



TRIANGLE RISING STARS

PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

Community Sponsors & Partners



2020 TRS HANDBOOK

Celebrating our 10th year of
Triangle Rising Stars!



2019 Winners:

Haven Bowers (Heritage High School) and **Ben Eble** (Chapel Hill High School)



DPAC

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ABOUT TRIANGLE RISING STARS

Triangle Rising Stars (TRS) is a program designed to celebrate outstanding achievement in high school musical theater. The program focuses attention on the meaningful work being done both on and off stage by dedicated teachers and students.

To participate, school teachers/directors and students apply to have their production reviewed by our panel of qualified adjudicators. In the spring DPAC will present the **Triangle Rising Stars Live Showcase and Awards Show** where the top area high school musical students perform together and compete against one another for educational scholarships and other prizes.

The TRS program is a member of **The National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA)**, a national program that unites high school musical theater awards programs from across the country. The Best Actor and Actress of Triangle Rising Stars will have an all-expense paid trip to New York where they will compete against the winners from dozens of regional competitions and similar awards programs from other parts of the country, drawing some 1,000 high schools nationwide.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch a PBS special that documents what happens at The National High School Music Awards in New York City.

GOALS

- 1) To encourage, recognize and honor excellence in high school students' musical theater performances in the Triangle and surrounding areas.
- 2) To provide quality educational experiences in dance, theater and music for high school students.
- 3) To grow audiences and advocates for arts education in the Triangle and surrounding areas.

TRIANGLE RISING STARS AWARDS CATEGORIES

Best Actor
Best Actress
Best Dancer
Best Singer
Best Ensemble Award
Best Musical Award
Triangle Shining Star Award

WHAT DO TRS AWARDS ENTAIL?

BEST ACTOR & BEST ACTRESS

Best Actor and Best Actress awards are provided with \$2,000 academic scholarships and will be invited to represent the Triangle Rising Stars in an all-expense paid trip to the National High School Musical Theater Awards program in mid-June of 2019 in New York City. After a week of coaching, auditions, rehearsals and a final performance on Broadway, a handful of students from the elite program will be awarded scholarships and other prizes.

BEST DANCER AWARD

One of the top 20 finalists will be recognized as Best Dancer during the live awards ceremony. This person will be determined during a dance audition during the workshop weekend. Sponsored by American Dance Festival (ADF), the winner of this award will receive a class card for complimentary dance classes at ADF studios and two complimentary passes to a 2019 ADF performance.

BEST SINGER AWARD

New this year! One of the top 20 finalists will be recognized as Best Singer during the live awards ceremony. This person will be determined by our three special guest judges during the workshop weekend. Sponsored by Massage Envy, the winner of this award will receive a \$100 massage envy gift card.

BEST ENSEMBLE & BEST MUSICAL AWARDS

The theater programs who win the Best Ensemble/Chorus and the Best Musical Awards receive \$1,000.

TRIANGLE SHINING STAR AWARD

Triangle Shining Star Award is sponsored by Crabtree Valley Mall. The winner of this award is selected not by the panel of TRS adjudicators, but by the top 20 finalists themselves. The award will go to the student who exhibits positivity and an enthusiastic spirit in all TRS related activities as well as in interactions with other finalists. The winner of this award will receive a \$250 shopping spree at Crabtree Valley Mall.

ELIGIBILITY

The Triangle Rising Stars program is open to public and private high schools producing musical theater in the Triangle and surrounding areas. To be eligible for the 2019-20 season, programs should meet the following qualifications:

SCHOOL LOCATION

All students from any high school in the following counties are eligible to participate: Alamance, Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Johnson, Lee, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, or Warren.

PRODUCTION DATES

High school musical theater productions should take place between October 18th, 2019 and May 2, 2020.

PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Schools must choose a musical from a list of qualified productions. Students being considered for Best Actor and Actress must be acting in qualifying lead roles. The current NHSMTA qualifying lead roles can be found at nhsmta.com, or by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COST TO PARTICIPATE

Through the **generosity of our sponsors**, the TRS awards are run at **no cost** to those who apply and participate.

APPLICATION PROCESS

There are three steps for schools and student participants this year. School Registration, Pre-Production Item Uploads and Post-Production Item Uploads. All items, including student registration, must be uploaded via Acceptd by your designated school representative.

<https://app.getacceptd.com/trianglerisingstars>

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

To register your school, you must use our new online portal Acceptd. [Click here to register now!](#)

The registration deadline is November 1, 2019. **Any submissions received after the registration period has ended will be subject to availability.**

If you do not have the final production dates set for your show, please let us know on your application and notify the TRS coordinator as soon as your dates are finalized via email at: mrindoks@DPACnc.com.

If your production takes place in October, please register as soon as possible. Please also upload your pre-production items for student registration as soon as possible (detailed instructions for students in next section).

All materials must be submitted by one school representative; any materials submitted to us separately by students, other teachers, or parents will not be accepted.

The following information will be required during initial registration:

- School Logo
- Show Title
- Production Dates and Times
- Production Budget
- Licensing Company
- High School Production Location/Address
- School Representative Contact Information

Note: Your school MUST be registered in order for a student to be considered for the Best Actor and/or Best Actress award.

STUDENT REGISTRATION / PRE-PRODUCTION ITEM UPLOADS

This second step must be completed at least two weeks prior to your school's production. These pre-production items are necessary for students in your production to be eligible for the Best Actor and Actress categories. TRS will accept up to three nominees for Best Actor and three for Best Actress. There are no exceptions to this limit.

The following information will be required for student registration:

- Basic Student Information (Name, Age, Birthday, Contact Information, etc.)
- Parent/Guardian Contact Information (Name, Email & Phone Number)
- Student T-Shirt Size
- NHSMTA Qualifying Role Played: * Please check the NHSMTA Qualifying Roles List (here: <http://bit.ly/2wEFvSs>). If the role is not listed as a Qualifying Role in the School's Production, please contact the Triangle Rising Stars Coordinators about the appeal process. Please note that all appeals are subject to approval by TRS's parent organization: the National High School Musical Theatre Awards.

POST-PRODUCTION ITEM UPLOADS

Post- Production items are required to be submitted within two weeks after production. If the production takes place at or after April 19th, all items must be uploaded within 48 hours of the close of production. This is necessary in order to be considered at the final judging session. No show will be adjudicated after April 27th, 2019.

School Items

For schools applying, we will also need the following items uploaded to Acceptd within two weeks following your production:

- Highlight reel. This will be used by any adjudicator who was unable to attend your high school's live performance. Must be no longer than 3 minutes in length.

Student Items

For students being considered for Best Actor and Actress categories, the following items must be submitted via Acceptd no later than two weeks after the close of your production.

- Student Highlight Reels (one per registered participant). Must be no longer than 3 minutes in length.
- Uploaded Sheet Music from Nominated Role. Student participants must choose one song from their nominated role. Usually this is the "big number". This song will be the number performed on DPAC stage if chosen as a top 20 finalist.
- Photo/Video Release Form (located at the end of this packet and available for digital download on website).
- Production Photos. Upload three photos of each registered student participant performing in their nominated role.

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Students will be judged solely on the role performed in their high school affiliated musical theater production. Two or more adjudicators will attend the production and evaluate the performance. Score sheets and adjudication guidelines are provided for review at the end of this handbook.

CUTS

Due to an overwhelming number of participants in Triangle Rising Stars, any school or student who receives an average adjudicated score below 85% will not be considered for a spot as a finalist in any category, and will receive a notification that they have been cut. Students and schools who score an 85% or higher will be contacted via email.

SPRING JUDGES MEETING

Schools and students who have scored above an 85% will be reviewed and discussed in a judges meeting in early May. This meeting will determine official finalists for Best Actor & Actress, Best Ensemble and Best Musical award categories. An email will be sent to all registered participants announcing our official finalists in each of those categories.

A video of highlights from the applicant's performance will be required for final adjudication.

Variables such as the quality of the set production and highlight reel will not be taken into consideration. We realize there are discrepancies between the resources afforded to one school's program over another, and it is for this reason that we have professional adjudicators that are able to discern talent beyond show and production qualities. We pride ourselves on giving every student who applied a fair opportunity to represent their state on a national stage.

OFFICIAL STUDENT FINALISTS

Students who have been selected as a top 20 finalist must reply to the email sent to accept their nomination. The top 20 students must agree to attend a 4 day intensive workshop, tech rehearsal and live awards ceremony at DPAC. Dates and more are included in the timeline section further along in this handbook.

Top 20 student finalists will audition during the 4 day intensive for the judges' panel to review. The final audition is the live awards ceremony at DPAC. There will be judges in the audience who will submit scores for each finalist. Scores are tallied by impartial TRS and DPAC employees before the winners are announced.

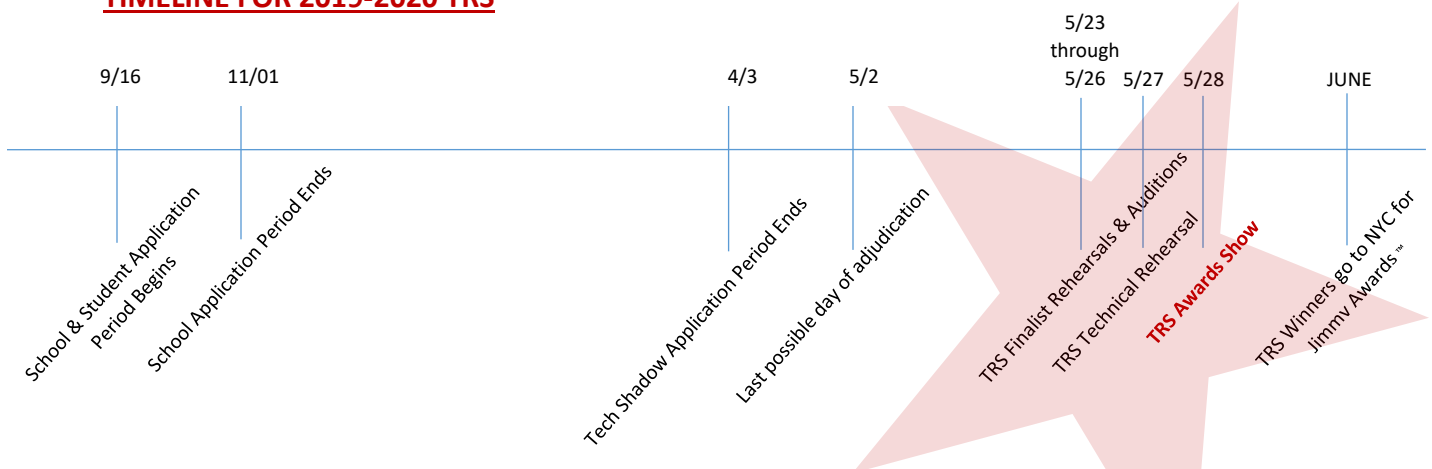
The winners of each awards category will be announced at the live awards ceremony on May 28th.

New this year: 2 student applicants from EVERY participating school will be invited to sing in the opening number of live awards ceremony. More information on page 8.

GUIDELINES

- All deadlines are final.
- The Best Actor and Best Actress nominees **must be current high school students**, grades 9-12.
- Students selected to participate in the second round will be required to learn two group numbers and attend full day group rehearsals on **May 23** and **May 24, 2020** and evening rehearsals on **May 25** and **May 26**. These students will also be required to attend tech rehearsal on **May 27, 2020**.
- Students selected to participate in the second round of auditions will be evaluated by our panel of judges and will participate in a live event celebrating their achievements during a ticketed event on **May 28, 2020**.
- All registered schools will receive 10 complimentary tickets to the live awards ceremony. These tickets will be placed at will-call under the school's selected representative's name.
- All top 20 finalists will receive 4 complimentary tickets to the live awards ceremony. These tickets will be given to the students during the workshop and rehearsals.
- No supporting roles will be accepted in place of a Best Actor or Actress.
- In the event that a Best Actor or Best Actress is not able to participate, a runner-up in the same category will be eligible to participate.
- All decisions are final.
- All prizes and awards are subject to change.
- Students may only be judged on the role performed in their high school musical.
- **NEW: No double casting will be accepted.** If you have double casted your show, please send us the dates to adjudicate the cast that you wish to be reviewed.

TIMELINE FOR 2019-2020 TRS



HIGHLIGHT REELS

While poor quality highlight reels will not affect your score in any way, they are still important tools used in the final judges meeting and help determine our official finalists. If the sound quality is poor, it might color the way any judge who was not present at your event receives your show. Student highlight reels

should strongly feature the student who is being considered for Best Actor or Actress; if their reel consists of only ensemble work, our judges will not know how to review the student in question.

NEW CEREMONY STRUCTURE

New this year! We want to see more student nominees represented on DPAC's stage this spring. Therefore two nominees from EVERY participating school will be invited to perform in the opening number at the live awards ceremony. NOTE: the students uploaded first for Best Actor and Actress categories will be the students that are invited to perform. This is very important to consider when school representatives are registering via Acceptd.

To clarify: Best Actor #1 and Best Actress #1 uploaded in Acceptd will be the students that are contacted with rehearsal details in the spring.

Only two representatives from each school will be invited. If your school has submitted more than one musical, please contact Megan Rindoks at mrindoks@dpacnc.com to confirm which musical/students you wish to be considered for this invitation.

PERSONALIZED TRS GUIDANCE

Do you have any questions? We have a TRS expert who is willing to come to your school and to meet with you and your students in person to talk about the process, expectations, highlight reels and more. If you would like to inquire about this option, you can email TRS Coordinator at mrindoks@dpacnc.com and we will put you in touch.

TECH SHADOWING

Triangle Rising Stars will be accepting a small handful of students to shadow technical roles during the workshop weekend, tech rehearsal and live awards ceremony. Shadow positions include: stage manager, lighting designer & sound technician. If you have students that you feel would be a good fit for this opportunity, have them apply by [clicking here](#). The deadline for Tech Shadow applications is April 3, 2020. We will be in touch with the students selected in April, 2020.

SCORING

Adjudicators use a 0 - 10 scoring model when critiquing performances. See sample score sheets and adjudication guidelines on the following pages.



PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2019-20 JUDGES ASSESSMENT FORM

Student Participants Best Actor & Best Actress

ACTING

Acting Choices / Emotional Specificity / Focus and Concentration

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

VOCAL

Diction / Pitch / Vocal Choices Appropriate for Character

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

MOVEMENT

Rhythm and Technique / Physicality

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

OTHER

"Magic" / Consistency & Overall Presentation

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

TOTAL SCORE (40 possible): _____

COMMENTS:



PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2019-20 ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

Student Participants Best Actor & Best Actress

Score Sheet Defined

ACTING

Acting Choices: Ability to make choices throughout that remain true to the character. Performer's ownership and overall execution of role.

Emotional Specificity: Performer's ability to express varied emotions throughout performance congruent with story arc of show.

Focus and Concentration: Performer's engagement throughout show. Ability to remain focused and dedicated to character throughout.

VOCAL

Diction: Performer's ability to deliver clear, crisp consonants. Performer's delivery of lines in both song and spoken word. Audience's ability to clearly understand the vocals.

Pitch: Performer's ability to sing in pitch, i.e. not flat or sharp.

Vocal Choices Appropriate for Character: Performer's ability to carry character development in song and spoken word.

MOVEMENT

Rhythm and Technique: Performer's ability to move with a beat and accurately respond to musical cues. Performer's ability to cleanly execute choreography.

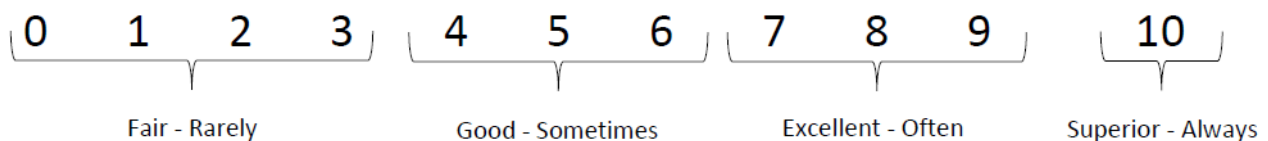
Physicality: Character choices mirrored in physical body. Performer's ownership of character's physical form. Body awareness.

OTHER

"Magic": That special "it" factor. Performer's level of star quality.

Consistency/Overall Presentation: Performer's ability to embody character in acting, vocals and movement (and dance, if applicable) consistently throughout show.

Scoring Method Defined





2019-20 JUDGES ASSESSMENT FORM

Best Ensemble

OVERALL RATINGS

Group Dynamic.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Consistency.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Magic.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Overall Ensemble.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE (40 possible): _____

COMMENTS:



PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2019-20 ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

Best Ensemble

Best Ensemble

The ensemble's ability to sing with emotional understanding, adequate volume, proper diction, correct pitch and tone, supported breathing and dramatic expression. The ensemble's ability to know how their characters support the story and find reasons to be in every scene and song. The ensemble's ability to listen to each other and react accordingly. Their ability to demonstrate effective group dynamics and awareness.

The best ensemble nominees feature an incredibly talented cast of actors and actresses, so much so that the cast overshadows everything else about the production.

Score Sheet Defined

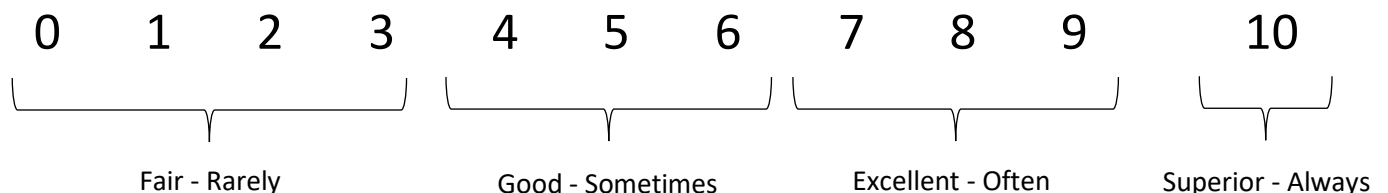
Group Dynamic: Ability to work as a team or unit. Level of trust among entire cast.

Consistency: Ensemble's ability to deliver strong and unified performance consistently throughout show.

Magic: That special "it" factor. Ensembles level of presence and star quality.

Overall Ensemble: The ability for performers to sing and act as one cohesive unit while also showing individual characters. Active engagement, enhances world of the play and drives story.

Scoring Method Defined





2019-20 JUDGES ASSESSMENT FORM

Best Musical

OVERALL RATINGS

Choreography.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Costume/Scenic/Lighting Design.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orchestra.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Overall Presentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE (40 possible): _____

COMMENTS:



PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2019-20 ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

Best Musical

Best Musical

The musical's ability to showcase the diverse talents of the performers. The musical's ability to have a theme evident through music, movements, props and costumes. The ability to produce quality musical theater.

Score Sheet Defined

Choreography: Narrative, creative, style, dynamics, execution.

Costume Design: The ability for costumes to be thoughtful and relevant to the story.

Scenic Design: The level of style, structure and use of space.

Lighting Design: The use of color, atmosphere, time and cueing.

Orchestra: Overall ability for performers to be in pitch with adequate volume and proper diction.

Overall Presentation: Overall presentation of technical execution and musical direction. Cohesiveness and vocal capabilities of ensemble. Ease of set changes, limited distractions, timing and execution of cues. Quality of every aspect of the performance. Interpretation, casting, use of space, consistency, artistic vision, clarity of story.

Scoring Method Defined

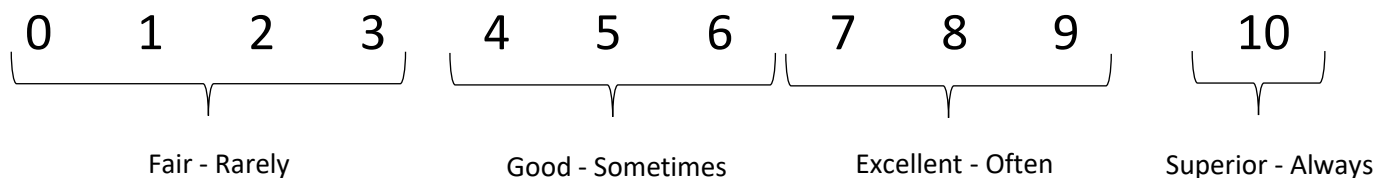




PHOTO / VIDEO RELEASE FORM

I hereby grant Durham Performing Arts Center and Triangle Rising Stars the right to take photographs and video of me and my family in connection with the above-identified event. I authorize Durham Performing Arts Center, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Durham Performing Arts Center and Triangle Rising Stars may use such photographs and video of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

I have read the foregoing document and full understand its contents.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature, parent or guardian (if under age 18): _____