HULT HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2026-2027

Evaluator Guide

Updated September 2026

Hult Center for the Performing Arts
Community and Creative Learning
Hultcenter.org

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

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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.

Evaluator Personal Information Form & Requirements

Evaluators must be Oregon residents at least 1 year out of high school with a background in the performing arts. Evaluators must disclose if they have a connection to any participating high school. Evaluators must attend one evaluator training.

Interested evaluators must complete the information form by **October 15, 2026.**

Evaluator Information Form

Important Dates

September 29, 2026- Evaluator Town Hall (virtual)

October 2026– May 1, 2027 – Productions evaluated

May 2, 2027 – Evaluation forms due

May 4, 2027 – Evaluators meet to review productions (virtual)

May 25, 2027 - First annual Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards Ceremony

The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards Categories

- Outstanding Overall Musical Production
- Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role (2)
- Outstanding Performer in a Supporting Role (2)
- Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group
- Outstanding Choreography
- Outstanding Performance by Orchestra
- Outstanding Stage Crew
- Outstanding Scenic Design*
- Outstanding Costume Design*
- Outstanding Lighting Design

*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.

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.

Production Evaluation Forms

All evaluations are due 7 days after you have seen the performance. The evaluation rubric is embedded in the Evaluator Guide for your reference and is available on the Hult Center's website. If you have any questions or want to chat through anything that happened in order to ensure you're evaluating properly based on given circumstances of a school - please reach out via email or phone to a member of the Community & Creative Learning team.

Please note, one form per production.

As a reminder, we provide feedback to the schools in bullet point form and divided into three different categories: **Highlights**, **Areas of Growth**, and **Notes & Considerations**. We ask that you please provide your written feedback in this same format.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We highly recommend you write down your answers in a word document and once you are complete you enter the feedback. This form application ***does not*** save progress.

Production Evaluation Form

Evaluation Criteria

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 produces element of quality musical theater. The overall production sometimes utilized thematic elements to a 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 a 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 a 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.

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.

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.

Official Regional Awards Program of:

JIMMY AWARDS™
National High School Musical Theatre Awards

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To learn more about the Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards, email HultAwards@eugene-or.gov