - Were tempos and volume levels effective and complementary to each other?
- 4) Outstanding Orchestra Direction
 - Did the orchestra play in tune and with good musicianship?
 - Were good dynamics maintained, that didn't overpower the singers?
 - In cases when no orchestra is involved, please ensure that accompaniment is discussed in the above category (Musical Direction).

- 5) Outstanding Ensemble (the performing group as a whole)
 - Was there a real sense of power and ownership and fun when the cast got together and performed as a team?
 - Did the group sing together with good intonation and dynamics?
 - Did the ensemble move effectively as a unit?
 - Was the dancing well-executed and appropriate for the style of the show?
 - Did the dancing demonstrate sufficient technical ability and a sense of joy?
- 6) Outstanding Scenic Design
 - Was the "world of the play" attractively and effectively created, within facility limits?
 - Was creativity in evidence?
- 7) Outstanding Costumes
 - Were the costumes right for the characters?
 - Correct for the period of the play?
 - Did they function well in the story?
 - Were they beautiful or fun to look at?
- 8) Outstanding Lighting Design
 - Were the lights used effectively to light the story?
 - To change the moods?
- 9) Outstanding Sound Design
 - Were you able to hear the voices?
 - The accompaniment?
- 10) Outstanding Stage Crew
 - Were scene changes effectively accomplished?

11) Outstanding Program/Poster Design

- Were the program cover and posters original art, or were they attractively re-invented variations on older designs?
- Were bios and information in the playbill well organized and readable?
- Overall was it helpful for your enjoyment of the show?

12) Outstanding Lobby Display

- Was the lobby inviting with aspects from the show?
- Did someone take special care to see that this aspect added to overall enjoyment?
- If no Lobby Display is visible, select N/A as the rating and type "No Lobby Display" in the dialogue box.

13/14) Outstanding Performance by Leading Actor/Leading Actress

- Eligible roles for Leading Actor/Actress will be listed on the confirmation email sent to you about a week before the show. You must score each one listed in the email.
- If no leading Actor/Actress is listed in your confirmation email please mark N/A.
- Did the performer seem to understand what the character was thinking and feeling?
- Did the acting and singing fulfill the role appropriately?
- Was stage deportment and movement effective?
- Were changes of mood and emotion believable?

*Note: We understand there will be times when a characterization is of a size and importance that it's difficult to determine whether it is a "leading," "supporting," or "cameo" role. Leading Roles are determined by the Jester staff based upon their knowledge of the original show

15/16) Outstanding Performance by Supporting Actor/Supporting Actress

- Did the supporting performance, in fact, support the show and the other characters?
- Did it contribute flavor and color to the production?
- Did the performer bring to life a character that might otherwise be overlooked?

17) Outstanding Cameo Performance (male or female)

- Same questions as supporting, but usually this is a character who has a limited role in one or two sections of the show, instead of threading all the way through it. For example, an outstanding student violinist for "Fiddler on the Roof" or a well portrayed "Bird Woman" in Mary Poppins.

18) Pre-High School Student

- Noteworthy performer not yet in High School.

19) Outstanding Small Ensemble

- Was there a great barbershop quartet, or a nifty girls' trio? (Not a solo or duet.)

20) Outstanding Production Number

- By production number, we mean the one musical number in the show that was somewhat of a "showstopper." These usually involve multiple performers, and may or may not include the principal characters. Did this performance bring special electricity and fun to a musical sequence? (This category is not for someone's excellent solo or duet.)