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PITTSBURGH CLO ANNOUNCES THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2024 GENE KELLY AWARDS



Pittsburgh, May 8, 2024 – Pittsburgh CLO and The Michael J. Kara Family are proud to announce the nominees for the 33rd Annual *Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater*. The awards show will take place on **Saturday, May 25 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 33-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 33 years, Gene Kelly Award winners have gone on to careers in film, TV, and on Broadway.

The judging panel, comprised of performing arts educators, arts administrators, entertainment professionals, and performers have spent the past three months attending performances at the following 33 Allegheny County High Schools: *Avonworth High School, Baldwin High School, Bishop Canevin High School, Brentwood High School, Carlynton Junior Senior 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, North Hills High School, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, Penn Hills High School, Pine-Richland High School, Pittsburgh Alderdice High School, Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12, Plum Senior High, Quaker Valley High School, Redeemer Lutheran School, Riverview Jr./Sr. High School, Saint Joseph High School, Serra Catholic High School, Seton LaSalle Catholic High School, Sewickley Academy, Shady Side Academy Senior School, Springdale Jr./Sr. High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, West Allegheny High School, Westinghouse Arts Academy, and Woodland Hills High School.*

On May 3rd, these judges met and reviewed highlights from each high school performance. The scoring was then tabulated by Deloitte LLP.

The Nominees for the 2024 Gene Kelly Awards are:

Best Scenic Design

Budget Level I

Bishop Canevin High School

ALL SHOOK UP School Edition

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!

Shady Side Academy Senior School

ZOMBIE PROM

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School

INTO THE WOODS

Quaker Valley High School

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)

West Allegheny High School

BYE BYE BIRDIE

Budget Level III

Elizabeth Forward High School
BIG FISH

North Hills High School
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12
SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School
TUCK EVERLASTING

Pine-Richland High School
MAMMA MIA!

Thomas Jefferson High School
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

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Best Costume Design

Budget Level I

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School
Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!

Saint Joseph High School
TARZAN - The Stage Musical based on the Disney film

Shady Side Academy Senior School
ZOMBIE PROM

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School
INTO THE WOODS

Quaker Valley High School
THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)

Serra Catholic High School
THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)

Budget Level III

North Hills High School
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER

Westinghouse Arts Academy

CHICAGO: Teen Edition

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School

TUCK EVERLASTING

Thomas Jefferson High School

Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Woodland Hills High School

WONDERLAND Pilot Production

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Best Lighting Design

Budget Level I

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!

Saint Joseph High School

TARZAN - The Stage Musical based on the Disney film

Shady Side Academy Senior School

ZOMBIE PROM

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School

INTO THE WOODS

Quaker Valley High School

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)

West Allegheny High School

BYE BYE BIRDIE

Budget Level III

North Hills High School

THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER

Westinghouse Arts Academy

CHICAGO: Teen Edition

Budget Level IV

Pine-Richland High School
MAMMA MIA!

Thomas Jefferson High School
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Woodland Hills High School
WONDERLAND Pilot Production

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Best Vocal Ensemble

Budget Level I

Bishop Canevin High School
ALL SHOOK UP School Edition

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School
Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!

Shady Side Academy Senior School
ZOMBIE PROM

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School
INTO THE WOODS

Quaker Valley High School
THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)

West Allegheny High School
BYE BYE BIRDIE

Budget Level III

North Hills High School
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12
SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER

Westinghouse Arts Academy
CHICAGO: Teen Edition

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School
TUCK EVERLASTING

Thomas Jefferson High School
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Woodland Hills High School

WONDERLAND Pilot Production

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Best Dance Ensemble

Budget Level I

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!

Saint Joseph High School

TARZAN - The Stage Musical based on the Disney film

Shady Side Academy Senior School

ZOMBIE PROM

Budget Level II

Quaker Valley High School

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)

Sewickley Academy

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

West Allegheny High School

BYE BYE BIRDIE

Budget Level III

North Hills High School

THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER

Westinghouse Arts Academy

CHICAGO: Teen Edition

Budget Level IV

Hampton High School

TUCK EVERLASTING

Thomas Jefferson High School

Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Woodland Hills High School

WONDERLAND Pilot Production

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Best Crew/Technical Execution

Budget Level I

Bishop Canevin High School
ALL SHOOK UP School Edition

Saint Joseph High School
TARZAN - The Stage Musical based on the Disney film

Shady Side Academy Senior School
ZOMBIE PROM

Budget Level II

Avonworth High School
INTO THE WOODS

Keystone Oaks High School
ANYTHING GOES (2022 Revival)

McKeesport Area High School
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Budget Level III

North Hills High School
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12
SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER

Westinghouse Arts Academy
CHICAGO: Teen Edition

Budget Level IV

Pine-Richland High School
MAMMA MIA!

Thomas Jefferson High School
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Woodland Hills High School
WONDERLAND Pilot Production

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Best Student Orchestra

Hampton High School
TUCK EVERLASTING

North Hills High School
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Pine-Richland High School
MAMMA MIA!

Shady Side Academy Senior School

ZOMBIE PROM

Thomas Jefferson High School
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Westinghouse Arts Academy
CHICAGO: Teen Edition



Outstanding Student Artist

Brady Bandik
Lighting Designer
Thomas Jefferson High School

Bree Boyd
Student Producer
Woodland Hills High School

Kennedy Edwards
Stage Manager
Gateway High School

Sophie Feldhues
Dance Captain
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

Abigail Gindlesperger
Student Director
Elizabeth Forward High School

Bailey Linza
Choreographer
Saint Joseph High School



Best Supporting Actor

Cole Johnston
Vice Principal Douglas Panch
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
North Hills High School

Jack Kelly
Charlito "Chip" Tolentino
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
North Hills High School

Leo Matthews
Jud Fry
Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

Eamonn McElfresh
Tobias Ragg

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER
Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

Jack Miller

Fester Addams
THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)
Quaker Valley High School

Javian Ortega-Rodriguez

Beadle Bamford
SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER
Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

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Best Supporting Actress

Sophia Burik

Rona Lisa Peretti
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
North Hills High School

Kelly Campion

Marie (The Fairy Godmother)
Rodgers & Hammerstein's CINDERELLA (Broadway Version)
Baldwin High School

Addy Janicki

Matron Mama Morton
CHICAGO: Teen Edition
Westinghouse Arts Academy

Kayleigh Johnson

Mrs. Potts
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Thomas Jefferson High School

Rissa Williams

Beggar Woman
SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER
Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

Jay Zhu

Delilah Strict
ZOMBIE PROM
Shady Side Academy Senior School

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Best Actor

Zachary Burkovich

Shrek
SHREK The Musical
Penn Hills High School

Mateo Carrasco

Gomez Addams
THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)
 Carlynton Junior Senior High School

Tyler Guinto-Brody

Edward Bloom
BIG FISH
 Elizabeth Forward High School

Severin Harmon

Cosmo Brown
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
 Sewickley Academy

Max Peluso

Don Lockwood
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
 Sewickley Academy

Kai Sachon

Sweeney Todd
SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER
 Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

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Best Actress**Emma Hopf**

William Barfee
THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
 North Hills High School

Hope Johnson

Mrs. Lovett
SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, A MUSICAL THRILLER
 Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12

Mariana Mangual

Dorothy Gale
THE WIZARD OF OZ (RSC Version)
 Seton LaSalle Catholic High School

Lucy Myers

The Witch
INTO THE WOODS
 Avonworth High School

Paulina Sanchez

Roxie Hart
CHICAGO: Teen Edition
 Montour High School

Olivia Virgin

Belle
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Thomas Jefferson High School

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Best Musical**Budget Level I****Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School***Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!***Saint Joseph High School***TARZAN - The Stage Musical based on the Disney film***Budget Level II****Avonworth High School***INTO THE WOODS***Quaker Valley High School***THE ADDAMS FAMILY (School Edition)***Budget Level III****North Hills High School***THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE***Westinghouse Arts Academy***CHICAGO: Teen Edition***Budget Level IV****Thomas Jefferson High School***Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST***Woodland Hills High School***WONDERLAND Pilot Production*

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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 24. 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 25. 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: 33rd Annual *Gene Kelly Awards*
Where: Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
When: Saturday, May 25 at 7:30pm
Tickets: On Sale Friday, May 17 (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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