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The next generation of musical theatre talent in Kansas takes center stage at Music Theatre Wichita's Jester Awards

23rd Annual Jester Awards to take place Sunday, May 4

WICHITA, Kan. – The [Jester Awards](#), a program designed to celebrate excellence in high school musical theatre, has announced its nominees for the 23rd annual ceremony. All nominees in the 23 categories – including “Outstanding Production,” “Leading Performer,” “Stage Crew” and “Technical Achievement,” – are [listed online here](#).

“The level of talent present in our high schools around Kansas is spectacular,” said Paul Witte, MTWichita’s Board President. “I see at least 25 Broadway and professional shows a year, in addition to Jester school shows. I’m always blown away by the dedication of our students and teachers in producing student shows we can admire.”

The Jester Awards showcase the next generation of musical theatre talent in Kansas. Each year, trained volunteer judges attend and evaluate dozens of performances. This year, 65 judges viewed 152 performances of 49 productions, involving more than 3,000 students and 49 schools across the state of Kansas. The program began in Wichita, but now extends as far as Liberal, Hays, Topeka, and Pittsburg, in addition to the greater Wichita area.

The Jester Awards Ceremony will take place at Century II Performing Arts Center’s Convention Hall in Wichita at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, 2025. During the ceremony, all nominees will be announced, and several will perform. Scholarship awards will be presented to three students – two leading performers and a technical theatre recipient.

Tickets to the ceremony are \$15 and available in advance ([online only](#)) or at the door. The Jester Awards is sponsored by the Naftzger Fund for Fine Arts and the Lois K. Walls Jester Fund at MTWichita. Additional support is provided by the Sam and Rie Bloomfield Foundation.

Alumni of the Jester Awards program can be seen onstage and backstage at Music Theatre Wichita this summer, as well as on Broadway and in regional theatres across the country.

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About Music Theatre Wichita:

Music Theatre Wichita advances the musical theatre art form by educating and nurturing creators, artists, and audiences, primarily through the production of Broadway-caliber shows. Founded in 1972, MTWichita has attained an international reputation for excellence. Each summer, MTWichita self-produces five Broadway-scale musical productions, using a unique mixture of top-flight professionals from Broadway and Hollywood working alongside talented Midwesterners. [Learn more.](#)

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