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Pittsburgh CLO Announces Nominees for the 2023 Gene Kelly Awards



Pittsburgh, May 10, 2023– Pittsburgh CLO and The Michael J. Kara Family are proud to announce the nominees for the 32nd Annual *Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater*. The awards show will take place on **Saturday, May 27 at 7:30pm** at the Benedum Center in downtown Pittsburgh.

"Since its beginning in 1991, the Gene Kelly Awards recognize the incredible talent of thousands of students across Allegheny County," said Executive Producer, Mark Fleischer. "The Awards recognize not only the artistic talent of these students, but also celebrate their dedication to their communities and schools, both on stage and behind-the-scenes. Pittsburgh CLO is honored to lead this 30-year long tradition, celebrating excellence in High School Musical Theater," said Fleischer.

The Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater were launched in 1991 to

recognize and encourage student achievement and to focus the attention of the community and school districts on the importance of musical theater and arts education.

Patterned after Broadway's Tony® Awards, this event celebrates the power of the Arts to significantly improve all areas of education! High school theater programs are the real winners as show business veterans and community celebrities help to spread the word about the achievements of high school students and their school's musical theater programs. Over the past 30 years, Gene Kelly Award winners have gone on to careers in film, TV, and on Broadway.

Over the past three months, a panel of judges have attended the performances by the following 32 Allegheny County high schools: *Avonworth High School, Baldwin High School, Bishop Canevin High School, Carlynton Junior-High School, Chartiers Valley High School, Eden Christian Academy, Elizabeth Forward High School, Gateway High School, Hampton High School, Keystone Oaks High School, McKeesport Area High School, Montour High School, Moon Area High School, North Hills High School, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, Penn Hills High School, Pine-Richland High School, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12, Plum Senior High, Quaker Valley High School, Redeemer Lutheran School, Riverview Jr./Sr. High School, Serra Catholic High School, Sewickley Academy, Shady Side Academy Senior School, Springdale Jr./Sr. High School, St. Joseph High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, West Allegheny High School, Westinghouse Arts Academy, and Woodland Hills Senior High School.*

The judging panel was comprised of performing arts educators, arts administrators, entertainment professionals, and performers. On May 5 these judges met and reviewed highlights from each high school performance. The scoring was then tabulated by Deloitte LLP.

The Nominees for the 2023 Gene Kelly Awards are:

Best Scenic Design

Budget Level I

McKeesport Area High School
All Shook Up

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School
Big Fish

Serra Catholic High School
Little Shop of Horrors (Broadway Version)

Budget Level II

Carlynton Junior-High School
Disney's The Little Mermaid

Quaker Valley High School
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Westinghouse Arts Academy
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Budget Level III

Elizabeth Forward High School
The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Moon Area High School
Something Rotten!

Riverview Jr./Sr. High School
Young Frankenstein

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School
Something Rotten!

Thomas Jefferson High School
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Woodland Hills Senior High School
Seussical

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Best Costume Design

Budget Level I

McKeesport Area High School
All Shook Up

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Big Fish

Redeemer Lutheran School
Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Original)

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School
Grand Hotel: The Musical

Carlynton Junior-High School
Disney's The Little Mermaid

Westinghouse Arts Academy
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Budget Level III

Elizabeth Forward High School
The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Moon Area High School
Something Rotten!

Riverview Jr./Sr. High School
Young Frankenstein

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School
Something Rotten!

Thomas Jefferson High School
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Woodland Hills Senior High School
Seussical

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Best Lighting Design

Budget Level I

McKeesport Area High School

All Shook Up

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Big Fish

Serra Catholic High School

Little Shop of Horrors (Broadway Version)

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School

Grand Hotel: The Musical

Chartiers Valley High School

9 to 5 the Musical

Westinghouse Arts Academy

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Budget Level III

Elizabeth Forward High School

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Riverview Jr./Sr. High School

Young Frankenstein

Shady Side Academy Senior School

Chicago: Teen Edition

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School

Something Rotten!

Thomas Jefferson High School

Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Woodland Hills Senior High School

Seussical

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Best Vocal Ensemble

Budget Level I

McKeesport Area High School

All Shook Up

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Big Fish

Serra Catholic High School

Little Shop of Horrors (Broadway Version)

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School
Grand Hotel: The Musical

Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12
The Prom

Westinghouse Arts Academy
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Budget Level III

Elizabeth Forward High School
The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Moon Area High School
Something Rotten!

Riverview Jr./Sr. High School
Young Frankenstein

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School
Something Rotten!

Plum Senior High
Fiddler on the Roof

Thomas Jefferson High School
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

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Best Dance Ensemble

Budget Level I

McKeesport Area High School
All Shook Up

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School
Big Fish

Sewickley Academy
Big Fish School Edition

Budget Level II

Pittsburgh CAPA 6 - 12
The Prom

Quaker Valley High School
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Westinghouse Arts Academy
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Budget Level III

Elizabeth Forward High School
The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Moon Area High School

Something Rotten!

Riverview Jr./Sr. High School
Young Frankenstein

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School
Something Rotten!

Thomas Jefferson High School
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Woodland Hills Senior High School
Seussical

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Best Crew/Technical Execution

Budget Level I

McKeesport Area High School
All Shook Up

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School
Big Fish

Sewickley Academy
Big Fish School Edition

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School
Grand Hotel: The Musical

Bishop Canevin High School
Freaky Friday

Westinghouse Arts Academy
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Budget Level III

Elizabeth Forward High School
The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Moon Area High School
Something Rotten!

Shady Side Academy Senior School
Chicago: Teen Edition

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School
Something Rotten!

Thomas Jefferson High School
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Woodland Hills Senior High School
Seussical

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Best Student Orchestra

Avonworth High School
Grand Hotel: The Musical

Moon Area High School
Something Rotten!

Pittsburgh CAPA 6 - 12
The Prom

Shady Side Academy Senior School
Chicago: Teen Edition

Thomas Jefferson High School
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Westinghouse Arts Academy
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

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Outstanding Student Artist

Anna Boothby
Student Lighting Op/On-stage Role Replacement
Avonworth High School

Charlotte Kinslow
Understudy for Judy Bernly, Also cast as Roz Keith
Chartiers Valley High School

Linz Thomas
Technical Lighting Designer
Elizabeth Forward High School

David Poirier and Kulthoom Fatema Dinani
Documentarians
Hampton High School

Jack Cipriani
Advertisement Coordinator/Director
Moon Area High School

Alexa Custer
Assistant Music Director
Pittsburgh CAPA 6 - 12

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Best Supporting Actor

Brooks Brady
Thomas Nostradamus
Something Rotten!
Hampton High School

Primo Brodt-Jenkins

Harry Bright
Mamma Mia!
Gateway High School

Avi Chetlin

Trent Oliver
The Prom
Pittsburgh CAPA 6 - 12

David Keller

Simeon
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Westinghouse Arts Academy

Hayden Krupp

Moonface Martin
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)
Thomas Jefferson High School

Eli Wynn

Thernardier
Les Misérables School Edition
Pittsburgh Alderdice High School

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Best Supporting Actress

Ashley Caldwell

Erma
Anything Goes (2022 Revision)
Thomas Jefferson High School

Annelise Hanson

Mayzie Labird
Seussical
Woodland Hills Senior High School

Kenzie Heidenreich

Jan
Grease
West Allegheny High School

Lila Kelley

Zinnia Wormwood
Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical
Baldwin High School

Lucia Palmer

Portia
Something Rotten!
Moon Area High School

Natalie Whitfield

Rosie

Mamma Mia!

Gateway High School

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Best Actor

Jack Cipriani

Nick Bottom

Something Rotten!

Moon Area High School

Amerik Cirola

Joseph

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Westinghouse Arts Academy

Tyler Guinto-Brody

Quasimodo

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Elizabeth Forward High School

Nathan Marks

Dom Claude Frollo

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Elizabeth Forward High School

Ben Stolarz

Jean Valjean

Les Misérables School Edition

Pittsburgh Alderdice High School

Kai Suyama

Nick Bottom

Something Rotten!

Hampton High School

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Best Actress

Felicity Dicken

Judy Bernly

9 to 5 the Musical

North Hills High School

Isabella Gricar

Narrator

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Westinghouse Arts Academy

Brylee Hendry

Hodel

Fiddler on the Roof

Plum Senior High School

Kaitlyn Majewski

Natalie Heller/Ed

All Shook Up

McKeesport Area High School

Rachael Parsons

Hope Harcourt

Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

Thomas Jefferson High School

Ava Sandstrom

Eponine

Les Misérables School Edition

Pittsburgh Allderdice High School

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Best Musical

Budget Level I

McKeesport Area High School

All Shook Up

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

Big Fish

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School

Grand Hotel: The Musical

Westinghouse Arts Academy

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Budget Level III

Elizabeth Forward High School

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Riverview Jr./Sr. High School

Young Frankenstein

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School

Something Rotten!

Thomas Jefferson High School

Anything Goes (2022 Revision)

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The nominees for Best Actor and Best Actress will be competing for the opportunity to represent Pittsburgh CLO's Gene Kelly Awards in the Jimmy Awards/National High School Musical Theatre Awards in New York City on Monday, June 26. For more information on the Jimmy Awards, please visit www.jimmyawards.com.

In addition to the more than 34 Kelly Awards presented at the event, several cash and university

scholarships will be awarded. These scholarships are made possible through generous donations from the CLO Ambassadors, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, and participating colleges. Winners will be announced at the ceremony on May 27. More information is available at pittsburghCLO.org.

The Gene Kelly Awards are presented by the Michael J. Kara Family with additional support provided by Deloitte, The Gismondi Family Foundation, Point Park University, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, PNC Bank, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, and the CLO Ambassadors. Deloitte Consulting, LLP is the official auditor for the *Gene Kelly Awards*.

What: 32nd Annual *Gene Kelly Awards*
Where: Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
When: Saturday, May 27 at 7:30pm
Tickets: On Sale May 19 (if available). Visit PittsburghCLO.org

*Pittsburgh CLO has been a driving force behind the preservation, creation and promotion of live musical theater since 1946. As one of the largest regional musical theater organizations in the country, it is fortunate for the yearly support of nearly 200,000 audience members. In addition to producing fresh new productions of Broadway classics, the not-for-profit's mission is to develop new works and showcase emerging talent, and has been credited with launching the careers of numerous artists such as Billy Porter, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Rob Marshall, Kathleen Marshall, Rob Ashford, Bernadette Peters, and Shirley Jones. The organization's dedication to musical theater extends beyond its six-show Summer Season at the Benedum Center to year-round programming at the 250-seat Cabaret Theater, which saw the world premieres of *Up and Away* and *Game On* in 2018 and *The Double-Threat Trio* in 2019. Its extensive education efforts include the Pittsburgh CLO Academy of Musical Theater; a university internship program; New Horizons, and in-school programs Gallery of Heroes and Creative Vision. Other ongoing initiatives include the Construction Center for the Arts, the Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater, and SPARK, a festival for new small-cast musicals launched in 2018. The organization also founded the National High School Musical Theatre Awards/ Jimmy Awards®. To further its mission to grow the art form, Pittsburgh CLO has been involved with 29 Broadway shows (32 Tony Awards®), and in 2014 produced the world premiere of *An American in Paris* in Paris, then on Broadway, where it won 4 Tony Awards®, and in London, Tokyo, Pittsburgh and throughout the U.S. and Europe. Pittsburgh CLO is the subject of a film starring Jeff Goldblum titled "Pittsburgh." pittsburghCLO.org.*

PITTSBURGH CLO

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Academy of Musical Theater ■ Penn Avenue Place ■ 130 CLO Academy Way ■ Pittsburgh, PA 15222 ■ 412-281-2234
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