



UTAH

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE

AWARDS

PRESENTED BY:



UTAH FESTIVAL
OPERA & MUSICAL THEATRE

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Utah High School Musical Theatre Awards Information Packet

On May 9, 2025 Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre (UFOMT) in conjunction with Broadway at the Eccles, will be sponsoring the 16th Annual Utah High School Musical Theatre Awards (UHSMTA). This program recognizes Musical Theatre excellence on the High School level.

How it works: With sponsorship from the Utah State Office of Education, every High School in the state of Utah is invited to participate free of charge. We typically include as many as 30 schools (on a first-come first-served basis) from across the state.

After a school completes the registration process, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre sends two trained professional judges to watch, adjudicate, and give verbal feedback for each High School Musical. The training, rubrics and judging sheets used by UFOMT are drawn directly from the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA) national organization. Each school should also receive written feedback following their adjudicated performance.

Each participating High School will submit a high-quality highlight video of their production one week following the close of their adjudicated performance.

After all of the participating productions have been adjudicated, the judges' forms tallied, and the judge's final deliberations have occurred, finalists will be announced, and preparation for the spring awards ceremony will begin. UFOMT will sponsor an awards ceremony (like unto a miniature Tony Awards) where nominated schools and performers will perform and winners will be announced.

Rehearsals for the Awards Ceremony for all participating schools happen throughout the day of the awards show. During the day of the awards show, the UHSMTA also offers a wide variety of free professional workshops for all participating teachers and students.

The 2026 winners of Best Actor and Best Actress from our UHSMTA competition will then be flown (paid for by UFOMT and affiliated sponsors) to NYC to participate in a 10+day Musical Theatre Intensive culminating in their participation in the National Jimmy Awards in June 2026. The winners will participate in rehearsals, master classes, private coaching sessions and interviews with Broadway professionals. The Jimmy Awards or NHSMTA is a live awards show hosted by Broadway veterans and television personalities. Winners of the Jimmy Awards are selected by a panel of industry experts and receive a variety of scholarships, the top awards are four-year scholarship assistance to attend NYU's Tisch School of the Arts Department of Drama, contingent upon acceptance into the program.

Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre has been able to offer scholarships, internships, and mentorship opportunities for our student winners.

To learn more about the NHSMTA, click here: <https://www.jimmyawards.com/about/about-program/>

UHSMTA Important Dates:

Monday, September 8, 2025	2025-2026 Judges Contracted
Monday, September 22, 2025	Registration Form due
Monday, September 22, 2025	Registration Fee Due
One week after close of production	Video & Video Submission Form due
Two weeks after close of production	Early Submission Form due
Monday, January 5, 2026	Spring Show Adjudications Begin
One week after close of production	Video & Video Submission Form due
Two weeks after close of production	Early Submission Form and ***show images due
March 20-21, 2026	Final Weekend to Adjudicate Shows
Monday, March 23, 2026	All judges scores submitted and tabulated
Friday, March 27, 2026	Final Judges Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Send announcement to teachers
Friday, April 10, 2026 @ noon	Go live with finalists
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	Final Awards Packet Due/Including Uploaded Music
Saturday, May 2, 2026	Mandatory medley rehearsals w/music director/choreographer Davis High
Friday, May 8, 2026	Onstage tech rehearsals for UHSMTA soloist medleys and Cameo Performers
Saturday May 9, 2026*	Awards Ceremony Onstage Rehearsal for finalists.
Saturday, May 9, 2026*	2025 Utah High School Musical Theatre Awards
June 12-23th 2026	Jimmy's Week - 2026 NHSMTA – Students in NYC

Eligibility:

School Location: Eligible high schools must be located in the state of Utah.

Production Dates: If participating in the adjudication process Musical productions must take place between September 1, 2025 and March 21, 2026.

Student Participation: If participating in the adjudication process, musical productions must be primarily cast with currently enrolled high school students.

Awards Show Performance: Eligibility to perform an excerpt from your school's production at the Awards Showcase is also contingent on UHSMTA being able to secure the needed performance rights. Most productions in the past have been approved with little problem. In the event rights cannot be secured, UHSMTA regrets that it may have to revoke a school's invitation to perform an excerpt from their production.

PARTICIPATION IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SCHOOLS PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IS 30. Beyond 30, participation will be determined based on availability of adjudicators.

What is required of Participating Productions:

1. Two Complimentary tickets to your production for our judges.
 - a. Dates for attendance to be pre-arranged with UFOMT.
2. Paperwork
 - a. Registration form – **Deadline September 22, 2025**
 - i. Schools producing a fall musical should supply all musical information (title, dates, times, etc.) at the time of registration. Schools producing a spring musical (or still contemplating producing a spring musical) are encouraged to provide as much information as known at this time and can be updated when known.
 - ii. For peak show weekends, we will honor requests for adjudication on a first-come, first-served basis. As such, fall schools in particular are encouraged to register early.
 - b. \$175 Registration Deposit – **Deadline September 22, 2025.** Checks should be made out to UFOMT and addressed to 59 S 100 W, Logan, UT 84321. Credit Card payment accepted by contacting the Box Office (435) 750-0300 ext. 3 - This deposit is refunded upon completion of the Awards Ceremony.
 - c. Early Submission Form and show images due- **Deadline Two weeks after close of production**
 - i. Music Submissions for nominees.
 - ii. Three High quality production photos - these photos may be used in the 2026 UHSMTA Awards show.
 - d. Awards Ceremony packet – **Deadline April 10, 2026.**
 - i. Best Musical Finalist Information Form.
 - ii. Best Individual Performer Information Form. (Best Actor/Actress, Best Supporting Actor/Actress, Best Cameo nominees)
 - iii. Nominee Acceptance Form.
3. A Highlight Video of your production and completed Video Submission Form as outlined below - **Submitted one week after your production closes.** Our STRONG preference is to have these clips submitted digitally via **our google form**.
 - a. **IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO SUBMIT THE HIGHEST QUALITY VIDEO POSSIBLE. THIS WILL GIVE EVERY JUDGE AN ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF YOUR STUDENTS' EFFORTS.**
 - b. Part I – Production Number - (3 minutes maximum)
 - i. Excerpts from 2-3 full ensemble numbers not to exceed 3 minutes in total length.
 - c. Part II – Full Orchestra Shot - (1-minute maximum - for eligible schools)
 - i. Student orchestra, including brief shots of each section (strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion).
 - ii. One full orchestra shot - photographed from the conductor's perspective.
 - d. Part III – Individual Performers Nominees
 - i. You will receive an email from our staff within two days of attending your production outlining who your nominees are. There will be five nominees from each school – the top ten finalists to perform at the awards ceremony will not be announced until March 11, 2026 once all of the shows have been adjudicated.
 - ii. Highlights Video must contain 3 video clips, each 1 minute in length of each performer nominated (by our judges) for the *Best Actor/Actress* Awards categories.
 - iii. Highlights Video must contain 2 video clips, each 1 minute in length of each performer nominated (by our judges) for the *Best Supporting Actor/Actress* Awards categories.
 - iv. Highlights Video must contain 1 video clip, 1 minute in length of the performer nominated (by our judges) for the *Best Cameo* Award category.
 - v. All segments must be filmed during the actual performance, not staged scenes at a different time.
 - e. Please do not send a video recording of your entire production.

- f. Along with the video, UFOMT must receive the detailed **Video Submission Form** indexing the selected scenes and songs and exact duration (please follow all time rules strictly).
 - g. **The video clips of your performance are for the exclusive use for the UHSMTA judging process.**
4. Each school that is a Top-Ten finalist for the category of Best Musical must prepare and perform one **5-MINUTE** production number as part of the awards ceremony.
 - a. Start thinking of which number best showcases your production now!
 - b. Start thinking about how you will remount this number at the April 12th event – especially if your production is happening in the fall.
 - c. Submission of CD/mp3 accompaniment for this performance.
5. Arrangements to travel to, rehearse, and participate in the **May 9th** Awards Ceremony.
 - a. Busing and possible hotel arrangements.
 - b. Costumes for the finalists participating.
6. Licensing arrangement
 - a. In order to be appropriately licensed for all musical numbers that will be performed at the awards show on the Eccles stage in May, there are additional instructions that must be followed on each school's end with their individual licensing agreements.
 - i. Please, before returning any accompaniment or vocal material from your production to your licensing agency, make sure that you have a copy on hand of any sheet music that would be needed in the event you have a student who is chosen as a finalist to perform as their nominated character for the medley arrangements we put together in our awards show. Sheet music would need to be saved and submitted to us once finalists are announced, with the permission of your respective show licensing agency.
 - ii. **If your production is licensed with MTI you need to request to keep your booking open through the date of the awards ceremony, regardless of when your production has ended.** This ensures that we will be covered for performance of any material at the Awards show with MTI, and it will also ensure that you have access to any tracks that were used for your production, in the event that your school is chosen to perform at the Awards show as a best musical finalist.