

After two years of missed performances due to COVID-19 precautions, Inver Grove Heights Community Theatre (IGHCT) returned to the stage with the well-known musical "Rent." The show drew thousands of audience members and praise from all corners of the community. The production also caught the eye of international Broadway theatre news outlet BroadwayWorld Minneapolis / St. Paul, which selected the show for a 2022 BroadwayWorld Regional Award and recognition in six other categories.

Madeline Huss, the vocal director for IGHCT's "Rent," and Noah Wilson, the production's accompanist and pit conductor, earned the 2022 BroadwayWorld Regional Award for Best Music Direction and Orchestra Performance. Reflecting on the award and production, Ms. Huss gave credit to the performers.

"It felt like a success, honestly, after casting it," Ms. Huss said. "Like we could have conquered anything."

Runners-up for the award included crew members from Eagan High School Summer Community Theatre, Ashland Productions, and Chaska Valley Family Theatre.

The IGHCT production, cast, and crew were also recognized as runners-up in six other categories:

- Best Costume Design of a Play or Musical - Christy Branham
- Best Ensemble Performance - IGHCT "Rent" ensemble
- Best Supporting Performer in a Musical - Aram Eskridge
- Best Direction of a Musical - Quinn Forrest Masterson
- Best Musical - IGHCT "Rent"
- Favorite Local Theatre - IGHCT

The Guthrie Theater won the award for Favorite Local Theatre, but IGHCT was recognized as a runner-up alongside Eagan High School Summer Community Theatre and Theater Latté Da.

IGHCT was established in 2018 after Inver Grove Heights Schools Community Education earned a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. The theatre's mission is to provide opportunities for individuals of all ages, whether on stage, behind-the-scenes, or in the audience, to actively participate and/or appreciate the performance of live, high-quality, affordable theater in our community. IGHCT will feature the talent of the community in a musical production this August. Look for information about auditions, crew positions, and tickets at www.ighcommunitytheatre.org in the coming months.

Congratulations to Ms. Huss, Mr. Wilson, and all of the cast and crew of IGHCT who were recognized for their outstanding work on the theatre's 2022 production of "Rent"!

Inver Grove Heights Community Theatre (IGHCT) productions are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.