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**Playhouse Square Announces Nominees for Annual Dazzle Awards
presented by Pat and John Chapman**

Recipients to Be Announced at May 20 Awards Ceremony

[Photos from the 2022 Dazzle Awards](#)

Cleveland, OH – The next generation of Broadway stars are taking center stage at Playhouse Square’s Dazzle Awards presented by Pat and John Chapman. From behind-the-scenes work creating costumes and set designs to orchestras playing iconic scores and actors bringing scripts to life on stage, the educational program showcases the talents of more than 2,100 students from 32 schools around Northeast Ohio. The Dazzle Awards – affiliated with [The Jimmy Awards®/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards®](#) – honors the hard work, dedication and excellence seen in the region’s high school theater programs.

The 2023 Dazzle Awards Ceremony takes place at the KeyBank State Theatre on Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available online at playhousesquare.org or by calling 216-241-6000.

This regional program offers arts education opportunities throughout the school year and culminates with the annual awards ceremony hosted by Fox 8’s Natalie Herbick. Students participating in the ceremony walk the “PNC Red Carpet” as they enter, then take the stage to perform.

In addition to master classes and audition workshops for those on stage, interested students can apply to be a Dazzle Awards Student Reporter, Technical Apprentice, and new this year, Musical Apprentice. Through these programs, they can learn firsthand from industry professionals, including the Dazzle Awards director/choreographer, music director, musicians, stage managers, lighting and sound designers and local reporters. The following students were chosen based on an application process and letters of recommendation:

Musical Apprentices

Grace Burdorff (Saxophone), Midview High School

Miya DeBolt (Flute), Bay Village High School

Audra Incledon (Cello), Orange High School

Ewan James Colin Moss (Trombone), Bay Village High School
Drew Straub (Trumpet), Independence High School

Technical Apprentices

Joelle Billson, Willoughby South High School
Emma Kovach-Uzl, Eastlake North High School
Rebecca Zwick, Medina High School

Student Reporters

Sarah Keller, Brunswick High School
Mackenzie Kirkpatrick, Midview High School
Lauren Sams, Thomas W. Harvey High School
Britta Sevcik, Avon Lake High School

At the May 20 ceremony, Dazzle Awards will be presented to outstanding musical theater productions and students in 13 categories, including the “Spirit of the Dazzle Awards” category, awarded to the student who most embodies camaraderie, passion and an infectious positive attitude throughout rehearsal week as identified by the creative team. The Best Actor and Best Actress will represent Northeast Ohio at The Jimmy Awards at the Minskoff Theatre in New York in June.

The 2023 Dazzle Award Nominees:

Best Student Orchestra

Akron School for the Arts at Firestone CLC, *Tuck Everlasting*
Bay Village High School, *Disney's Newsies*
Eastlake North High School, *Little Shop of Horrors*
Hudson High School, *The Addams Family*
Medina High School, *Something Rotten!*
Orange High School, *Into the Woods*
Wadsworth High School, *Fiddler on the Roof*

Best Technical Execution

Akron School for the Arts at Firestone CLC, *Tuck Everlasting*
Magnificat High School, *Chicago: Teen Edition*
Mayfield High School, *Ragtime School Edition*
Nardon High School, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*
Rocky River High School, *Bright Star School Edition*
Solon High School, *The Addams Family*
University School, *Merrily We Roll Along*

Best Scenic Design

Aurora High School, *Bye Bye Birdie*
Bay Village High School, *Disney's Newsies*
Eastlake North High School, *Little Shop of Horrors*
Hudson High School, *The Addams Family*

Magnificat High School, *Chicago: Teen Edition*
Rocky River High School, *Bright Star School Edition*
Walsh Jesuit High School, *Mamma Mia!*

Best Costume Design

Bay Village High School, *Disney's Newsies*
Hawken School, *Footloose*
Hudson High School, *The Addams Family*
Lutheran High School West, *The Music Man*
Magnificat High School, *Chicago: Teen Edition*
Midview High School, *Seussical*
Rocky River High School, *Bright Star School Edition*

Best Choreography Execution

Bay Village High School, *Disney's Newsies*
Hawken School, *Footloose*
Hudson High School, *The Addams Family*
Lutheran High School West, *The Music Man*
Magnificat High School, *Chicago: Teen Edition*
Mayfield High School, *Ragtime School Edition*
Rocky River High School, *Bright Star School Edition*

Best Ensemble/Chorus

Aurora High School, *Bye Bye Birdie*
Bay Village High School, *Disney's Newsies*
Hudson High School, *The Addams Family*
Lutheran High School West, *The Music Man*
Magnificat High School, *Chicago: Teen Edition*
Mayfield High School, *Ragtime School Edition*
Rocky River High School, *Bright Star School Edition*

Best Supporting Actor

Alex Dale, Hudson High School ('Lurch' in *The Addams Family*)
Nathan Hill, Chagrin Falls High School ('Kevin G' in *Mean Girls High School Version*)
Kaden Jones, University School ('Joe' in *Merrily We Roll Along*)
Jack Lange, Rocky River High School ('Daryl Ames' in *Bright Star School Edition*)
Aidan Moll, University School ('K.T.' in *Merrily We Roll Along*)
Jacob Rentas, Lutheran High School West ('Marcellus Washburn' in *The Music Man*)
Graham Wilde, Mayfield High School ('Younger Brother' in *Ragtime School Edition*)

Best Supporting Actress

Elizabeth Axelrod, Mayfield High School ('Evelyn Nesbit' in *Ragtime School Edition*)
Dani Buyanksy, Independence High School ('Dragon/Ensemble' in *Shrek The Musical*)
Izzy Kreeger, Eastlake North High School ('Mushnik' in *Little Shop of Horrors*)
Rebecca Leist, Lutheran High School West ('Eulalie McKecknie Shinn' in *The Music Man*)

Marta Minarik, Magnificat High School ('Mona/Ensemble' in *Chicago: Teen Edition*)
Tana Preseren, Eastlake North High School ('Audrey 2' in *Little Shop of Horrors*)
Nora Stipanovich, Magnificat High School ('Hunyak/Juror One' in *Chicago: Teen Edition*)

Best Actor

Sam Brown, Bay Village High School ('Davey' in *Disney's Newsies*)
Lukas Cinko, Archbishop Hoban High School ('Ren McCormack' in *Footloose*)
Savon Harris, Mayfield High School ('Coalhouse Walker Jr.' in *Ragtime School Edition*)
Kyle McFalls, Akron School for the Arts at Firestone CLC ('Jesse Tuck' in *Tuck Everlasting*)
Stanley Niekamp, Akron School for the Arts at Firestone CLC ('Miles Tuck' in *Tuck Everlasting*)
Zhavier Nurse, Thomas W. Harvey High School ('Agwe' in *Once on This Island*)
Nicholas Szekely, Bay Village High School ('Jack Kelly' in *Disney's Newsies*)

Best Actress

Paris Bunch, Mayfield High School ('Sarah' in *Ragtime School Edition*)
Laila Christian, Shaker Heights High School ('Sandy Cheeks' in *The SpongeBob Musical*)
Fiona Coughlin, Akron School for the Arts at Firestone CLC ('Mae Tuck' in *Tuck Everlasting*)
Claire Marchant, Nardon High School ('Ursula' in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*)
Kate Pawlowski, Hudson High School ('Wednesday Addams' in *The Addams Family*)
Lindsey Ross, Hudson High School ('Morticia Addams' in *The Addams Family*)
Calista Zajac, Magnificat High School ('Roxie Hart' in *Chicago: Teen Edition*)

Best Musical (Tier 1 – musical budgets less than \$13,000)

Akron School for the Arts at Firestone CLC, *Tuck Everlasting*
Bay Village High School, *Disney's Newsies*
Rocky River High School, *Bright Star School Edition*

Best Musical (Tier 2 – musical budgets greater than \$13,000)

Hudson High School, *The Addams Family*
Magnificat High School, *Chicago: Teen Edition*
Mayfield High School, *Ragtime School Edition*

Public and private high schools located in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit Counties were invited to apply for participation in the Dazzle Awards. Information and applications for the 2024 Dazzle Awards will be available online at playhousesquare.org/dazzleawards in August.

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Playhouse Square, home to the largest Broadway season ticket holder community in North America, is Northeast Ohio's destination for entertainment. A not-for-profit performing arts center, Playhouse Square is a champion of arts education and downtown Cleveland, and proud to be the home of Cleveland Ballet, Cleveland International Film Festival, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance, DANCECleveland, Great Lakes Theater and Tri-C JazzFest.

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The Jimmy Awards®/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®) program impacts more than 140,000 students who participate in 48 regional high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by presenters of touring Broadway productions throughout the United States. Named for Broadway impresario James M. Nederlander, the program has been the catalyst for more than \$6,000,000 in educational scholarships. Presented by The Broadway League Foundation, Inc., the NHSMTA invites one Best Actress and one Best Actor nominee from each local regional ceremony to New York City for a week-long theatre intensive that includes coaching sessions, training, and rehearsals led by some of Broadway's most accomplished professionals. Nominees will spend one week in New York City from Sunday, June 18, 2023, through Tuesday, June 27, 2023, and their efforts throughout the week will lead to one extraordinary talent showcase performed live in front of an audience on a Broadway stage. The fourteenth annual Jimmy Awards will take place on Monday, June 26, 2023, at the Minskoff Theatre. For more information, please visit www.JimmyAwards.com.