



TRIANGLE RISING STARS

PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

Presented By



Thank You To Our Community Partners



2022/2023 HANDBOOK

Celebrating our 12th year of

Triangle Rising Stars!



2022 Winners:

Symoné Spencer (Enloe High School) and **Joshua Thompson** (Weaver Academy)



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 or directors apply to have their production and students reviewed by our panel of qualified adjudicators. In the spring DPAC will present the **Triangle Rising Stars Awards** 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. The program impacts over 140,000 students annually who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by over forty professional theatres (like DPAC) throughout the US.

[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 musical theater performances across Central North Carolina.
- 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 Central North Carolina.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Student Categories:

Best Actor
Best Actress
Best Dancer
Triangle Shining Star Award

Production Categories:

Best Ensemble Award
Best Musical Award
Best Costume Design
Best Student Orchestra
Best Set Design
Best Choreography
Best Lighting Design

WHAT DO TRS AWARDS ENTAIL?

BEST ACTOR & BEST ACTRESS

Best Actor and Best Actress 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 2023 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. The winner of this category receives a trophy and a \$500 scholarship.

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. The winner of this category receives a trophy and a \$500 scholarship.

BEST ENSEMBLE & BEST MUSICAL AWARDS

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

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 schools producing musical theater in Central North Carolina. To be eligible for the 2022/2023 season, programs should meet the following qualifications:

SCHOOL LOCATION

All high schools in Central North Carolina are invited to participate. Currently schools in the following counties are eligible to participate: Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Vance, Wake, Warren and Yadkin.

Triangle Rising Stars aims to be as inclusive as possible for participants. If your county is in Central North Carolina and not listed here, please email trianglerisingstars@dpacnc.com to request the addition of your area.

PRODUCTION DATES

High school musical theater productions should take place between October 28th, 2022 and April 30, 2023.

PRODUCTION & STUDENT ROLE REQUIREMENTS

Schools must choose a musical from a list of qualified productions. Students being nominated for Best Actor and Actress must be cast in qualifying lead roles.

The current NHSMTA qualifying lead roles and musicals 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, Student Registration Item Uploads and Post-Production Item Uploads. All items, including student registration, must be uploaded via Acceptd by your designated school representative.

<https://trianglerisingstars.getacceptd.com>

SCHOOL REGISTRATION (Step 1)

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

The registration deadline is November 11, 2022. **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 staff at trianglerisingstars@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 separately by students, other teachers, or parents will not be accepted.

The following information will be required during initial School Registration:

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

STUDENT REGISTRATION ITEM UPLOADS (Step 2)

This second phase 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.

Best Actor and Actress Nomination Uploads

Up to two students can be nominated for Best Actor and up to two students can be nominated for Best Actress. There will be no exceptions to this limit.

The following information will be required for Actor and Actress 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: <https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>). If the role is not listed as a Qualifying Role in the School's Production, please contact the Triangle Rising Stars about the appeal process at trianglerisingstars@dpacnc.com. Please note that all appeals are subject to approval by TRS's parent organization: the National High School Musical Theatre Awards.
- **Video Upload #1:** To be completed by the student and uploaded by designated school representative using Acceptd. In a video that is 1 minute or less in length, the student should tell us about themselves to allow judges to get to know each nominee.
 - Choose a location that is quite and free from intrusive background noise. Try to ensure that sources of light are behind the camera and not behind the subject. Significant video production and titles are not necessary. Be creative, and have fun with it! Make sure the audio quality is good and consistent.
 - **Possible Prompts Include:** What are you enjoying most about playing this character? What does theater mean to you? Do you have any surprising, weird or fun talents? (Bonus points if you show us!)
- **Video Upload #2:** Dance audition. To be completed by the student and uploaded by designated school representative using Acceptd. [Use this video to learn a quick dance routine](#). Record a video of yourself performing the dance number.

POST-PRODUCTION ITEM UPLOADS (Step 3)

Post-Production items are required to be submitted within two weeks after production. If the production takes place at or after April 21st, 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 30th, 2023.

Production Uploads

- **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 the ensemble and choreography. Must be no longer than 2 minutes.
- **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 Uploads

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 nominated Best Actor and Actress). Must be no longer than 2 minutes in length.
- **Sheet Music from Nominated Role.** Best Actor and Actress nominees 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.
- **Production Photos.** Upload three photos of each nominated Actor and Actress 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.

PRODUCTION ADJUDICATION

School musicals will be judged in-person 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 the following awards categories: Best Choreography, Best Lighting Design, Best Student Orchestra (if applicable), Best Costume Design, and Best Set Design.

STUDENT ADJUDICATION

Students will be judged on their performance in their high school musical production. 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 during their live performance of their high school production.

Note: The two video uploads required for Best Actor and Best Actress Nominees will NOT be scored by any adjudicator, but will be used during the Spring Judges Meeting to help the judges have a closer look at each nominee.

SPRING JUDGES MEETING

After reviewing each musical, judges will submit scores using the score sheet provided at the end of this handbook. All judges will be meeting in early May to discuss all of the productions and nominated students. In this meeting, the Top 20 Finalists (10 for Best Actor and 10 for Best Actress) will be determined. Finalists for all other categories will also be determined in this meeting.

OFFICIAL TOP 20 STUDENT FINALISTS

Students who have been selected as a Top 20 Finalist must reply to the email sent to accept their nomination within 24 hours. The Top 20 Students must agree to attend a weeklong intensive workshop, tech rehearsal and live awards ceremony at DPAC. Dates and more are included in the timeline section further along in this handbook.

Finalists will audition during this week 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.

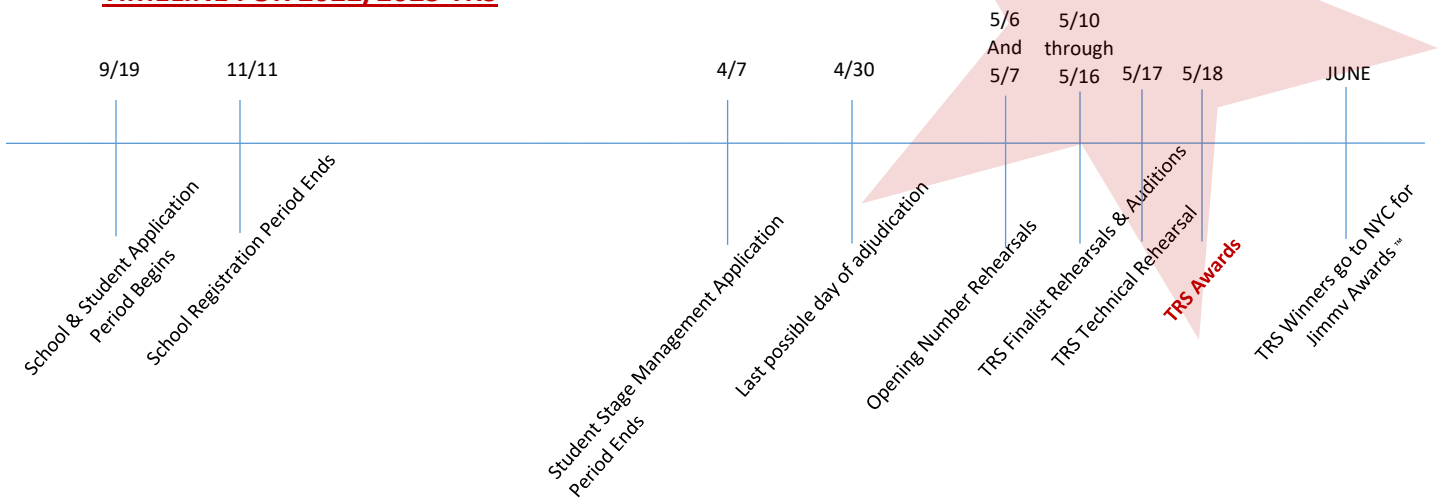
The winners of each awards category will be announced at the live awards ceremony on May 18th.

GUIDELINES

- All deadlines are final.
- The Best Actor and Best Actress nominees **must be current high school students**, grades 9-12.
- **NEW!** Apart from the Top 20 Student Finalists, each participating school may select two students to perform at Triangle Rising Stars Awards in the Opening Number. Mandatory rehearsals for this number will be held on **May 6 and May 7, 2023**. Each participating school will receive an email with instructions on how to submit these two chosen students in the spring of 2023.
- Students selected as finalists will be required to learn two group numbers and attend rehearsals on **May 10-May 16, 2023**. These students will also be required to attend tech rehearsal on **May 17, 2023**.
- 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 18, 2023**.

- All participating schools will receive 10 complimentary tickets to Triangle Rising Stars Awards on May 18th. These tickets will be mobile and sent to the designated school representative to distribute.
- All Top 20 Student Finalists will receive 4 complimentary tickets to the awards ceremony. These tickets will be mobile and sent directly to the student to distribute.
- 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.
- **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.
- Only students nominated for Best Actor or Actress will be considered for Top 20 Finalist position.
- **NEW!** Appointing up to two student Stage Managers this spring. Information on how to apply on page 9.

TIMELINE FOR 2022/2023 TRS



HIGHLIGHT REELS

While poor quality highlight reels will not affect your score in any way, they are still important tools used in the spring 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.

OPENING NUMBER OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL STUDENTS

New this year! We want to see more students represented on DPAC's stage this spring. Therefore two nominees from EVERY participating school will be invited to perform in the opening number Triangle Rising Stars Awards. Each participating school will receive an email in the spring asking which two students will be selected to participate. Rehearsals for this number are mandatory, and any students selected must be available to attend. These rehearsals will be in the afternoon on May 6 and 7, 2023. These students will also need to attend the tech rehearsal on May 17th, and of course the Awards ceremony on May 18th as well.

Only two representatives from each school will be invited. If your school is submitting more than one musical this year, you will not be eligible to submit additional students. This opportunity is for each participating school, not each participating musical. It is up to each school to determine how these students are selected.

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, please email trianglerisingstars@dpacnc.com.

STUDENT STAGE MANAGERS

New! Triangle Rising Stars will be selecting two students to serve as Stage Managers this year. Those interested in applying for this special opportunity must be available for every rehearsal, tech and the performance. To apply, student stage managers should send their resume, cover letter and references to trianglerisingstars@dpacnc.com. Deadline for applications is April 7, 2023.

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

JUDGES ASSESSMENT FORM

Best Actor and 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

ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

Best Actor and 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.

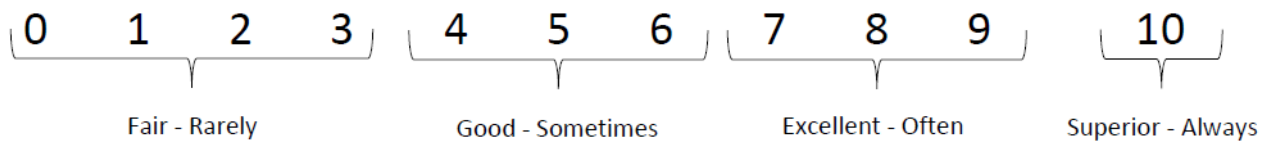
Physicality: Character choices mirrored in physical body. Performer's ownership of character's physical form. Body awareness.

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





PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

JUDGES ASSESSMENT FORM

Production Categories

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:



PART OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

Production Categories

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

