



2026 AWARDS SHOWCASE: REHEARSAL WEEK & EVENT GUIDE FOR DIRECTORS

There are many components of the Awards Showcase that directors coordinate for their school's participation.

Please note that all elements of the Awards Showcase your school qualifies for are optional. Each school may elect to participate in the elements that they feel comfortable coordinating. The goal of each element is to provide students with the opportunity to share their talents and to learn from the guest creative team and one another.

In the following pages, you will find important information about each showcase element to help you coordinate your school's participation.



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2026 KEY CHANGES OVERVIEW

EVENT GUIDE FORMATTING UPDATES

To make the Event Guide more user-friendly, each section now has a “Key Dates for this Track” table at the top, that outlines all dates/deadlines for that element of participation.

In addition, more showcase-related documents and forms that have been sent via email to qualifying schools are now linked throughout the document for ongoing ease of reference.

SHOWCASE TOWN HALL CALLS

We will host virtual Town Hall calls in late April. All directors are asked to prioritize one of two options. The first portion will be for all directors. The latter portion will be for directors new to IHSTMA or Showcase.

REQUIRED STUDENT WAIVER – EARLIER DUE DATE

The required Waiver/Release for all student participants will now be due prior to all on-site activity commencing and will double as an emergency contact form. Students will not be allowed to begin rehearsal without a waiver/emergency contact form on file. (See page 9)

ADJUSTED CALL TIMES ON EVENT DAY

Call times on the event day have been adjusted to build in an intentional “flex” rehearsal window for whichever of the Opening, Finale, or Triple Threat medleys could use additional stage time.

AWARD PICK-UP WINDOW

The window for picking up your physical awards has been shortened to eliminate hours that saw minimal foot traffic. (See page 13.)

NO PHOTOGRAPHER AT AWARD PICK-UP

A photographer will not be provided during Award Pick-Up. Branded backdrops will still be available, and schools are asked to self-manage any photo opportunities after picking up their awards.

DRESS REHEARSAL – CONTINUING FOR A SECOND YEAR

A required afternoon dress rehearsal was implemented for the first time last year. Based on feedback from schools and the production team, we will again incorporate a full dress rehearsal into the schedule. Students will again be provided with dinner between dress rehearsal and the showcase. (See page 13.)

STUDENT SEATING – NOW BY PARTICIPATION ELEMENT

This year, we intend to adjust how students’ seats are assigned during the showcase. Rather than being seated by school, we hope to seat by the element in which they are participating. This will expedite the seating assignment process for staff, ensure that students coming to showcase on their own have peers to sit with, and help us more easily find students when it is time for their group to go backstage. (Directors who elect to sit in the student section will be seated with at least one of their students.)

TECHNICAL THEATER SCHOLARSHIP – UPDATED AMOUNTS & DIVISIONS

Technical Theater Scholarship application information has been incorporated into the Event Guide. In addition, for 2026 the scholarship amounts and the eligible divisions have been updated. (See page 42.)

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES – SOLIDIFYING MAXIMUM STUDENT NUMBERS

To better manage available ticket inventory for all participating schools, we have solidified guidelines around the maximum number of students that schools with performing ensembles can have participate. (See page 22.)



INTER-SCHOOL MEDLEY PARTICIPATION

(Every adjudicated school
eligible to participate)



INTER-SCHOOL MEDLEY INFORMATION (Opening or Finale)

The opening and finale medleys are collaborative medleys with cross-school representation.

All adjudicated schools are eligible to submit students to participate. Learning opportunity-only schools may submit students for consideration for any available slots through a lottery. (See details under “Eligibility”.)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Scheduling Preference Survey Released	Monday, March 23, 2026
Scheduling Preference Surveys Due	Friday, April 3, 2026
Medley Assignments Communicated	Monday, April 13, 2026
Director Town Hall Calls (<i>New: required. Returning: highly encouraged.</i>)	Mon., April 27 at 4 PM OR Tues., April 28 at 7:15 AM
School’s Participation Form Due, with all representatives and alternates included	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
Alternates lottery invitations sent	Thursday, May 14, 2026
Waiver & Emergency Contact Forms Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM
Staging Rehearsals	Opening: Fri., May 22 & Tues., May 26, 2026 Finale: Sat., May 23 & Wed., May 27, 2026
Final Tech, Dress Rehearsal & Awards Showcase Event	Thursday, May 28, 2026

ELIGIBILITY

Adjudicated schools may submit up to two* student actors from their musical to represent the school in an inter-school medley. Each adjudicated school may also submit up to two students as alternates.

Alternates-at-large: if medleys do not reach full capacity, alternates will be selected by lottery to join the medley to fill remaining slots. In this scenario, your school may have more than two representatives in the medley.

Alternates for your specific school: if participating student(s) from your school drop before the first rehearsal, your school’s listed alternate(s) will be first to substitute.

Schools will be assigned to either the Opening Number or the Finale based on rehearsal availability. (All student representatives from your school will attend the same rehearsal schedule.)

***Note about Triple Threat callback students:**

Schools may also be allotted additional spots in the Opening or Finale, if needed to accommodate any Outstanding Achievement in a Principal Role students who go through the Triple Threat Callback process (see page 48) who are not selected for the Triple Threat track. All Outstanding Achievement Principal Role students who go through the Call-Back process will be guaranteed a spot in the showcase.

Learning Opportunities only schools may submit the names of up to two students to be entered into a lottery for the chance to join the Opening or Finale Medley.



INTER-SCHOOL MEDLEY INFORMATION (Opening or Finale), cont.

STUDENT SELECTION CRITERIA

School directors are to select principal roles or chorus members that will best represent their school and who also reflect the diversity of their school community. Please note: the number the students will perform will be likely be high energy, high movement*, and will involve singing. Please select students that you feel are up for the challenge.

NOTE: students accepted into the Triple Threat Award Program are not eligible to also take one of your school's spots in an inter-school medley. Instead, your slots will either go to students who went through the Triple Threat Call-Back process but did not qualify for Triple Threat OR will be students of the director's choice.

You will be asked to confirm the names of your students participating in your inter-school medley by May 8, 2026 through your school's Participation Form. (Form to be released on May 4, 2026 as part of "Showcase Communications Day".)

*Accessibility accommodations can be made upon request, ensuring that all participants have the support they need to comfortably engage with the choreography.

MEDLEY ASSIGNMENTS

Directors will be asked to respond to a survey about medley assignment preference, based on rehearsal schedules. Please see next page for the rehearsal schedule for the opening and finale medleys.

The preference scheduling survey will be released in late March to allow schools to have a clearer sense of their end-of-year schedules around potential weather make-up days. Preliminary medley assignments will be communicated by mid-April.

Schools that indicate flexibility between the two medleys' rehearsal schedules may be re-assigned after participating students have been communicated, to have more equal ensemble sizes between the two medleys.

[ACCESS MEDLEY ASSIGNMENTS HERE](#)

INTER-SCHOOL MEDLEY INFORMATION (Opening or Finale), cont.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR OPENING/FINALE MEDLEYS*

	First Staging Rehearsal	Second Staging Rehearsal	Dress Rehearsal with the Band
OPENING MEDLEY	Friday, May 22 9 AM – 6 PM	Tuesday, May 26 9AM – 1 PM	Thursday, May 28 Call Time: 8:30 AM Stay through end of Showcase
FINALE MEDLEY	Saturday, May 23 9 AM – 6 PM	Wednesday, May 27 9AM – 1 PM	Thursday, May 28 Call Time: 9:45 AM Stay through end of Showcase
Meal Information	Bring Your Own Lunch	Dismissal before lunch	Bring Your Own Lunch; Dinner will be provided

*Note: This is a tentative schedule. Start and end times may shift slightly.

PREPARATION AND REHEARSALS

Participating students are required to learn the music on their own or with their director’s help (music and rehearsal tracks will be posted online in May; materials will be available in the respective student packets linked below.)

All rehearsals for your school’s assigned medley are mandatory for participating students. Any student that misses rehearsal will not be allowed to perform at the Awards Showcase.

NOTE: Participating students are given the unique opportunity to work with Broadway industry professionals. As such, the tone of rehearsals will be professional with an emphasis on focus and mutual respect. A student who does not conduct themselves at this level of expectation may be dismissed from performing in the Awards Showcase at the discretion of program staff.

PARTICIPATING STUDENT GUIDELINES & MUSIC MATERIALS

For ease of communicating expectations to your school’s participating students, Student Packets may be found below. These packets contain more detailed information about advance preparation, solo auditions and placement activities, etc. and other expectations.

Sheet music, rehearsal tracks, a dance placement video, etc. for each medley are linked within the respective Student Packets.

[OPENING STUDENT PACKET](#)

[FINALE STUDENT PACKET](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

*(Attendance Policy, Required
Forms, Wardrobe, Dress
Rehearsal, Tickets, Award Pick-
Up, etc.)*



GENERAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All students participating in the Awards Showcase are required to attend all scheduled rehearsal and tech rehearsals for their portion(s) of the event. If a conflict arises, the student must communicate with event staff at least one week in advance of the scheduled activity to request that their absence be excused; each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and will be determined based on material missed and if any make-up accommodation can be provided*.

Event staff reserve the right to remove a student from showcase activity for any missed staging rehearsal. These determinations are at the full discretion of program staff.

Under no circumstances will a missed tech or dress rehearsal be excused due to safety considerations related to lights, camera blocking, travel pathways, etc.

**Graduating seniors must submit a request at least one week in advance to be absent if rehearsal conflicts with the time they are walking in their graduation ceremony. Approval will depend upon content missed, students' ability to make up, and/or the extent of impact on the production team.*

PARTICIPATION FORMS – REQUIRED FROM ALL SCHOOLS

Each school will be provided with a participation form on which to enumerate all showcase participating students and their involvement. This ensures an accurate count for participation, complimentary ticket assignments, and for cross-checking received waivers. Participation Forms will be released on Monday, May 4 as part of “Showcase Communications Day” and are due Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM. If we do not receive your school's information by the deadline, we will assume your school is not participating.

PLEASE NOTE: The names you put on your form will be the names we use for the program, name tags, tickets, and all other internal logistics for the showcase. Please be as accurate as possible when filling out the participation form.

REQUIRED WAIVER & EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

Students are required to submit a completed waiver/release to participate in the Awards Showcase and related activities. Waivers should be submitted no later than **Friday, May 15, 2026 at 4 PM**.

Students without a release/emergency contact form on file prior to their first rehearsal will not be allowed to participate in rehearsals or other activity and, as a result, will not receive a ticket for their use for the showcase.

THE WAIVER & EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM WILL GO LIVE ON MAY 4, IN CONJUNCTION WITH “SHOWCASE COMMUNICATIONS DAY”

Url: <https://ihsmta.wufoo.com/forms/2026-ihsmta-personal-release-emergency-contact/>

T-SHIRTS

Commemorative t-shirts will be available for purchase during program activity held Monday, May 25 – Thursday, May 28. Specific sale times will be posted daily. Check or credit/debit card only.

IOWA PBS

This year's Awards Showcase will again be livestreamed by Iowa PBS. Additionally, highlights from the evening will be broadcast later in the summer; exact date(s) to be announced.





GENERAL INFORMATION, cont.

PUBLICITY GUIDELINES

PROMOTING YOUR HONORS AND SHOWCASE INVOLVEMENT

You may share your honors internally with students and other stakeholders upon receipt, but we ask that you refrain from posting or making any official announcements about your honors until IHSMTA releases all schools' honors for the season.

Media releases or public posts may be disseminated starting on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

All final showcase invitations will be sent on Monday, May 4, 2026. This timing will allow you to bundle publicizing your showcase involvement with the announcement of your honors.

Please use the following resource to generate an accurate media release or language for your school:

[2026 IHSMTA PUBLICITY TOOLKIT](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Here are best practices for engaging with the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards on social media.

Share or Like

Keep an eye on Des Moines Performing Arts social media accounts for showcase-related content. Re-post or react if you feel called to do so!

Graphics

Some schools like to create social media graphics to promote their honors or showcase involvement. If you wish to use IHSMTA logos in graphics you are creating, please access our logo library [HERE](#) for full resolution files.

Please ensure that logos are not distorted.

Tag Us

If promoting your honors or showcase involvement on social media, please use the official Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards hashtag: **#IHSMTA**

When appropriate, please tag Des Moines Performing Arts using the organization's social media handles:

- Facebook: DesMoinesPerformingArts
- Instagram: dsmp performing
- TikTok: desmoinesperformingarts

Bonus Tag

Consider thanking EMC Insurance for their vital sponsorship of the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards in a post from your school or drama program account(s) at some point in the process. EMC's title sponsorship plays a vital role in helping us keep registration fees low.

- Facebook: EMCInsurance
- Instagram: emcinsurancecompanies

WARDROBE GUIDELINES

The costume for all participating students is all black attire. Participants may choose from the following wardrobe options:

- Black dress pants and a black collared shirt (such as a button-up or polo) or black top; a black dress; or a black skirt with a black top; please include a black belt for anything with belt loops
- Black socks or black hosiery (required for any participant not wearing pants, no bare leg skin please)
- Black dress shoes, sneakers, or character-style shoes.*

Please no shorts, sweats, visible lettering/logos, or yoga pants. If wearing a dress or skirt, black hosiery is required. Dresses and skirts must be at or below the knee due to choreography considerations. Wardrobe should be solid throughout with no cutouts or midriiffs showing.

Students are required to come in their performance clothes and shoes to tech rehearsal. This is used as an opportunity to ensure that all costume guidelines are met, that students have practiced performing in their performance shoes on the Civic Center stage, and that mic packs for any mic'd student work with what they plan to wear. If during tech rehearsal it is determined you do not have a good place to hook a mic, you will be asked to make a different wardrobe choice for the showcase.

***Black Sneakers are required for students in Opening, Finale and Triple Threat**, due to the anticipated style of movement. Sneakers should be as black as possible, including the soles and laces. Here are a few options as examples. If you are unable to buy a new pair of shoes and do not have options at home available, please contact ihsmta@dmpa.org.

[Example One](#) (Women's)
[Example Two](#) (Women's)
[Example Three](#) (Men's)
[Example Four](#) (Men's)



HAIR GUIDELINES

Long hair should be pulled back or pinned so that it is not in front of participants' eyes or faces. We want the audience to see expressive faces. Any hair accessories should be black or match your hair color.

JEWELRY GUIDELINES

Any jewelry that can be easily removed should not be worn, beyond simple stud earrings. Dangly earrings and removable necklaces, bracelets, watches, etc. are not allowed.

Example of students in all black for the Awards Showcase:



Look good! Feel good!

Within the dress guidelines, students should feel free to show their style and personality through their wardrobe choice.



GENERAL INFORMATION, cont.

TICKETS TO THE AWARDS SHOWCASE

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Each school will receive up to two free tickets for director use and a guest of their choice. All students that are performing in the event, part of the Behind-The-Scenes track, or speaking on stage will be admitted to the Awards Showcase free of charge. Directors will communicate complimentary ticket needs on their 'Participation Form,' due Friday, May 8 at 4 PM.

(When not on stage, students will be seated in the theater to watch as much of the Awards Showcase as possible. *Please note: we reserve the right to assign select students to an overflow viewing area in the building for certain parts of the evening, if necessary to accommodate all participants.*)

TICKETS FOR THE PUBLIC (Friends, family and other supporters)

Tickets to the Awards Showcase will go on sale to the public on Friday, May 15, 2026. Tickets may be purchased online at dmpa.org, by calling 515-246-2300, or in person at the Civic Center ticket office (221 Walnut Street, Des Moines; hours Monday – Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM.) Tickets prices start at \$15.

[PUBLIC TICKETING INFORMATION SHEET](#)

TICKET PICK-UP

Director Tickets

Directors of Performing Ensembles

Directors of performing ensembles will receive their two (2) complimentary tickets during your ensemble's check-in for dress rehearsal. Any guest utilizing your second ticket that is not attending the Dress Rehearsal may pick up their ticket at Will Call starting at 4:30 PM.

All Other Directors

All other directors can pick up their two (2) complimentary tickets at Will Call starting at 4:30 PM.

Impact Award Recipients

Impact Award Recipients can pick up their two (2) complimentary tickets at Will Call starting at 4:30 PM.

Student Tickets

Opening, Finale & Triple Threat Medley students

These students will receive their assigned ticket for their personal use after their tech rehearsal directly from program staff.

All Other Participating Students

(Performing ensemble students, Spotlight Medley students, Behind-The-Scenes students, Community Engagement & Impact Award Speakers)

These students will receive their assigned ticket for their use at dress rehearsal check-in (12:45-1:30 PM) prior to dress rehearsal. Note: any student that does not check in during the check-in window prior to dress rehearsal's start will not be issued a ticket for their use nor be allowed to perform.



GENERAL INFORMATION, cont.

AWARD PICK-UP

Each school will be required to designate someone with permission to pick up your school award(s) prior to the Awards Showcase. You will provide the names of authorized people on your Participation Form. Awards will not be released to individuals not listed.

Please note: schools that do not have someone on hand to pick up their award(s) may elect to have their awards shipped to their school over the summer or make an alternative arrangement to pick them up on a different date.

Note about Outstanding Achievement Awards: Individual students recognized with outstanding achievement in a principal role or in a Behind-The-Scenes role will receive an individual physical award. The captain or co-captains of teams of students who received a Behind-The-Scenes achievement award will also receive a physical award.

Note about Outstanding Achievement Team Member Certificates: Team members outside of the captain or co-captains who received Outstanding Achievement in a Behind-The-Scenes role will receive a certificate.

Note about Special Recognition Certificates: Individual students recognized with Special Recognition in a principal role or in a Behind-The-Scenes role as well as the captain or co-captains of teams of students who received a Behind-The-Scenes Special Recognition will receive a certificate.

The award pick-up table will be located in the Prairie Meadows Lobby at the Des Moines Civic Center for pick-up between **11:00 AM – 1:30 PM** and **6-7 PM** on the event day, Thursday, May 28, 2026. In addition, during this time, directors will pick up packets that contain their school's certificates, participation pins, and other related materials.

Branded backdrops will be available throughout the day if you would like to take any photos with your awards.

DRESS REHEARSAL

There will be a required day-of dress rehearsal. All Participants (as listed below) are **required** to attend the Dress Rehearsal. Students will be called no later than 1:30 PM; please see page 17 for call times by track.

During the dress rehearsal, we will run most of the show from start to finish. (Dress rehearsal will exclude announcing any awards that are to be revealed live that evening.)

Required Dress Rehearsal Participants:

- Inter-School Medley Performers (Opening & Finale)
- Triple Threat Performers
- Performing Ensembles and their Director or a designated school personnel member
- Spotlight Performers
- Behind-The-Scenes Honorees
- Community Engagement & Impact Award Speakers
- *Impact Award Recipients (will be called at a later time)*



GENERAL INFORMATION, cont.

MEALS ON SHOWCASE DAY (THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026)

STUDENT LUNCH

Arrangements for student lunch will vary based on participation track, as follows:

Opening Medley	Bring your own to eat on site
Triple Threat Medley	Bring your own to eat on site
Finale Medley	Bring your own to eat on site
Spotlights, Ensembles, BTS Students, Community Engagement Speakers, Impact Award Speakers	Eat BEFORE arrival (1:30 PM)
Assistant Stage Managers	Provided, as part of crew lunch

STUDENT DINNER

All students participating in the Awards Showcase will have a boxed dinner provided for them at the theater between their dress rehearsal and the event. Dinner typically includes a choice between turkey, ham, roast beef, or veggie sandwich with a side of fruit, chips, and a dessert. There will also be gluten-free and vegan options available.

If the above menu options do not work for a student, please have them plan to bring their own meal for dinner. Please note, access to refrigeration or a microwave is not available.

Students are not to leave the building between their call time and the event, and outside meal deliveries will not be accepted.

DIRECTOR DINNER ARRANGEMENTS

Directors with a Performing Ensemble will be expected to chaperone their students during the dinner rotation and will be provided a dinner.

Due to space limitations in the dinner rooms, directors who are not with a Performing Ensemble will not be provided with dinner and should make their own off-site dinner plans. Directors are encouraged to see this as the chance to enjoy a celebratory meal off-site before the showcase begins. Please note: directors not chaperoning a performing ensemble will also be required to exit the building from 4:45-6 PM, when the theater and lobbies are cleared as part of our final security preparations for opening to the public. Outside food and drink will not be permitted upon reentry, so please plan accordingly. If you are unable to leave your students due to a district policy, please contact ihsmta@dmpa.org to explore options.

ACTIVITY-BY-DAY, AT-A-GLANCE (Specific times subject to change)

MONDAY, MAY 18	
Staggered	Placement activities and 25-minute private coaching sessions for Triple Threat students
TUESDAY, MAY 19	
Staggered	Placement activities and 25-minute private coaching sessions for Triple Threat students
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20	
9 AM - 12 PM	Assistant Stage Manager Orientation
1 PM – 7 PM	Behind-The-Scenes Day
FRIDAY, MAY 22	
9 AM – 6 PM	Opening Number – Rehearsal #1
SATURDAY, MAY 23	
9 AM – 6 PM	Finale Number – Rehearsal #1
SUNDAY, MAY 24	
Staggered	Triple Threat Auditions
7 PM – 9:30 PM	Triple Threat – Rehearsal #1
MONDAY, MAY 25	
9 AM – 6 PM	Triple Threat – Rehearsal #2
TUESDAY, MAY 26	
9 AM – 1 PM	Opening Number – Rehearsal # 2
1 – 8:15 PM	Impact & Community Engagement Speakers – Tech Rehearsal, staggered assignments
1:15 – 8 PM	Production Excerpts - Tech Rehearsal (Opening schools will be given preference), staggered assignments
1:15 – 8:15 PM	Assistant Stage Managers assist with tech rehearsals
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27	
9 AM – 1 PM	Finale Number – Rehearsal # 2
1 – 8:15 PM	Impact & Community Engagement Speakers – Tech Rehearsal, staggered assignments
1:15 – 8 PM	Production Excerpts - Tech Rehearsal (Finale schools will be given preference)
1:15 – 8:15 PM	Assistant Stage Managers assist with tech rehearsals
THURSDAY, MAY 28	
See next page for full event day schedule	
8:30 AM – 1:45 PM	Participating student call times, staggered by track. Once called, students stay through the end of showcase.
1:45 – 4:45 PM	Dress Rehearsal – Full Run Through, all participating students required to be present
4:30 – 7 PM	Will Call open
4:45 – 6:20 PM	Dinner Rotations – All participating students stay in building
6:20 – 7 PM	Student held in Places – All participating students stay in the building in their holding area
7 – 10 PM	Award Showcase



EVENT DAY, AT-A-GLANCE
(Specific times subject to change)

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026	
8 AM	Doors to the building will open no earlier than 8 AM
8:30 – 1:45 PM	Staggered Call Times by track (see below for detail by track or type of participation)
11 AM - 12:30 PM	Award Pick-Up Table Open, session 1 of 3.
12:30 – 12:45 PM	LOBBIES CLEARED – Any participants, directors, and/or guests that are not students in the Opening, Finale, or Triple Threat must exit the building and reenter through the Ticket Office Lobby as part of prep for afternoon dress rehearsal check-in. During this time, we will also be doing a security sweep of the building.
12:45 – 1:30 PM	Award Pick-Up Table Open, session 2 of 3.
12:45 – 1:45 PM	Dress Rehearsal Check-In and Student Ticket Distribution Performing Ensemble Students & their director, Behind-The-Scenes Students, Community Engagement & Impact Award Speakers, and performing Spotlight Medley Students will receive their tickets at this time.
1:45 – 4:45 PM	DRESS REHEARSAL - FULL RUN OF SHOW: ALL PARTICIPATING STUDENTS PRESENT
4:30 - 7 PM	Will Call open in the Ticket Office Lobby Remaining directors and guests may pick-up their complimentary tickets at this time.
4:45 – 6:20 PM	Staggered student dinner rotations (<u>all</u> participating students will be provided a meal and fed on-site. See page 14.)
4:45 – 6 PM	BUILDING CLEARED Directors* and/or guests must exit the building during this window and may reenter after 6 PM when ushers begin scanning tickets and welcoming attendees. This is part of safety protocols for preparing to open the building to public ticket holders. Directors and guests are encouraged to enjoy a meal off-site during this time. Directors may re-enter after 6 PM when ushers begin scanning tickets and welcoming attendees. *Exception - Directors of Performing Ensembles will stay with their students during dinner.
6 PM – 7 PM	Doors to building re-open Award Pick-Up Table Open, session 3 of 3
6:30 PM	House Opens
7 – 10 PM	AWARDS SHOWCASE

SHOWCASE DAY BY TRACK, AT-A-GLANCE

TRACK	Call Time	Check-In Begins	Lunch	Dinner	Ticket Pick-Up
Assistant Stage Managers	8:30 AM	8 AM	Provided	Provided	N/A
Opening Number	8:30 AM	8 AM	Bring your own	Provided	Handed out by staff after morning Tech Rehearsal
Triple Threat Award Track	9 AM	8:30 AM	Bring your own	Provided	Handed out by staff after morning Tech Rehearsal
Finale Number	9:45 AM	9:15 AM	Bring your own	Provided	Handed out by staff after morning Tech Rehearsal
Impact Award & Community Engagement Speakers	1:30 PM	12:45 PM	On your own, prior to arrival	Provided	During check-in for Dress Rehearsal
Behind-the-Scenes track	1:30 PM	12:45 PM	On your own, prior to arrival	Provided	During check-in for Dress Rehearsal
Production Excerpts: Ensembles & Spotlights	1:30 PM	12:45 PM	On your own, prior to arrival	Provided	During check-in for Dress Rehearsal

**THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION IS BASED
ON INVITATION ONLY**

Invitations issued on or by May 4, 2026



PRODUCTION EXCERPT PERFORMANCES

Performing Outstanding Musical Production
Recipients
&
Performing Outstanding Performance in a
Principal Role Recipients



PRODUCTION EXCERPT PERFORMANCES, OVERVIEW

Invitations to perform an excerpt from your school production during the Awards Showcase will be based on the receipt of the following awards:

1. OUTSTANDING MUSICAL PRODUCTION AWARD

Schools that receive requisite scores and nominations across performance, creative, and technical categories are honored with this cumulative award.

Schools honored at this level will be considered by the Adjudicator Stewards committee to perform an excerpt from their school musical production at this year's Awards Showcase. The Adjudicator Stewards committee is made up of adjudicators and staff who attended each participating musical this year. The committee will review all Outstanding Musical Production recipients to curate the Ensemble Medleys at this year's showcase. It is possible that not all Outstanding Musical Production recipients will be invited to perform in an Ensemble Medley at the Awards Showcase. Priority will be given to schools that did not bring their full ensemble to the Awards Showcase the prior year. Ensemble Medley performance invitations will be issued by Monday, May 4, 2026.

Each performing ensemble's excerpt should be up to 2.5 minutes in length and feature your ensemble in the number. If there is no such number in your musical, please contact ihsmta@dmpa.org to discuss. Please see pages 22-27 for specific information about format, staging, rehearsals, etc.

2. OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE

Individual performers that receive requisite scores and nominations are honored with this award.

Students honored at this level will be considered by the Adjudicator Stewards committee to perform an excerpt from their role in a Spotlight Medley at this year's Awards Showcase. The Adjudicator Stewards committee is made up of adjudicators and staff who attended each participating musical this year. The committee will review all Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role recipients to curate the Spotlight Medleys at this year's showcase. Due to time considerations, not all Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role recipients will be invited to perform in a Spotlight Medley at the Awards Showcase. Spotlight Medley performance invitations will be issued by Monday, May 4, 2026.

Each solo performing student's excerpt will be a maximum of 45 seconds in length; any duet performing students' excerpts will be a maximum of 70 seconds in length. The excerpt will be woven into a medley featuring students from other schools in an arrangement created by the Awards Showcase music director. Please see pages 28-30 for specific information about format, staging, rehearsals, etc.

NOTE: Students from schools receiving an 'Outstanding Musical Production Award' and a performance invitation should be included in their school's featured ensemble medley if at all possible. This takes the place of the possibility of performing in a medley with other 'Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role' award recipients from other schools.



PRODUCTION EXCERPT PERFORMANCES OVERVIEW, cont.

NOTE ABOUT DISTINGUISHED SCENE RECIPIENTS

Due to time considerations, schools receiving a Distinguished Scene award are recognized in print but do not receive an invitation to perform a full-cast excerpt.

NOTE ABOUT SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR PERFORMANCE IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE RECIPIENTS

Due to time considerations, students receiving Special Recognition for a Principal Role are recognized in print but do not receive an invitation to perform an excerpt from their role.

NOTE ABOUT NON-PERFORMING OUTSTANDING MUSICAL PRODUCTION RECIPIENTS

Schools receiving Outstanding Musical Production without a performance invitation will be recognized during the Awards Showcase in print.

NOTE ABOUT NON-PERFORMING OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL ROLE RECIPIENTS

Students receiving Outstanding Achievement in a Principal Role without a performance invitation will be recognized during the Awards Showcase in print.



PERFORMING ENSEMBLES INFORMATION

Schools that receive an **Outstanding Musical Production** award and a performance invitation may perform an up to 2.5-minute excerpt from their production featuring members of your ensemble.

MAXIMUM STUDENTS REPRESENTING YOUR SCHOOL

In an effort to ensure ticket inventory is adequate for all participating schools, schools invited to bring a performing ensemble are limited to 35 students total in the showcase, inclusive of students participating in both your ensemble number and any other showcase aspects. Any exceptions made are at the full discretion of staff based on specific school circumstances and available ticket inventory.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Notification of Invitation / Confirmation	Fall Productions (October-December): January, specific date TBD Spring Productions (January-April): Monday, May 4, 2026
Music Submission Due	Fall Productions (October-December): Wednesday, April 22, 2026 Spring Productions (January-April): Friday, May 8, 2026
Director Information Call	Tuesday, May 5 4:15 – 4:30 PM
Tech Schedule Communicated	Thursday, May 7, 2026
School's Participation Form Due, with all ensemble performers included	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
Waiver & Emergency Contact Forms Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM

PERFORMANCE FORMAT

These excerpts will take the form of one large ensemble number from the show. In addition to your ensemble, we recommend you consider featuring any “Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role” recipients, if applicable. NOTE: Medleys or mashups of multiple songs are not allowed.

Your excerpt will then be combined with excerpts from 1-2 other schools to create a medley.

NOTE: If desired, any individual student(s) honored with an “Outstanding Achievement” award for their principal role should be included within your production excerpt. They will not be eligible for a separate spotlight medley feature.

Due to rights considerations, **dialogue or spoken material is not permitted** in production excerpts. In rare instances, dialogue written directly into the music may be approved. Please contact ihsmta@dmpa.org to inquire.

If your chosen ensemble number features a dance break, we recommend the dance break be no more than 30-45 seconds of your excerpt.



PERFORMING ENSEMBLES INFORMATION, cont.

MUSIC SUBMISSION

The Awards Showcase band will consist of keyboard, bass, drums, guitar, violin, and cello.

Please submit PDF copies of your piano/vocal score as well as all the above-listed orchestral parts in your possession using the uploader form below, by the following dates:

- Productions held October-December: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, by 4 PM
- Productions held January-April: Friday, May 8, 2026, by 4 PM

If music is received past the deadline, we cannot guarantee inclusion in the Awards Showcase (unless other arrangements are made prior to the deadline with program staff).

- *Submit via [AwardForce](#).
Category: "Showcase > Music Submission"*

Please time your selection to ensure it meets the time parameters. Submissions over the stated permissible length will not be accepted and will be subject to further editing by the Awards Showcase music director.

All cuts and transitions must be clearly marked. (If you do not read or play music yourself, please enlist a colleague who can assist you or play through the medley with your marked cuts. They may be able to help you work through any transition areas that need further clarification.)

STAGING INFORMATION

Spacing Parameters

Your ensemble will have an approximately 32 feet wide space in which to perform.

Number lines will be visible on the floor both upstage and downstage, with 0 marking center stage and numerals marking every two feet out in either direction.

For Iowa PBS camera angles, strive to keep all choreography no wider than 16 feet from center in either direction.

Entrances & Exits

A major goal is to keep the show flowing with tight transitions.

When planning your group's entrance and exit, please keep in mind that the size of the overall stage is likely wider than you are used to at your school and that students may need more time to reach their starting positions. (The full proscenium opening will be set 50 feet wide, to accommodate the larger inter-school medleys.)



PERFORMING ENSEMBLES INFORMATION, cont. STAGING INFORMATION, cont.

Entrances & Exits, cont.

Please block each individual student's entrance as close to where they need to land for their first stage picture as possible, within the following parameters:

- All mic'd students must enter and exit via stage left, as this is the side of the stage where the mic station will be located
- All other students may be assigned to enter or exit from either side; we encourage you to have them leave from the same side they enter for ease of memory

In addition, at the top of your excerpt, all students will use the downstage section of the allocated wing to enter. At the end of your excerpt, all students will use the upstage section of the wing to exit. This traffic pattern will help to avoid collisions with schools performing before or after your school.

Band

The band will be in the orchestra pit in front of the stage.

Headset Microphones

You will be assigned a minimum of six (6) wireless headset microphones. That said, on the music submission form, you will be asked to list the names of up to eight (8) students to wear headset microphones in order of preference, should further microphones be available for your group to assist the audio team with further sound reinforcement.

ALL soloists must be mic'd and should be listed first on your music submission form. If more than six microphones are needed to accommodate all soloists, please submit an appeal for additional microphones on your music submission form. Staff will review if any additional microphones are available, based on what is performed before and after your excerpt. (In the event more microphones are not available, you may be asked to re-assign solo lines to a performer already in a microphone.)

If you do not need all six (6) guaranteed headset microphones dedicated to soloists, the audio team asks you to identify strong vocalists to also put into any additional available microphones (up to 8 for your ensemble total) to help support the balance of voices within the mix for ensemble singing portions.

When deciding on additional voices to mic, please take into consideration:

- identifying vocal ranges that might be harder to hear or project on stage
- identifying strong vocalists that carry their part accurately
- spreading out the types of voices and vocal parts that will receive headset reinforcement, including soloists already in a mic

Additional Ensemble Sound Reinforcement Considerations

Overhead ensemble mics will also be hung above the stage.

To best reinforce the sound of your ensemble during singing portions of your excerpt, the audio team notes the following for your consideration:

- blocking the group further downstage during ensemble singing portions is helpful
- blocking the group closer to center during group singing portions is also helpful
- when making your song selection, the louder the selection, the easier it is to reinforce



PERFORMING ENSEMBLES INFORMATION, cont. STAGING INFORMATION, cont.

Set Pieces, Props, and Other Physical Items

Props of all sizes, including small hand props, are not allowed due to rights considerations.

Set pieces are not allowed. You may seek approval from program staff to use a stage box or similar unit if a level is necessary.

Conditions for approval of stage boxes or similar units:

- must be painted completely black and
- must be limited in number due to storage/space considerations. (Single unit preferred.)
- must be able to be set and struck within a few bars of music transitioning into and out of your performance
- must be labeled on the underside with the school name and a contact phone number
(all units must be removed from the theater at the conclusion of the event)

To secure approval, please note details about the unit(s) you wish to bring on your Participation Form.

TECH REHEARSAL

Tech Rehearsal Goals

Each school performing in an excerpt medley will attend an approximately 2-hour rehearsal and walk-through during the day on either Tuesday, May 26 or Wednesday, May 27. The time will include an orientation period, a chance for the Awards Showcase Director/Choreographer to finesse student spacing on the Civic Center stage, a run through of the number with the Awards Showcase band, mic check for any soloists, and wardrobe verification.

Students should arrive fully knowing their music and blocking so that the tech rehearsal can be used for final tweaks.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at the tech rehearsal is mandatory for all students performing on stage. If a performer is not at the designated Tech Rehearsal, they will not be permitted on stage and will not have a ticket issued to them for their use. No substitutions can be made for a performer after Tech Rehearsal.

It is required that the director or another knowledgeable adult attend tech rehearsal with your students.

Dress Expectations

All students are required to come in their performance clothes and shoes to the tech rehearsal. This is used as an opportunity to ensure that all attire guidelines are met, that students have practiced performing in the same shoes on the Civic Center stage as they will on the event night, and that mic packs for any mic'd students work with what they plan to wear. Any mic'd student without a waistband strong enough to clip a mic pack onto, such as those wearing a skirt, dress or bodysuit, should also plan to wear the same type of undergarments as they will on the event night to ensure mic pack placement will work. Please see page 11 for complete wardrobe guidelines.



PERFORMING ENSEMBLES INFORMATION, cont. TECH REHEARSAL, cont.

Schedule

The tech rehearsal schedule will be released on Thursday, May 7, based on availability gathered via the preference scheduling survey. (The survey will be released in late March to allow schools to have a clearer sense of their end-of-year schedules around potential weather make-up days.)

Efforts will be made to assign schools traveling a distance to a tech time the same day that your inter-school medley students have their second rehearsal, if applicable.

[ACCESS TECH SCHEDULE ASSIGNMENTS HERE](#)

Tech Rehearsal Check-In Window

As part of your schedule, you will be given a specific check-in window. There is not enough space in the building for ensemble-sized groups arriving prior to their check-in window to wait. As such, your full group will not be allowed to check in or enter the building prior to this window.

If you arrive downtown prior to your check-in window, you may wait on your bus, in Cowles Commons across the street, explore the Skywalk, etc.

Educator's Role During Tech Rehearsal

The on-site educator's role during tech rehearsal is to ensure that all students are present, staff have all appropriate paperwork, and to provide general student oversight for safety considerations.

During your students' stage time, we ask that you turn them over to the creative and production team. This will empower students to get used to looking to the conductor who will be leading them and the other staff who will be supporting them on show night. (If the Music Director, Director/Choreographer, or others have a specific question or need for the educator, they will seek you out!) Otherwise, they will strive to direct questions and interactions towards students to build rapport and deepen the learning experience.

We will have designated rows in the theater for educators to watch tech rehearsal from; we encourage you to relax as much as possible and to enjoy observing the process.

Appointing a Dance Captain – Student Leadership Opportunity

During Tech Rehearsal, the Showcase Director/Choreographer will be working with your ensemble to adjust blocking as needed to ensure that storytelling is clear for in-person attendees and to ensure that those watching at home also see the storytelling clearly based on what the cameras pick up.

To help this process go smoothly, we ask that you pre-appoint ONE student to act as the Dance Captain that the Director/Choreographer can look to with questions when spacing the group. This will cut down on confusion amongst students about who is speaking for the group and allow the time to be used efficiently.

Please communicate the name of your Dance Captain on your School Participation Form. Also ensure your Dance Captain and your cast are aware of the appointment during your advance rehearsals at school and that the Dance Captain will be the one to speak on behalf of the group during tech. The Dance Captain will also be in charge of remembering and communicating any blocking adjustments with your direction team as needed.

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES INFORMATION, cont.
TECH REHEARSAL, cont.

Tech Rehearsal Format

Your medley's time on stage during tech rehearsal will be limited to approximately 75-90 minutes. (The ensembles from all schools featured within the medley will be present for the entire rehearsal block.) To help you use your time efficiently, we will aim to use your rehearsal block as follows:

Duration	Activity
0:10	Mic'd students to mic station; educators touch base with music director about tempi and any transitions before taking seats in the house to observe
0:15	First ensemble's stage time, using the following format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One sing-through for the band and mic equalization • Spacing by the Director/Choreographer, with questions answered by student dance captain • Full run of excerpt with both music and choreography
0:15	Second ensemble's stage time, using same format
0:15	Third ensemble's stage time, using same format
0:10	Practice the transitions between each group
0:10	Run full medley with all three ensembles

DRESS REHEARSAL

All performing students should arrive at the theater on Thursday fully dressed in their performance clothes by 1:30 PM.* The group may enter the building through the Ticket Office entrance.

Any student who is late to dress rehearsal check-in will not be allowed to perform and the ticket intended for their use will be released.

**NOTE: Students in an inter-school medley or the Triple Threat Track will be called earlier that day for their number's final tech rehearsal.*

Due to the number of students and guests in the building, schools should plan to warm up prior to leaving school or on the bus. Dedicated warm-up space is not available.

TICKETS

Please see information on page 12 regarding tickets to the Awards Showcase.



SPOTLIGHT MEDLEY INFORMATION

Students who receive an award for **Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role** and receive an invitation to perform at the Awards Showcase = perform a 45-second solo or up to 70-second duet from their role(s), which will be woven into a medley of honored soloists and duets.

CURATION INFORMATION

Students honored at the Outstanding Achievement level for their work in a principal role are considered by the Adjudicator Stewards committee to perform an excerpt from their role in a “Spotlight Medley” (featuring solos and duets). The Adjudicator Stewards committee is made up of adjudicators and staff who attend each participating musical. The committee reviews all Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role recipients (with the exception of those whose schools are being featured in an ensemble performance) to curate the Spotlight Medleys for the year’s showcase. A variety of factors go into performance invitations – adjudicator nominations, geographic and school-size representation, material’s appropriateness for a solo or duet feature, etc. Due to time constraints, not all Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role recipients are invited to perform.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Invitations Issued	Monday, May 4, 2026
Director Information Call	Tuesday, May 5, 2026 4:30 – 5 PM
Tech Rehearsal Schedule Communicated	Thursday, May 7, 2026
Music Submission Due	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
School’s Participation Form Due, with Spotlight Medley performer(s) included	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
Waiver and Emergency Contact Form(s) Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM

MUSIC/SCORE SUBMISSION

Program staff will provide guidance on which song the student should consider based on input from adjudicators. (In rare cases, the scene may involve additional students from the production based on adjudicator nomination.) Final selection is subject to program staff and Awards Showcase music director approval.

The Awards Showcase band will consist of keyboard, bass, drums, guitar, violin, and cello.

Please submit PDF copies of your piano/vocal score as well as any of the above-listed orchestral parts in your possession no later than **Friday, May 8 by 4 PM** using the uploader below. If music is received past this deadline, we cannot guarantee inclusion in the Awards Showcase (unless other arrangements are made prior to the deadline with program staff).

- Submit via [AwardForce](#).
Category: “Showcase > Music Submission”

Please clearly mark the beginning and ending point of your student’s preferred cut from their song. Typically, a verse and a chorus of the song works well for this purpose, if at or under the 45-second time limit (solo) or 75-second time limit (duet).

If you do not read or play music yourself, please enlist a friend or colleague who can assist you.



SPOTLIGHT MEDLEY INFORMATION, cont.

MUSIC/SCORE SUBMISSION, cont.

In addition, please time the cut to ensure it meets the time parameters. Submissions over the stated permissible length will not be accepted and may be subject to further editing by the Awards Showcase music director.

Please also ensure that the excerpt makes sense to the listener both musically and lyrically. Please avoid starting or stopping mid-musical phrase.

Due to rights considerations, dialogue or spoken material is not permitted in production excerpts. In rare instances, dialogue written directly into the music may be approved. Please contact ihsmta@dmpa.org to inquire.

STAGING INFORMATION

Your student(s) will have approximately a 20 feet wide x 30-foot deep space in which to perform their number. Songs within the medley will alternate from one half of the stage to the next.

The band will be located in the orchestra pit in front of the stage, and each performing student will have access to a wireless headset microphone.

Set pieces are not allowed. You may elect to use a chair, stool, or other stage box through prior arrangement and approval. One condition of approval is that stage boxes, chairs, or stools should be painted black. Please label the underside of the unit with the school name and a contact phone number. (All units must be removed from the theater at the conclusion of the Awards Showcase event.) To secure approval, note on your participation form. Small hand props are not allowed due to rights considerations.

TECH REHEARSAL

Your student(s) will be required to attend a 2-hour coaching/tech time on either Tuesday, May 27 or Wednesday, May 28 at the Des Moines Civic Center. During this time, students will have the opportunity to meet the other students in their medley group, receive coaching on their section of the medley, and work through the tech logistics of their medley on the Des Moines Civic Center stage, including working with the Awards Showcase band. This is a valuable opportunity to build a sense of support amongst the medley performers, as well as to provide students the opportunity to fine tune their performance without the other characters and production elements they may be used to.

Students should arrive fully knowing their music and blocking so that the tech rehearsal can be used for final tweaks.

If possible, we recommend that the director or another knowledgeable adult attend the tech rehearsal with the student(s).

Students are required to come in their performance clothes and shoes to the tech rehearsal. This is used as an opportunity to ensure that all costume guidelines are met, that students have practiced performing in the same shoes on the Civic Center stage as they will on the event night, and that mic packs work with what they plan to wear. Any student without a waistband strong enough to clip a mic pack onto, such as those wearing a skirt, bodysuit, or a dress, should also plan to wear the same type of undergarments as they will during the event to ensure mic pack placement will work. Please see page 11 for complete wardrobe and hair guidelines.



SPOTLIGHT MEDLEY INFORMATION, cont.

EVENT DAY CALL TIME

All performing students should arrive at the theater on Thursday, May 28 fully dressed in their performance clothes by 1:30 PM.* Students will enter the building through the Ticket Office entrance to check-in.

**NOTE: Students in the Opening, Finale, or Triple Threat Track will be called earlier that day for their number's final tech rehearsal.*

Due to the number of students and guests in the building, schools should plan to warm up prior to leaving school or on the bus. Dedicated warm-up space is not available.

TICKETS

Please see information on page 12 regarding tickets to the Awards Showcase.



VIDEO & SPEAKING FEATURES

Outstanding Overall Performance,
Outstanding Overall Technical and Creative
Achievement,
Community Engagement & Impact Awards



OUTSTANDING OVERALL PERFORMANCE VIDEO

Schools that receive an Outstanding Overall Performance Award are invited to have their achievements highlighted in a special video shown during the Awards Showcase.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 by 4 PM	Asset Submission Deadline <i>(October-March productions)</i>
Friday, May 8, 2026, by 4 PM	Asset Submission Deadline <i>(April productions)</i>

VIDEO FORMAT

IHSMTA will create a video that features schools receiving this cumulative award. Each school will be featured in their own brief section of the video. Visuals from the production will be paired with voiceover narration talking about the production, based on adjudicator comments.

ASSET SUBMISSION (REQUIRED)

Please submit 10-15 photos or short video clips that you feel best showcase the performance aspects of your production using the uploader form below, by the following dates:

- Productions held October-March: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, by 4 PM
- Productions held in April: Friday, May 8, 2026, by 4 PM

➤ Submit via [AwardForce](#).
Category: "Showcase > Outstanding Overall Performance Submission"

Types of assets to submit:

Production Photos – Required

What photos highlight the performance elements of your final production? Photos should give a sense of the energy of your students' performance and highlight their successes.

Process Photos – Recommended

What photos do you have that highlight the process of your production coming together? Examples include photos of initial music rehearsals with the cast, students learning choreography, students rehearsing in the orchestra pit, or students collaborating in other capacities.

Video Clips - Recommended

You may also submit short video clips (no more than 5-15 seconds in length). The clips will be used without audio in order to not compete with the narration. Clips should show a moment of visual interest, such as a striking choreography combo, a pivotal moment of acting by performers, etc. Please label the files with your school's name for easy identification.

Photographs should be as high resolution and clear as possible. If you have questions on file format, please email ihsmta@dmpa.org.

A previous Outstanding Overall Performance video is online [HERE](#), if you'd like to see an example of the types of photos and video clips that have been featured.



OUTSTANDING OVERALL TECHNICAL & CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT VIDEO

Schools that receive an Outstanding Overall Technical and Creative Achievement Award are invited to have their achievements highlighted in a special video shown during the Awards Showcase.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 by 4 PM	Asset Submission Deadline <i>(October-March productions)</i>
Friday, May 8, 2026, by 4 PM	Asset Submission Deadline <i>(April productions)</i>

VIDEO FORMAT

IHSMTA will create a video that features schools receiving this cumulative award. Each school will be featured in their own brief section of the video. Visuals from the production will be paired with voiceover narration talking about the production, based on adjudicator comments.

ASSET SUBMISSION (REQUIRED)

Please submit 10-15 photos or short video clips that you feel best showcase the technical and creative aspects of your production using the photo uploader by the following dates:

- Productions held October-March: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, by 4 PM
- Productions held in April: Friday, May 8, 2026, by 4 PM

➤ Submit via [AwardForce](#).

Category: "Showcase > Outstanding Overall Technical & Creative Achievement"

Types of assets to submit:

Production Photos – Required

What photos highlight the technical and creative aspects of your final production? Photos may or may not include actors but should give a sense of a technical or creative facet of the production.

Process Photos – Recommended

What photos highlight the process of your production coming together or students in behind-the-scenes roles? Examples include photos of set build days, board operators at work, etc.

Crew Photo – Recommended

Within your selection of photos, please submit a photo of your technical and creative crew.

Video Clips - Recommended

You may also submit short video clips (no more than 5-15 seconds in length). The clips will be used without audio to not compete with the narration. Clips should show a moment of visual interest, such as a striking lighting moment, technical execution of a scenic element, or students at work behind the scenes. Please label the files with your school's name for easy identification.

Photographs should be as high resolution and clear as possible. If you have questions on file format, please email ihsmta@dmpa.org.

A previous Outstanding Overall Technical and Creative Achievement video is online [HERE](#), if you'd like to see an example of the types of photos and video clips that have been featured.



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RECOGNITION

During the Awards Showcase, we will recognize schools who utilized their production's theme/message in a meaningful way to make a difference in the community.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Official Invitation	Monday, May 4, 2026
Speaker Information and Rehearsal Time Survey Due	Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Speaker Rehearsal Time Communicated	Thursday, May 7, 2026
School's Participation Form Due, with student speaker info included	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
Waiver and Emergency Contact Form Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM
Rehearsal with teleprompter	May 26 or May 27, 2026
Dress Rehearsal & Awards Showcase	Thursday, May 28, 2026

REPRESENTATIVE

Select Outstanding Community Engagement Award recipients will be contacted on Monday, May 4, 2026 to identify a student speaker to present a short summary of their project at the Awards Showcase. (Schools may select a student speaker already participating in the Awards Showcase in another capacity.)

Schools will communicate the name of their speaker and their speaker's availability for a rehearsal with the teleprompter through a survey due Wednesday, May 6, 2026. They will confirm their speaker on their Participation Form (due May 8, 2026 at 4 PM).

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Outstanding Community Engagement recipients will be provided a pre-scripted summary of their project. Program staff will draft the summary based on application materials.

PHOTOS & VIDEOS

During the speaker's presentation, we will show photos of the community engagement project. These assets will be pulled from the original submission for the community engagement award. Any additional assets should be emailed to ihsmta@dmpa.org.

TECH REHEARSAL

The speaker will be asked to attend a short tech rehearsal on either Tuesday, May 26 or Wednesday, May 27, 2026 to go over staging, practice with the teleprompter, and make any necessary edits to the script.

DRESS REHEARSAL

Speakers will be required to attend the day-of Dress Rehearsal for the Awards Showcase on Thursday, May 28, 2026. Speakers will be called at 1:30 PM and are required to stay in the building until the end of Showcase. Participants will be provided with dinner on the night of showcase. Please see page 17 for more information about Call Times and Meals.

TICKETS

Directors will list their student speaker on their participation form (due May 8, 2026 at 4 PM) to ensure program staff set aside a ticket for the student's use. The student will watch as much of the Awards Showcase as possible while not onstage.

WARDROBE

Speaking students, please see page 11 for more details on required wardrobe.

IMPACT AWARD RECOGNITION

During the Awards Showcase on Thursday, May 28, 2026, we will take time to recognize adults who have gone above and beyond to make tremendous contributions to school drama programs and make a lasting impact on students. Impact Award recipients will be invited to be honored during the Awards Showcase.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Nominating student informed of results	Monday, April 27, 2026
Recipients informed of selection	Monday, May 4, 2026
Speaker "Rehearsal Time Availability Survey Due	Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Speaker Rehearsal Time Communicated	Thursday, May 7, 2026
Recipient: Headshot for Program Due	Friday, May 8, 2026
School's Participation Form Due, with student speaker <u>and</u> tickets for recipient included	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
Waiver and Emergency Contact Form Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM
Rehearsal with teleprompter	May 26 or May 27, 2026
Dress Rehearsal & Awards Showcase	Thursday, May 28, 2026

SPEAKER

The student responsible for nominating the Impact Award Recipient will be asked to read a pre-scripted summary on the contributions and impact of the Impact Award recipient. Program staff will draft the summary based on nomination materials.

Schools will confirm the name of their student speaker on their Participation Form.

TECH REHEARSAL - STUDENT SPEAKER

The student speaker will be asked to attend a short technical rehearsal on either Tuesday, May 26 or Wednesday, May 27, 2026. At this time, we will go over staging, practice with the teleprompter, and make any necessary edits to the script.

Schools will communicate the name of their speaker and their speaker's availability for a rehearsal with the teleprompter through a survey due Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

TICKETS

Directors will be asked to include their student speaker on their participation form (due May 8, 2026 at 4 PM) to ensure program staff set aside a ticket for the student's use. The student will watch as much of the Awards Showcase as possible while not onstage.

Impact Award recipients will receive 2 complimentary tickets in the lower half of the house that will be available at Will Call the day of the performance. Additional tickets for guests of Impact Award recipients can be purchased through the public ticketing channels. See page 12 for public ticketing information.

Please Note: in the event the Impact Award recipient is you, the director, you will receive 2 director complimentary tickets and 2 Impact Award complimentary tickets for a total of 4. You may tell us if you want any or all these tickets to be seated with your students or seated in the lower half of the audience.



IMPACT AWARD RECOGNITION, cont.

DRESS REHEARSAL - SPEAKER & RECIPIENT

Speakers and Recipients will be required to attend the day-of Dress Rehearsal for the Awards Showcase on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

Speaker Call Time: 1:30 PM

Recipient Call Time: 2:45 PM

The student speaker will be present for the entire dress rehearsal and will be provided with dinner on the night of showcase. Please see page 17 for more information about Call Times and student meals.

Recipients will be called later and only required to stay for their specific part of the show's dress rehearsal. After their rehearsal, recipients will be asked to leave the building and are encouraged to enjoy a celebratory meal at a restaurant of their choice before returning to the theater to pick up their tickets at Will Call and re-enter with the general public.

**THE FOLLOWING
SECTIONS ARE FOR
ADVANCED STUDENT
TRACKS
BY INVITATION ONLY**

Invitations issued on or by May 4, 2026



BEHIND-THE-SCENES AWARD TRACK

(Qualifying students in Behind-The-Scenes
roles)



BEHIND-THE-SCENES AWARD TRACK

Students who receive an **Outstanding Achievement in a Behind-The-Scenes** award are invited to participate in the Behind-The-Scenes Track of the Awards Showcase.

ELIGIBILITY

The Behind-The-Scenes track is intended for students who received Outstanding Achievement in a Behind-The-Scenes role. Invitations will be given to honorees who submitted as individuals **or up to two representatives from Team honorees**, to be chosen by the director. Team representatives must be consistent throughout all track activity; switching representatives between components is not allowed.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

	October-March Productions	April Productions
Zoom Information Call (<i>optional for students and directors</i>)	Wed., April 15 4 - 4:25 PM	Tues., May 5 4 - 4:25 PM
Video Submissions due	Wednesday, April 29, 2026 by 4 PM	Monday, May 11, 2026 by 4 PM
School's Participation Form Due, with BTS students' information included <u>and</u> BTS Day RSVP tab filled out	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM	
Waiver and Emergency Contact Form(s) Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM	
Behind-the-Scenes Awards Day	Wednesday, May 20, 2026 1 PM – 7 PM	
2026 Awards Showcase	Thursday, May 28, 2026 1:30 – 10 PM	

TRACK COMPONENTS

The Behind-the-Scene track consists of four components:

1. Self-Produced "Behind-the-Scenes Video Feature"
2. Participation in Behind-the-Scenes Awards Day on Wednesday, May 20, 2026
3. Honored Moment at the 2026 Awards Showcase on Thursday, May 28, 2026
4. Additional Opportunity: Observerships during the Rehearsal Process (case-by-case basis)

Information on track components is below. Student-facing information on components 1-3 can be found in the following document, also sent to the applying student as part of their invitation:

[Behind-the-Scenes Student Packet](#)

COMPONENT ONE: BEHIND THE SCENES VIDEO FEATURE

Each award recipient is asked to self-produce a 45-55 second video feature on their contributions to their school's production. Videos will be premiered during Behind-the-Scenes Awards Day and further shared with Awards Showcase audience members. Please see the Video Production Overview Instructions in the Student Packet linked above for a full breakdown of steps, format, examples, and other tips.

- Productions held October-March: Wednesday, April 29, 2026, by 4 PM
 - Productions held in April: Monday, May 11, 2026, by 4 PM
- *Submit via [AwardForce](#).
Category: "Showcase > Behind-The-Scenes Video Submission"*



BEHIND-THE-SCENES AWARD, cont.

COMPONENT TWO: BEHIND-THE-SCENES AWARD DAY

Recipients are invited to participate in a special Behind-The-Scenes Awards Day in Des Moines on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Behind-The-Scenes Day consists of educational opportunities, conversations with industry professionals, networking events, the premiere of student video features, and a celebratory dinner. Activities will take place from 1 – 7 PM.

If your qualifying student(s) wish to participate in the Awards Showcase, attendance at the Behind-The-Scenes Day is mandatory. Students not attending Behind-the-Scenes Day will not be issued tickets for their use for the Awards Showcase on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

Director and/or Production Team Participation

Each school with Behind-the-Scenes Award student(s) may send up to 2 school personnel, such as the director and an additional member of the production team, to Behind-the-Scenes Awards Day. Due to space limitations, select activities may be open to students only. At minimum, school personnel will be able to participate in the dinner components with students.

RSVP Instructions

To RSVP on behalf of their school, directors should fill out the “BTS Day tab” included within their school’s Participation Form, due by Friday, May 8, 2026 at 4 PM. This includes the name of any participating students, attending adults, dietary restrictions, etc.

COMPONENT THREE: HONORED MOMENT DURING AWARDS SHOWCASE

Behind-the-Scenes Awards track participants are invited to return to the Des Moines Civic Center and to participate in the 2026 Awards Showcase.

Participants will be invited on stage to be recognized as a group during the Awards Showcase. Recipients call time is 1:30 PM and all will participate in the Dress Rehearsal. Participants will be required to stay at the Civic Center until the end of Showcase. They will be provided with dinner. Please see page 17 for more information on Call Times and Meals.

When not on stage, students will have a seat in the theater to watch as much of the Awards Showcase as possible. Students participating in the honored moment during the showcase must be confirmed in the student ticket listing on your Participation Form, due Friday, May 8, for a ticket to be set aside for their use.

Please see page 11 for Student Wardrobe Requirements.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY: OBSERVERSHIPS (Optional, invitation-only based on role)

Select professionals who serve on the Awards Showcase production and creative teams may open specific times during Showcase rehearsals for Behind-the-Scenes Track students who served in similar roles to observe their process.

Additional information about specific times and eligible focus areas for observations will be released on Monday, May 4, 2026.



TECHNICAL THEATER SCHOLARSHIPS

(By application)



TECHNICAL THEATER SCHOLARSHIPS - By Application

The Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards Technical Theater Scholarship program celebrates student leaders in technical theater. Recipients representing each division will receive a one-time scholarship of \$2,500, with the goal of aiding them in their future studies.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Application and Notification	
Deadline for Application	Monday, April 27, 2026 by 4 PM
Notification of Results	Monday, May 4, 2026
If selected as a Scholarship Recipient, the following dates are required:	
School's Participation Form due, with recipient information included	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
Waiver & Emergency Contact Form Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM
Behind-the-Scenes Day / Filming Day	Wednesday, May 20, 2026 11 AM – 12 PM: Filmed Interview 1– 7 PM Participation in Behind-the-Scenes Day
2026 Awards Showcase	Thursday, May 28, 2026 Call Time: 1:30pm

ELIGIBILITY & DIVISIONS

REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must be enrolled in a high school that is a current participant in the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards.
2. Applicants must have served in a leadership capacity for an offstage role for their school's 2025-2026 musical in one of six pre-identified divisions, as listed below.
3. Applicants should demonstrate leadership, creativity and technical skills demonstrated through their work on their school's 2025-2026 musical and beyond, as well as display a track record of working to grow and improve their technical theater craft.
4. Applicants must apply as individuals. Team applications will not be accepted.

DIVISIONS

There are six divisions for applicants:

1. Costuming Division
2. Makeup and Hair Division
3. Lighting Division
4. Scenic and Properties Division
5. Sound Division
6. Stage Management Division



TECHNICAL THEATER SCHOLARSHIPS, cont.

DIVISIONS, cont.

Please note: applicants must meet a minimum score on the review rubric to be considered for a scholarship. If no applicant within the division meets the minimum score threshold, no award will be bestowed in that division.

APPLICATION MATERIALS AND SUBMISSION

Please submit all materials no later than Monday, April 27 at 4 PM.

- Submit via [AwardForce](#).
Category: "Showcase > Technical Theater Scholarship"

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

	ITEM	FORMAT
1	Letter of Recommendation Written by school theater director, tech director or equivalent mentor or supervisor of your work on your school musical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 page, double-spaced • PDF
2	Theater resume <i>Note that this is different than a professional or work resume</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit to 1 page in length • PDF • View a sample technical theater resume HERE
3	Essay Describing your personal experience while working on your high school musical and highlighting your overall leadership skills and contributions to your program's technical theater department. Potential topics include vision or goal for your role, how it fits within the overall production, what worked well, challenges and any learning from the process, steps you have taken to mentor others, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 page, double-spaced • PDF

(cont. next page)

TECHNICAL THEATER SCHOLARSHIPS, cont.

APPLICATION MATERIALS, cont.

4	<p>Work Sample(s) and Statement, Representing your current year’s musical You may upload 2-8 artifacts representing the work you did in an eligible division for your current year’s musical production. You will also provide a short description of each artifact to highlight the aspects you most want adjudicators to pay attention to and to give context to what the artifact is intended to demonstrate about your work or the skills you gained during your current year’s musical.</p> <p>Note about videos: While you may upload a video of any length, adjudicators will only watch up to 45 seconds of a video clip. In the description, please provide time markers if the video is longer than 45 seconds.</p>	<p>Minimum: Two Maximum: Eight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artifacts can be uploaded either as a File or URL • Any File Type Accepted
5	<p><i>Optional but recommended:</i></p> <p>Work Sample(s) for up to 2 Additional Show(s) You may upload additional work samples or artifacts for up to two additional shows that you have worked on, to further demonstrate your work to grow and improve your technical theater craft. You will also provide a short description of each artifact to highlight the aspects you most want adjudicators to pay attention to and to give context to what the artifact is intended to demonstrate about your work or the skills you gained on the particular show(s).</p> <p>Note about videos: While you may upload a video of any length, adjudicators will only watch up to 45 seconds of a video clip. In the description, please provide time markers if the video is longer than 45 seconds.</p>	<p>Maximum: Eight total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artifacts can be uploaded either as a File or URL • Any File Type Accepted
6	<p>Short bio, appropriate for publication, should you be selected as a recipient.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 200 words, written in third person and in complete sentences • View sample bio HERE
7	<p>Headshot Photo, appropriate for publication should you be selected as a finalist, such as a school photo.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jpeg file format • Professional photo <u>not required</u> • Primary framing should be of your head and shoulders • <i>Example: a school photo</i>



TECHNICAL THEATER SCHOLARSHIPS, cont.

RECIPIENT NOTIFICATION AND SHOWCASE INVOLVEMENT

Students will be notified on Monday, May 4 if they were selected as a scholarship recipient.

For full information on recipient activity, how to receive their scholarship funds, etc., please see the [TECHNICAL THEATER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT PACKET](#).

In-person components are:

Filmed Interview and Behind-The-Scenes Day

Recipients are required to come to the Des Moines Civic Center on Wednesday, May 20 to film a short interview and to participate in Behind-the-Scenes Day. Filming will take place 11 AM – 12 PM; Behind-the-Scenes Day will take place from 1 – 7 PM. Bring your own lunch for during the break; dinner will be provided as part of Behind-the-Scenes Day activities.

Awards Showcase

Recipients will be acknowledged in an on-stage moment during the Awards Showcase on Thursday, May 28. Recipients call time is 1:30 PM to participate in dress rehearsal. Dinner will be provided between dress rehearsal and the Awards Showcase. Please see page 11 for student wardrobe information.

Directors should confirm the recipient's participation on the school's Participation Form to ensure a ticket is set aside for the student's personal use when not on stage (due Friday, May 8 by 4 PM).

FUND USE AND DISBURSEMENT

Awards for **graduating students** will be disbursed as follows:

1. Whenever possible, awards will be made directly to an institution of higher education rather than directly to the student.
2. A student taking a gap year may defer receipt of their award for up to one year to allow the award to be made directly to an institution of higher education upon the student's enrollment.
3. If a student does not intend to enroll in an institution of higher education, awards may be made directly to the student.
 - *The student will be advised that the award may be subject to tax and to consult their tax professional for any tax-related implications.*

Awards for **underclass recipients** will be disbursed as follows:

1. Des Moines Performing Arts will remain the custodian of the student's award through their graduation year *or* upon the student providing documentation that they have qualified education expenses at an eligible education institution. At that time, the student may designate their award be made directly to their institution of higher education on their behalf.
2. If upon graduation, the student does not intend to enroll in an institution of higher education, awards may be made directly to the student.
 - *The student will be advised that the award may be subject to tax and to consult their tax professional for any tax-related implications.*



TRIPLE THREAT AWARD TRACK

(Qualifying principal roles, by invitation)



TRIPLE THREAT AWARD TRACK - Qualifying Principal Roles

The Triple Threat Award Track is for advanced students who served in principal roles for their production. Traditionally, it is one of the few directly competitive awards in the program, as it is used to determine the two students who will represent Iowa at The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®), also known as The Jimmy Awards®, in New York City as well as additional scholarship opportunities.

In addition, the Triple Threat Award Track is intended to provide qualifying students with high caliber learning and performance opportunities. Students will have the chance to receive individual coaching on a solo, to work with a New York City-based choreographer and music director to put together a medley for the Awards Showcase, and to collaborate with high-achieving students from other schools. The culmination of the track is the final performance of the medley during the Awards Showcase.

See a highlights of a past year of the Triple Threat Award Track here: [2025 Triple Threat Video](#)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Callback-Related Dates	
Invitations to submit Callback Materials sent to directors to share with eligible students	January thru early April based on production timing
Callback Submissions Open	Monday, March 9, 2026
Deadline for Callback Submissions	Wednesday, April 22, 2026 by 4 PM
Notification of Results	Monday, May 4, 2026
If accepted into the program, the following dates are for OPTIONAL opportunities:	
Triple Threat Information Call <i>(for students, directors, and parent/guardians)</i>	Tuesday, May 5, 2026 5-6 PM
Housing Sign-Up Form, for students needing overnight accommodations	Activated: Thursday, May 7, 2026 Due: Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM
If accepted into the program, the following dates/deadlines are REQUIRED:	
School's Participation Form due, with Triple Threat accepted students' info included	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
Waiver & Emergency Contact Form Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM
Triple Threat Placement Days <i>Assignments will be released on May 4</i>	Monday, May 18, 2026 OR Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Triple Threat Audition Materials Due	Thursday, May 21, 2026 by 4 PM
Triple Threat Auditions and Evening Rehearsal <i>Audition times will be released on May 4</i>	Sunday, May 24, 2026 <i>Staggered audition slots: Between 11 AM – 7 PM</i> Mandatory evening rehearsal 7 – 9:30 PM
Triple Threat Rehearsal	Monday, May 25, 2026 9 AM – 6 PM
Triple Threat Tech Rehearsal, Dress Rehearsal, and 2026 Awards Showcase	Thursday, May 28, 2026 8:30 AM to 10 PM
Jimmy Awards prep day	Friday, May 29, 2026 9 AM – 4 PM <i>Jimmy Awards-selected students only.</i>



TRIPLE THREAT AWARD TRACK, cont.

QUALIFICATION

Triple Threat participants qualify based on two criteria:

- Receive Outstanding Achievement in a Principal Role award, based on the adjudication process
- A callback process through additional online submission materials

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

For 2026, students are eligible to audition for the local Triple Threat Track if they meet the following requirements:

- Are able to participate in all rehearsals and audition activities, as listed on previous page
- Are available to perform at the IHSMTA Showcase event on Thursday, May 28, 2026
- Are eligible to be considered for at least one of the following competitive award categories:

Competitive Award Category #1:

Compete for the opportunity to represent Iowa at [the Jimmy Awards](#)
(the National High School Musical Theatre Awards in New York City.)

Additional eligibility requirements for this award category:

- Played a qualifying role, as defined by The Jimmy Awards (See list of qualifying roles [HERE](#))
- Available June 12-23, 2026 to travel to New York City, all-expenses paid, to participate in The Jimmy Awards. A provided chaperone will accompany you.
- Able to prepare all required Triple Threat Track audition materials, plus additional materials required by The Jimmy Awards if selected.

Number of awards bestowed: 2 total

Competitive Award Category #2:

Broadway Intensive camp – full tuition scholarship plus housing assistance

Additional eligibility requirements for this award category:

- Available July 13-18, 2026 to participate in the [Broadway Intensive camp](#) in Des Moines (housing assistance available for students from outside of central Iowa)
- Able to prepare all required Triple Threat Track and audition materials

Number of awards bestowed: 4 total



TRIPLE THREAT AWARD TRACK - Qualifying Principal Roles, cont.

CALLBACK SUBMISSION PROCESS

Students interested in auditioning for the Triple Threat track must submit the following callback materials no later than Wednesday, April 22, 2026 by 4 PM.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to submit callback materials varies based on the timing of the school's musical production:

October-March productions: only students who received Outstanding Achievement in a Principal Role are eligible to submit callback materials.

April productions: interested principal role students whose performances will be adjudicated in April are asked to submit their call-back materials prior to April awards being finalized. This is necessary to give panelists adequate time to review.

CALL-BACK SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Please see the [TRIPLE THREAT CALLBACK PACKET](#) for specifics and instructions on how to submit the following set of materials:

1. Video: **Up to 1-minute cut** from your nominated role (Updated as of March 9, 2026)
2. Video: Up to 1-minute cut from a musical theater song of your choice
3. Video: dance cut, using provided choreography
4. Performance resume
5. 1-2 paragraph Statement of Interest
6. Informal Headshot

RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

IF NOT ACCEPTED

If not accepted into the 2026 Triple Threat program, students, directors, and student guardians will receive an email on May 4, 2026. Those who do not qualify but who submitted callback materials AND received Outstanding Achievement in a Principal Role have a guaranteed spot to participate in the Opening or Finale medley of the Awards Showcase to honor their achievement and efforts. Please see page 5 for details.

IF ACCEPTED

Notification

If accepted into the 2026 Triple Threat program, students, directors, and student guardians will receive an email on May 4, 2026.

Attendance Policy

Attendance of all Triple Threat program activities is mandatory for accepted students. Please see page 9 for more information on attendance policies, including steps to take if program activity conflicts with the time a graduating senior is walking in their graduation ceremony; approval will depend upon the content missed, the student's ability to make up, and/or the extent of impact on the production team.



TRIPLE THREAT AWARD TRACK - Qualifying Principal Roles, cont.

IF ACCEPTED, cont.

Program Activity, Auditions & Rehearsals, etc.

For information on program activity, including in-person rehearsals and in-person audition requirements, wardrobe, etc. please see the [TRIPLE THREAT ACCEPTED PACKET](#).

Housing Program

Students who live more than 60 miles from Des Moines may request overnight accommodations for a nominal fee for the nights of May 24 – May 27.* We hope these accommodations will remove a barrier that might inhibit your student's ability to participate.

NOTE: Jimmy Awards-selected students may also request overnight accommodation on the evening of May 28, if necessary to remain in Des Moines for material prep the following day.

For more information on the overnight accommodations program, please see the [STUDENT HOUSING PACKET](#).



ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER TRACK

(By application)



ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER TRACK

A select number of high school students who served as stage managers for their school's musical will receive the honor of serving as an Assistant Stage Manager for the 2026 Awards Showcase.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TRACK

Application-Related Dates	
Applications Due	Wednesday, April 22, 2026 by 4 PM
Confirm Interview Time	Wednesday, April 29, 2026
Interview	EITHER Thursday, April 30 or Friday May 1
Notification of Acceptance or Declination	Monday, May 4, 2026
If accepted into the program, the following dates/deadlines are REQUIRED:	
Behind the Scenes Day RSVP Form Due, with ASM student included	Friday, May 8, 2026 by 4 PM
Waiver & Emergency Contact Form Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM
Orientation with stage management team	Wednesday, May 20 9 AM – Noon
Tech Rehearsals with Featured Schools, Day 1	Tuesday, May 26 1:15 – 8:15 PM
Tech Rehearsals with Featured Schools, Day 2	Wednesday, May 27 1:15 - 8:15 PM
Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards Showcase – Final Tech, Dress Rehearsal, Event	Thursday, May 28 8:30 AM – 10 PM
If accepted into the program, the following dates are for OPTIONAL opportunities:	
Housing Sign-Up Form, for students needing overnight accommodations	Activated: Thursday, May 7, 2026
	Due: Friday, May 15, 2026 by 4 PM
Behind-The-Scenes Day	Wednesday, May 20 1 - 7 PM <i>(Required ASM orientation is in the morning)</i>

SELECTION PROCESS

Due to the vital role that Assistant Stage Managers play in the success of the Awards Showcase event, applications will undergo a selective screening process. Final candidates will also take part in a virtual interview with Stage Manager Janet Albanese. Interviews will be held on April 30-May 1, 2026. Students will be asked to list their availability for an interview time when they submit their application. Interviews will last approximately 15-20 minutes. Final candidates will receive their confirmed interview time via email by end of day on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Applicants will be notified as to whether they were selected on Monday, May 4, 2026.

SCOPE

Student assistant stage managers will have a variety of important duties and unique opportunities, including but not limited to:

- Assisting in the execution of the tech and dress rehearsal schedule
- Assisting with performer lineup and backstage traffic flow for performers
- Assisting in building the Stage Manager call book
- Being backstage at the Des Moines Civic Center during the event
- Listening on headset to the Stage Manager call cues during the Awards Showcase event



ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER TRACK, cont.

ELIGIBILITY

Students are eligible to apply for the Assistant Stage Manager Track if they meet the following criteria:

1. Served as Stage Manager or Assistant Stage Manager for their adjudicated school musical production during the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Are available for orientation, rehearsals and the Awards Showcase event. (See schedule above.)

APPLICATION

For the application, students should submit by 4 PM on Wednesday, April 22:

- One-page statement on why you wish to serve as an Assistant Stage Manager for the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards Showcase.
- Letter of Recommendation from director or other adult knowledgeable of the student's contributions to the school's musical production.

➤ *Submit through [AwardForce](#):
Showcase > Assistant Stage Manager Application*

RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

IF NOT ACCEPTED

If not accepted into the 2026 ASM program, students and directors will receive an email on May 4, 2026.

IF ACCEPTED

Notification

If accepted into the 2026 Triple Threat program, students, directors, and student guardians will receive an email on May 4, 2026.

Attendance Policy

Attendance of all ASM program activities is mandatory for accepted students. Please see page 9 for more information on attendance policies, including steps to take if program activity conflicts with the time a graduating senior is walking in their graduation ceremony; approval will depend upon the content missed, the student's ability to make up, and/or the extent of impact on the production team.

Program Activity

For information on program activity, including in-person rehearsals and in-person audition requirements, wardrobe, etc. please see the [ASM ACCEPTED PACKET](#).

Housing Program

Students who live more than 60 miles from Des Moines may request overnight accommodations for a nominal fee for the nights of May 26 – May 27. We hope these accommodations will remove a barrier that might inhibit students' ability to participate. Housing sign-up forms will be released to students when results are communicated.

For more information on the overnight accommodations program, please see the [STUDENT HOUSING PACKET](#).