



PRESS RELEASE

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High School Students Honored by Music Theatre Wichita as Jester Award Nominees Are Announced

17th Annual Jester Awards to take place Sunday, May 6

WICHITA, KS – Music Theatre Wichita announces nominees for the 17th Annual Jester Awards, a program designed to celebrate excellence in high school musical theatre. The accolades program showcases the next generation of musical theatre talent in Kansas. Each year, trained volunteer judges attend and evaluate dozens of performances. This year, 102 judges viewed 127 performances of 41 productions, involving more than 2800 students and 41 schools across the state of Kansas. The program began in Wichita, but now extends as far as Liberal, Hays, Salina, and Pittsburg, in addition to the greater Wichita area.

The Jester Awards Ceremony will take place at Century II Performing Arts Center's Convention Hall in Wichita on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 4pm. Honorees in 25 categories will be announced during the ceremony, and several of the honorees will perform. Scholarship awards will be presented to three students, lead male and female honorees and a technical theatre recipient. Tickets to the ceremony are \$10 each and may be purchased at the door, online at mtwichita.org, or by calling the Music Theatre Wichita box office at 316.265.3107.

Alumni of the Jester Awards program can be seen onstage and backstage at Music Theatre Wichita this summer, as well as on Broadway and in regional theatres across the country. MTWichita Board President Michelle Moe Witte says: "Theatre provides so many young people with a sense of community. Together, they learn the value of work, collaboration, creativity, and dedication. Their work is inclusive and so are the Jester Awards. Whether they belted out a tune on stage, ran the sound board, or created the program – this is their night to shine. It is our opportunity to celebrate all that they have accomplished and to honor the community they have created."

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Music Theatre Wichita advances the musical theatre art form by educating and nurturing creators, artists, and audiences, primarily through the production of Broadway-caliber shows. Founded in 1972, MTWichita has attained an international reputation for excellence. Each summer, MTWichita self-produces five Broadway-scale musical productions, using a unique mixture of top-flight professionals from Broadway and Hollywood working alongside talented Midwesterners.