



HULT HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2026–2027

Participation Guide

Updated August 2026

Hult Center for the Performing Arts
Community and Creative Learning
[Hultcenter.org](https://hultcenter.org)

*All information included in this handbook is subject to change with or without notice to participants. *

Contents

Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards Fact Sheet.....	3
Important Dates.....	4
Guidelines	5
Application	5
Individual Nominations	5
Additional Information	5
Evaluation.....	6
Nominations.....	7
Production Photos.....	7
Awards Ceremony	7
The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards Categories.....	8
Evaluation Criteria	8

Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards Fact Sheet

ABOUT

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards®, better known as the Jimmy Awards®, is a coast-to-coast celebration of outstanding student achievement, recognizing individual talent in vocal, dance, and acting performance. The program impacts approximately 130,000 students who participate in regional high school musical theatre competitions throughout the United States. The Hult Center for the Performing Arts is the first venue to offer this opportunity in Oregon!

WHY:

To honor outstanding achievement in high school musical theater and to celebrate the hard work and dedication students and educators put forth to make their school productions a success.

WHEN:

The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards Ceremony will be held on
Tuesday, May 25, 2027 at 7:00PM

WHERE:

The Hult Center - One Eugene Center, Eugene OR 97401

HOW:

Any high school in the state of Oregon may participate in The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards by completing the [application form](#).

Applications are due by October 30, 2026. Early applications are greatly appreciated as they help us to plan our evaluation season more effectively.

Participating schools will have their musical evaluated by 1-3 evaluators who are theater professionals in the state of Oregon. These evaluators will make recommendations for nominations in specific categories. A list of categories and criteria is included in this document. After all productions have been evaluated, the evaluators will meet to review the productions, discuss the nominations, and select award recipients. Evaluator comments will be sent to schools following their production evaluations.

Please Note: written production feedback is intended for the school's development and for internal use only. It does not reflect or predict a nomination or award decision.

On May 25, 2027, Participating schools and the public are invited to attend the Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards Ceremony to honor outstanding achievement in high school musical theater throughout the state of Oregon. The award recipients for Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role will attend the Jimmy Awards in New York City in late June 2027.

QUESTIONS?

Contact HultAwards@eugene-or.gov

The City of Eugene and the Hult Center cultivate a community where everyone feels included, respected, and valued as they are. A community united in uplifting the diversity of identities and experiences to provide equitable access to resources and opportunity.

What this means for HHSMTA:

- In our school participation application, we ask each school to provide a detailed budget in order to help inform our evaluators on each individual school's available resources.
- We offer scholarships for lower income schools and underfunded programs to participate.
- Anti-bias information is included in our Evaluator trainings.

Important Dates

October 30, 2026	Application Deadline
October 1, 2026 – May 1, 2027	Participating productions are evaluated
May 3, 2027	Production photos due to the Hult Center
May 1, 2027	Final date for Evaluators to attend shows
May 1 – May 6, 2027	Evaluators meet to review productions
May 7, 2027	8 Finalists in the Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role are notified
May 10, 2027	Award Nominees are announced
May 25, 2027 (times TBD)	Ceremony performer rehearsals
May 25, 2027 at 7PM	The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards

Guidelines

Application

Please be advised that evaluators attending your production are provided with a copy of your school's application prior to attending. This is your opportunity to communicate with the evaluators regarding the rationale behind a particular show choice, the vision of the directors, and/or any special challenges faced in each unique school setting.

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

Applications due by 5PM on October 30, 2026

***Please Note: we have a maximum capacity of 30 participating schools. Once at capacity, we cannot accommodate additional productions.*

- If your show is double cast, please only list dates of the cast you would like evaluated on the application form. At this time, our program is only able to evaluate one production per school.
- **All participating productions must take place on or before May 1, 2027.** This allows adequate time for evaluating productions, announcing nominations, and producing the awards ceremony.
- Applications must be submitted and approved at least 6 weeks prior to the run of your show.
- Each school must provide the Hult Center with accurate driving directions to the performance location and from the parking area to the theater/auditorium.

Individual Nominations

Once your school is accepted and your show is cast, schools will need to complete nomination forms for each student they would like to be evaluated for Outstanding Performer in a Lead Role (Jimmy Awards consideration), Outstanding Performer in a Supporting Role, as well as other categories that had a student lead such as Choreography, Lighting Design, Set Design, Costume Design etc.

The Individual Nomination forms will be shared with Participating School contact.

Additional Information

Below are some additional guidelines.

Instances where there is use of students from another school in the cast:

- Schools utilizing student(s) from a school other than their senior high school will be ineligible for the Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards. ***The exception is when a musical calls for the casting of one (1) to three (3) very young children in minor roles that could not reasonably be performed by a high school student(s).***
- If a school is K-12 or 6-12, no more than 30% of the cast may be made up of students in grades other than 9-12. As stated above, only high school students (grades 9-12) will be eligible to receive individual performance awards. This percentage requirement is in regard to the performance cast(s).
- Faculty and/or additional students may be included in **the ensemble only**. As the Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards program is intended for high school students, it is preferred that musical casts consist of students in grades 9-12 only.

Instances where sets or costumes are rented:

- Productions are eligible in these categories if no more than 25% is rented or borrowed, and if rental/borrowed material is not from a previous production of the same show title.

Evaluation

- 1-3 evaluators from the Hult Center will be assigned to each production. Schools will reserve two complimentary tickets per evaluator attending. Tickets will be requested by email from HultAwards@eugene-or.gov at least one week in advance of the performance.
- If an evaluator fails to attend an assigned performance, the Hult Center will attempt to re-assign an evaluator to another performance. Schools that feel that an evaluator has not picked up tickets or attended a performance should contact the Community & Creative Learning Department at 541-682-5421 or at HultAwards@eugene-or.gov

Please Note: Although we will make every attempt to reschedule, if at least one evaluator attended, the program will have fulfilled its mandate.

- The Hult Center strongly recommends that teachers allow the evaluators to attend performances anonymously so that they can fairly evaluate the production. Tickets should be left at the box office under "The Hult Center". Roping off seats or placing signs saying "The Hult Center" is strongly discouraged.
- We recommend teachers do not inform their students when the evaluator is attending. This allows evaluators to see a typical performance and for students not to feel added stress.
- Every attempt will be made to ensure non-partiality during evaluator assignments.

Evaluators with a relationship, either professional or personal, with individuals at a particular school will not be assigned to evaluate that school's production.

- After the completion of your production evaluation, written feedback will be provided in a timely manner. Written production feedback is intended for the school's development and for internal use only. It does not reflect or predict a nomination or award decision.

Nominations

The Hult Center will post the list of nominations on **May 10, 2027**. The nominations will also be posted on the Hult Center's website and emailed to schools.

A list of all evaluation criteria is included in this packet on pages 8-11. The Hult Center reserves the right to nominate in special categories.

Production Photos

We like to include photos from every participating school in the awards ceremony. Please forward the Hult Center 5-10 photos which you feel best represent your production - lighting, sets, costumes, cast, rehearsals, etc.

Please send photos by May 3, 2027

- E-mail to HultAwards@eugene-or.gov
- Dropbox or Google Drive files

The inclusion of photos does not in any way reflect nominations. We try to represent all schools equally with your submitted photos, to enhance the awards ceremony.

Awards Ceremony

- The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards ceremony will be on Tuesday, May 25, 2027
- Transportation to and from the Hult Center will be the responsibility of each individual school. Schools using busses to transport individuals to the ceremony must let us know how many busses they will be using by May 10, 2027.
- Individuals recognized with awards will be invited on stage and permitted to make a 45 second acceptance speech. Schools are encouraged to allow students to give the acceptance speeches, whenever possible.
- The Outstanding Performers in a Leading Role will commit to participating in the

Jimmy Awards in NYC in June 2027.

- More information about the awards ceremony structure and tickets will be distributed closer to the event.

The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards Categories

- ❖ Outstanding Overall Musical Production
- ❖ Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role (2) – Oregon's Jimmy Nominees
- ❖ Outstanding Performer in a Supporting Role (2)
- ❖ Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group
- ❖ Outstanding Performance by Orchestra
- ❖ Outstanding Choreography
- ❖ Outstanding Stage Crew
- ❖ Outstanding Scenic Design
- ❖ Outstanding Costume Design
- ❖ Outstanding Lighting Design

Special awards may be given at the discretion of the Hult Center for outstanding achievement in areas that do not fall into any of the existing categories. Categories may be omitted if the Hult Center does not feel there is reason to recognize in a given category.

Evaluation Criteria

Below you will find our evaluator guidelines. These are given to our evaluators to help them fairly assess each production.

OVERALL PRODUCTION CRITERIA

- Performances were of high-quality and execution.
- Musical scores executed successfully by vocalists & instrumentalist.
- Design & execution of set, costumes and lights serve the overall production.
- Overall theme transmitted effectively to the audience.
- Elements of student understanding and overall involvement heighten the overall performance.
- Director's statement of individuality

1-3

The overall production rarely showcased the diverse talents of the performers, technicians, and production team to produce elements of quality musical theater. The overall production rarely utilized thematic elements to create an overall quality production. Elements of student understanding & involvement are rarely evident in overall production.

4-6

The overall production sometimes showcased the diverse talents of the performers, technicians, and production team to produce element of quality musical theater. The overall production sometimes utilized thematic elements to create an overall quality production. Elements of student understanding & involvement are sometimes evident in overall production.

7-8

The overall production often showcased the diverse talents of the performers, technicians, and production team to produce elements of quality musical theater. The overall production often utilized thematic elements to create an overall quality production. Elements of student understanding & involvement are often evident in overall production.

9-10

The overall production always showcased the diverse talents of the performers, technicians, and production team to produce elements of quality musical theater. The overall production always utilized thematic elements to create an overall quality production. Elements of student understanding & involvement are always evident in overall production.

PERFORMER CRITERIA

SINGING

- Pitch and tonality
- Volume/Range Rhythm
- Diction Phrasing and interpretation
- Expression and artistry
- Quality of voice/audibly pleasing and enjoyable

1-3

Performer **rarely** demonstrated the criteria for quality vocal production.

4-6

Performer **sometimes** demonstrated the criteria for quality vocal production.

7-8

Performer **often** demonstrated the criteria for quality vocal production.

9-10

Performer **always** demonstrated the criteria for quality vocal production.

PERFORMER CRITERIA

DANCING

- Skill, precision, and execution
- Animation and energy
- Expression and artistry
- Spatial awareness
- Style of choreography
- Movement driven by emotion
- Motivated movements

1-3

Performer **rarely** demonstrated the criteria for quality dance abilities.

4-6

Performer **sometimes** demonstrated the criteria for quality dance abilities.

7-8

Performer **often** demonstrated the criteria for quality dance abilities.

9-10

Performer **always** demonstrated the criteria for quality dance abilities.

PERFORMER CRITERIA

ACTING

- Animation and energy
- Dialogue interpretation and believability
- Relationship to other characters
- Character consistency
- Diction and projection
- Grounded in work
- Clear intentions, choices, discoveries, and motivations

1-3 Performer **rarely** demonstrated the criteria for quality acting abilities.

4-6 Performer **sometimes** demonstrated the criteria for quality acting abilities.

7-8 Performer **often** demonstrated the criteria for quality acting abilities.

9-10 Performer **always** demonstrated the criteria for quality acting abilities.

PERFORMER CRITERIA

OVERALL

- Stage presence
- Appropriate and strong choices in all areas
- Overall believability
- Overall technique
- Overall audience impression

1-3 Performer **rarely** demonstrated the criteria for quality overall performance.

4-6 Performer **sometimes** demonstrated the criteria for quality overall performance.

7-8 Performer **often** demonstrated the criteria for quality overall performance.

9-10 Performer **always** demonstrated the criteria for quality overall performance.

ENSEMBLE GROUP CRITERIA

- The ensemble showcased investment & energy in the world of the show.
- The ensemble was well-rounded and exhibited high quality music, dance and acting abilities.
- Ensemble members had defined characters with a sense of purpose that drove the story.
- The ensemble demonstrated group dynamics and awareness of other performers on stage.

1-3

The ensemble rarely showcased appropriate investment & energy. The ensemble rarely exhibited high-quality music, dance, or acting abilities. The ensemble members rarely portrayed defined characters or rarely demonstrated adequate group-dynamics and awareness.

4-6

The ensemble sometimes showcased appropriate investment & energy. The ensemble sometimes exhibited high-quality music, dance, or acting abilities. The ensemble members sometimes portrayed defined characters or rarely demonstrated adequate group-dynamics and awareness.

7-8

The ensemble often showcased appropriate investment & energy. The ensemble often exhibited high-quality music, dance, or acting abilities. The ensemble members often portrayed defined characters or rarely demonstrated adequate group-dynamics and awareness.

9-10

The ensemble always showcased appropriate investment & energy. The ensemble always exhibited high-quality music, dance, or acting abilities. The ensemble members always portrayed defined characters or rarely demonstrated adequate group-dynamics and awareness.

Choreography CRITERIA

- Movement choices support the story, character, and mood of the show.
- Movement accounts for set and costumes.
- Choreography is original, varied and dynamic
- Movements align with the music
- Movements reflect character motivations, relationships and emotional tone.
- Ensemble dances with unified awareness, timing, and skill-appropriate choreography.

1-3

Choreography shows minimal connection to story, music, or group awareness, with limited creativity or appropriateness.

4-6

Choreography demonstrates partial storytelling, musical alignment, and ensemble coordination, though consistency and clarity are still emerging.

7-8

Choreography clearly supports the narrative, characters, and music, with solid creativity, appropriate difficulty, and strong ensemble unity.

9-10

Choreography fully elevates the story with dynamic, original movement, smart use of space, and seamless ensemble cohesion.

ORCHESTRA

CRITERIA

- Balanced with stage performers
- Balanced between orchestral parts
- Pitch and tonality
- Appropriate tempo & rhythm
- Smooth transitions

1-3 The orchestra rarely demonstrated the criteria for quality overall performance.

4-6 The orchestra sometimes demonstrated the criteria for quality overall performance.

7-8 The orchestra often demonstrated the criteria for quality overall performance.

9-10 The orchestra always demonstrated the criteria for quality overall performance.

SCENIC DESIGN

CRITERIA

- Demonstrated a meaningful, unified production concept – this includes time, place, location, environment theme, color scheme and how well it worked together with other technical design elements
- Established and maintained mood & setting
- Ease of Movement
- Proportional to stage

1-3 The scenic design rarely demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

4-6 The scenic design sometimes demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

7-8 The scenic design often demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

9-10 The scenic design always demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

LIGHTING DESIGN

CRITERIA

- Established and maintained the mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained location
- Helped to focus the attention of the audience
- Well-executed

1-3 The lighting design rarely demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

4-6 The lighting design sometimes demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

7-8 The lighting design often demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

9-10 The lighting design always demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

COSTUME DESIGN

CRITERIA

- Demonstrated a meaningful, unified production concept
- Established and maintained character, mood and settings
- Gave performers full range of motion
- Well-executed (fit, neatness, attention to detail, etc.)
- Consistency of quality across all costumes

1-3 The costume design rarely demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

4-6 The costume design sometimes demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

7-8 The costume design often demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

9-10 The costume design always demonstrated the criteria for an overall quality design.

STAGE CREW

CRITERIA

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Executed cues with accuracy
- Completed tasks with no performance interruptions
- Transitioned smoothly between cues

1-3

The stage crew rarely demonstrated the criteria for an overall effective production.

4-6

The stage crew sometimes demonstrated the criteria for an overall effective production.

7-8

The stage crew often demonstrated the criteria for an overall effective production.

9-10

The stage crew always demonstrated the criteria for an overall effective production.

Official Regional Awards Program of:



National High School
Musical Theatre Awards

Support for this program by:

Fred W. Fields Fund of Oregon Community Foundation

To learn more about the Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards, email

HultAwards@eugene-or.gov