



PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

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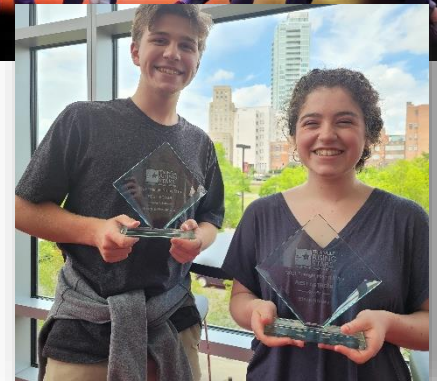
## 2022 TRS HANDBOOK

*Celebrating our 11<sup>th</sup> year of*  
**Triangle Rising Stars!**



#### 2021 Winners:

**Elena Holder** (Durham School of the Arts) and  
**Joshua Messmore** (St. David's 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.

## **PANDEMIC REGULATIONS AND PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS**

Since unfortunately the pandemic is not yet over, it has been determined that the Regional Awards Program rules and regulations that were adjusted for last year's Jimmy Awards/NHSMTA program specifically due to the pandemic will continue to be in place for the 2021-2022 program year. **These changes continue to be applicable to the Jimmy Awards for the 2021-2022 season due to the ramifications of the pandemic, and are in no way precedent-setting for future years.**

The Jimmy Awards are currently planning for an in-person program in New York City during the month of June 2022, and an in-person ceremony in a Broadway theatre. **In planning for these events, it is important to note that current Broadway theatre protocols require all participants including nominees, chaperones, and staff to be fully vaccinated with an FDA or WHO authorized COVID-19 vaccine.** As conditions continue to change over the coming months, additional COVID-19 precautions may be implemented or adjusted for the program based on guidance from the CDC and public health officials.

Because of these updated regulations from NHSMTA and Jimmy Awards, Triangle Rising Stars will be offering a **hybrid model** for adjudication of the 2021/2022 school year. **School productions will be reviewed separately from student applications.** DPAC will present a live awards ceremony on **May 11, 2022.**

Triangle Rising Stars will send judges to schools to review musicals in-person for any school that is able to resume in-person productions and who wish to be eligible for the following awards: Best Musical, Best Ensemble, Best Costume Design, Best Student Orchestra, Best Set Design, Best Choreography and Best Lighting Design. If your school decides to offer a streamed performance vs. in-person, TRS will still be happy to review and adjudicate virtually for all above listed awards categories.

**Students who wish to be considered for Best Actor and Actress nominations must apply separately.**

Triangle Rising Stars will adjudicate video submissions provided by students. Students are NOT required to be cast in the role by their school in order to apply this year. However, they must still apply with a role from an approved musical. The current NHSMTA qualifying lead roles can be found at [nhsmta.com](https://nhsmta.com), or by [CLICKING HERE](#).

More information on both school and student application guidelines on pages 5-7.

### **TRIANGLE RISING STARS 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 Costume Design
Best Actress	Best Student Orchestra
Best Dancer	Best Set Design
Best Ensemble	Best Choreography
Best Musical	Best Lighting Design
Triangle Shining Star	

### **WHAT DO AWARDS CATEGORIES 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 2022 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 week of rehearsals leading up to the live awards ceremony. Prize information TBA.

#### **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 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. Prize information TBA.

### **BEST COSTUME DESIGN, BEST STUDENT ORCHESTRA, BEST SET DESIGN, BEST CHOREOGRAPHY, BEST LIGHTING DESIGN**

Each of these categories receive a trophy and recognition during the live awards ceremony at DPAC.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

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

#### **SCHOOL LOCATION**

High schools and students in the Triangle and surrounding areas are invited to participate. Schools and students in the following counties are eligible to participate: Alamance, Chatham, Durham, Forsyth, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, or Warren.

If you would like to inquire about inclusion of your county, please contact Community Engagement Manager, Megan Rindoks, at [mrindoks@dpacnc.com](mailto:mrindoks@dpacnc.com).

#### **PRODUCTION DATES**

High school musical theater productions should take place between October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and April 17, 2022.

#### **PRODUCTION & STUDENT ROLE REQUIREMENTS**

Schools must choose a musical from a list of qualified productions. Students being considered for Best Actor and Actress must be submitting audition materials in qualifying lead roles. Students do NOT need to be cast in a role by their school in order to apply this year.

The current NHSMTA qualifying lead roles and musicals can be found at [nhsmta.com](http://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.



## **SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS**

There are two steps for school participants this year. School Registration and Post-Production Item Uploads. All items must be uploaded via Acceptd by your designated school representative. Please note that your school is not required to present a musical in order for students to apply this year.

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

### **SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

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

The registration deadline is November 12, 2021. **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](mailto:mrindoks@DPACnc.com).

School adjudication will officially begin on October 22, 2021. If your production takes place in October or early November, please register as soon as possible.

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

### **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 10th, 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 17th, 2022.

### **School Items**

For schools applying, we will 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. Looking for specific focus on group numbers featuring Ensemble and choreography. Must be no longer than 2 minutes in length.
- **Photo(s) of set.**

- **Photos of cast members wearing costumes.** You will be asked to provide individual pictures for lead roles, and a group photo of entire ensemble.
- **Video sample from student orchestra** (if applicable).

### **STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS**

Because some schools may not be offering in-person musicals again this year, students are asked to apply directly to TRS if they would like to be considered for Best Actor or Best Actress. [Students must apply using this link.](#) **Deadline for student applications: April 3, 2022.**

Students must apply with an approved role as listed here:

<https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>.

### **STUDENT REGISTRATION/APPLICATION**

The following items must be submitted for student applications:

- **Contact Information.** Basic information including full name, address, email address, school, etc.
- **Video #1.** Tell us about yourself! We want a 1 to 2 minute video that allows us to see your personality.
  - Possible prompts include: Do you have any surprising, weird, or fun talents? (Bonus points if you show us!) What is the biggest hurdle you've overcome? Who or what inspires you? Why are you applying with this role and musical?
- **Video #2.** Record yourself singing the main solo song from your chosen role/musical.
- **Video #3.** Dance audition. [Use this video to learn a quick dance routine.](#) Record a video of yourself performing the dance number.

### **VIDEO GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT APPLICATIONS**

All videos must be uploaded to YouTube. You will be asked to provide the YouTube video links on the Google Form application. Students who fail to follow guidelines for application and video uploads are not guaranteed to be adjudicated by the panel of judges.

#### **When choosing where you film:**

- Choose a location that is as quiet as possible, free from intrusive background noise and other people talking.
- Choose a background that is visually interesting and gives some indication of where you are (you can also be creative and fun here). Do not stand in front of a window as this can throw off the exposure of the clip you have filmed.
- Try to ensure that the sources of light in the room are behind the camera and not behind the subject.

### **When filming:**

- FILM IN LANDSCAPE MODE.
- For song audition videos, start by introducing yourself with your name, the name of the song and show its from.
- Significant video production or titles are not necessary. Edits between your introduction and audition song is allowed but the songs themselves cannot be cut down or edited.
- Audio is key. If you are using the microphone built into your phone or computer, you need to stay consistently about 18" away from it.
- CHECK YOUR AUDIO LEVEL. Please make sure you do not overwhelm the recoding at your loudest moment. Easiest way to check is to listen to your recording and see if it ever sounds distorted.
- The most important thing when filming is to ensure that the subject (YOU!) is in frame.
- Selfie style videos are acceptable.
- Be creative when you can but make sure the audio recording quality is good and remains consistent. This is the most important thing.

## **ADJUDICATION PROCESS**

### **SCHOOL ADJUDICATION**

Schools will be judged in-person, or virtually if program has opted to livestream their show instead, by two or more judges appointed by Triangle Rising Stars. Score sheets and adjudication guidelines are provided at the end of this handbook.

Judges will specifically be reviewing the overall musical and ensemble ability. They will also be reviewing musicals for new official categories: Best Choreography, Best Lighting Design, Best Student Orchestra (if applicable), Best Costume Design, and Best Set Design.

### **STUDENT ADJUDICATION**

Students will be judged solely on their performance in their video applications. Two or more adjudicators will review the application and evaluate the performance. Score sheets and adjudication guidelines are provided for review at the end of this handbook.

Judges will specifically be reviewing singing, dancing and emoting capabilities. They will also be looking for that special "it" factor and presence on camera.

### **SPRING JUDGES MEETING**

Applications will be viewed and adjudicated by a panel of judges. All judges will be meeting in April to review all applications. In this meeting, the 20 finalists (10 for Best Actor and 10 for Best Actress) will be determined. Finalists for each of the school categories will also be determined in this meeting.



Students and schools will be contacted via email immediately following this spring judges meeting to announce finalists for each awards category.

**Students nominated for Best Actor and Actress categories will be expected to confirm their continued participation via email within 24 hours of being notified of their nomination.** If we fail to hear from any of the selected 20 finalists, we will move on to a list of alternates.

### **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 week long intensive which includes the tech rehearsal and live awards ceremony at DPAC. Dates and more are included in the timeline section further along in this handbook.

***Please note that all 20 student finalists selected to perform at DPAC in live awards ceremony will be required to be fully vaccinated and asked to show proof of vaccination.***

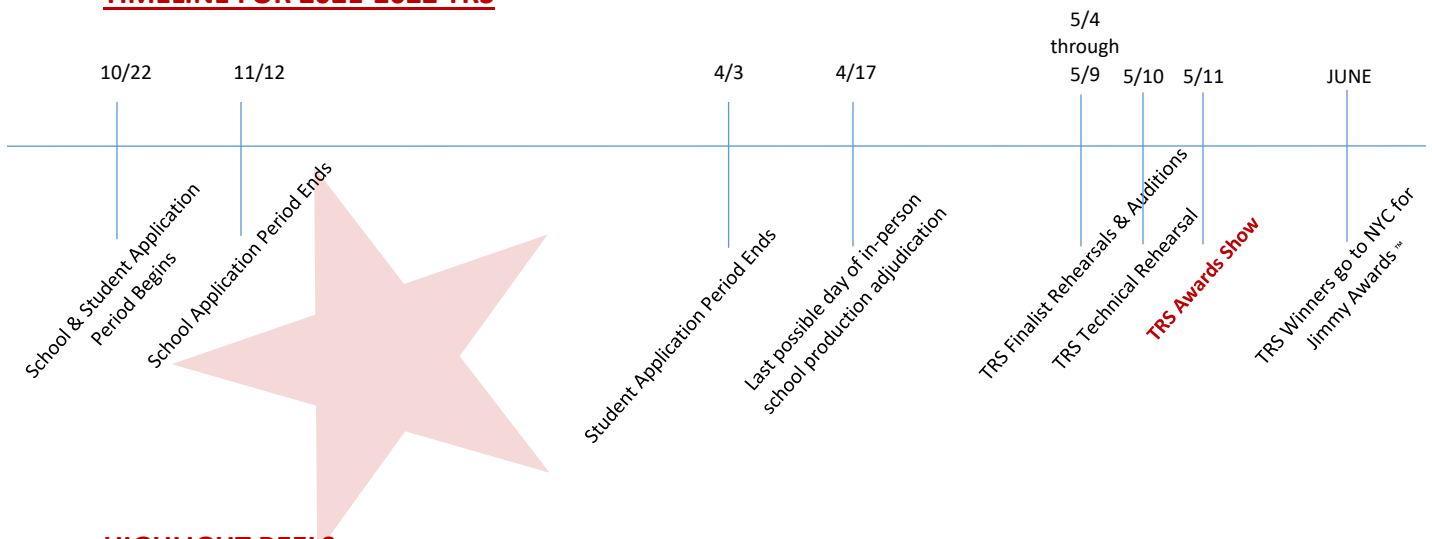
Top 20 student finalists will audition during the intensive for the judges' panel to review. The final audition is the live awards ceremony at DPAC. There will be judges in the audience who will submit scores for each finalist. Scores are tallied by impartial TRS and DPAC employees before the winners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

The winners of each awards category will be announced during the live awards ceremony on May 11, 2022.

### **GUIDELINES**

- All deadlines are final.
- Schools and students must apply with roles and musicals currently on the approved list here: <https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>
- The Best Actor and Best Actress nominees **must be current high school students**, grades 9-12.
- Student finalists will be required to learn two group numbers and attend rehearsals after school and on weekends **May 4<sup>th</sup> - May 9<sup>th</sup>**. These students will also be required to attend tech rehearsal on **May 10, 2022**.
- Student finalists will be evaluated by our panel of judges and will participate in a live event celebrating their achievements during a ticketed event on **May 11, 2022**.
- Participation by student finalists in rehearsals and live awards ceremony is required, no exceptions.
- 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.

## **TIMELINE FOR 2021-2022 TRS**



## **HIGHLIGHT REELS**

While poor quality highlight reels will not affect your musical's 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.

## **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 [mrindoks@dpacnc.com](mailto:mrindoks@dpacnc.com) and we will put you in touch.

## **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

## 2021-22 JUDGES ASSESSMENT FORM

### Student Participants Score Sheet Best Actor & Best Actress

#### **PRESENTATION ON CAMERA**

Personality / Clarity

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#### **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 (50 possible): \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **COMMENTS:**

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PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

## 2021-22 ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

### Student Participants Best Actor & Best Actress

#### **PRESENTATION ON CAMERA**

**Personality:** Performer's ability to show us who they are on camera.

**Clarity:** Performer's ability to speak clearly and be understood on camera.

#### **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.

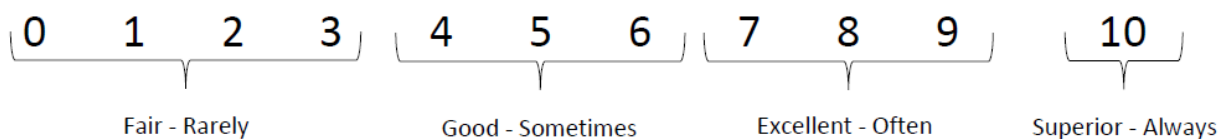
**Physicality:** Character choices mirrored in physical body. Performer's ownership of character's physical form. Body awareness.

#### **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**





PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

## 2021-22 JUDGES ASSESSMENT FORM

### In-Person School Musical Score Sheet

#### OVERALL RATINGS

Group Dynamic.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Overall Ensemble.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Choreography.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Set Design.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Costume Design.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lighting Design.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Student Orchestra (if applicable).....	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 Presentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**TOTAL SCORE (100 possible):** \_\_\_\_\_

#### COMMENTS:

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PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

## 2021-22 ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

### In-Person School Musical

#### **Best Ensemble Award**

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

#### **Best Musical Award**

The best musical nominees prove ability to showcase the diverse talents of the performers. The musical's ability to have a theme evident through music, movements, props and costumes. These nominees will have shown absolute ability to produce quality musical theater.

#### **Full Score Sheet Defined**

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

**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.

**Choreography:** Narrative, creative, style, dynamics, level of difficulty and execution.

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

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

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

**Student Orchestra (if applicable):** Overall ability for performers to be in pitch with adequate volume and proper diction.

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

**"Magic":** That special "it" factor. Ensemble's level of presence and star quality.

**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**

