



HULT HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

2025–2026

Participation Guide

Updated October 2025

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 **June 2, 2026 at 7:00PM**
- WHERE:** **The Hult Center – One Eugene Center, Eugene OR 97401**
- HOW:** Any Oregon state high school may participate in The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards by completing the [application form](#).
- Applications are due by November 3, 2025.** 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 the awards ceremony, by **August 22, 2026**.
- On June 2, 2026, nominees and representatives from participating schools will be 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 2026.
- 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

November 3, 2025	Application Deadline
September 2025 – May 8, 2026	Participating productions are evaluated
May 6, 2026	Award Ceremony tickets go on sale
May 6, 2026	Production photos due to the Hult Center
May 8, 2026	Final date for Evaluators to attend shows
May 14 – 16, 2026	Evaluators meet to review productions
May 18, 2026	Award Nominees are announced
June 2, 2026 (times TBD)	Ceremony performer rehearsals
June 2, 2026 at 7PM	The Hult High School Musical Theatre Awards
August 22, 2026	Evaluator materials returned to schools

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 November 3, 2025

- If your show will be double cast, and you want both casts evaluated, you must indicate this on the application form. Although we will make every effort to do so, accommodating double casting added later in the season may not be possible.
- **All participating productions must take place on or before May 8, 2026.** 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 individual nomination forms for each student they would like to be evaluated in the Outstanding Lead Role or Supporting Role categories. All other categories will be automatically evaluated. The Individual Nomination forms can be found on the Hult Center website or linked below.

[Individual Nomination Form](#)

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 awards ceremony, a packet with evaluators' written comments will be emailed to each school by August 22, 2026.

Nominations

The Hult Center will post the list of nominations on **May 18, 2026**. 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 8, 2026

- 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 June 2, 2026
- 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 2026.
- 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 2026.
- 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)
- ❖ Outstanding Performer in a Supporting Role (2)
- ❖ Outstanding Performer in a Non-Singing Role
- ❖ Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group
- ❖ Outstanding Performance by Orchestra
- ❖ 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.

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:



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