

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION GUIDE



2025 / 2026 Season

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INTRODUCTION

About the Sara Bareilles Awards - BroadwaySF is thrilled to announce the second annual Sara Bareilles Awards, celebrating the outstanding talent, dedication, and creativity of high school theatre students across Northern California! Named in honor of the three-time Tony Award nominee and two-time Grammy Award winner, this program will have the honor of sending two students from our Northern California jurisdiction to the **National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®) /The Jimmy Awards®** in June 2026.

The Sara Bareilles Awards will adjudicate performances submitted by high schools (public, private, and charter) from the following Northern California counties: *Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, Yuba.*

Why are we so excited? This program is more than just awards; it's a platform for nurturing the next generation of theatre professionals. After our first Sara Bareilles Awards in 2025, we are even more committed to supporting arts education, empowering young artists, and celebrating the transformative power of theatre. We look forward to you participating in the 2025/26 season, and to inspiring the next generation of artists and leaders!





ABOUT BROADWAYSF & ATG ENTERTAINMENT



About BroadwaySF:

BroadwaySF, an ATG Entertainment company, is the preeminent theater entertainment company in the Bay Area, bringing live theatrical experiences to the Orpheum and Golden Gate Theatres in San Francisco. BroadwaySF presents current hits fresh from Broadway, original Broadway cast productions, pre-Broadway premieres and one-of-a-kind events that are at the forefront of the national theater scene.

ATG Entertainment: Passion Behind Performance

ATG Entertainment is a world leader in live entertainment. Our portfolio of venues includes historic theatres, studio theatres, cinemas, conference spaces, and modern live music arenas. ATG Entertainment owns, operates, or programs 64 of the world's most iconic venues across the UK, the US and Germany entertaining over 18 million audience members each year.

Through our in-house Production companies and working closely with top producers and promoters ATG presents over 15,000 live performances annually, including *Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club*, *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*, *Moulin Rouge*, *The Lion King*, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, and *Starlight Express* as well as popular music and comedy shows.

ATG also owns a leading ticketing platform processing more than 18 million tickets each year for musicals, plays, concerts, comedy shows and a variety of other live events. ATGtickets.com attracts more than 40 million unique visitors annually. Headquartered in London and Woking, the company also has offices in New York and Cologne.

ELIGIBILITY

The Sara Bareilles Awards are open to all public, private, or charter high schools serving grades 9-12.

For K-12 schools, only students in grades 9-12 will be eligible for individual awards. Those schools are *not* eligible for Overall Cast Performance.

The school's location must be in any of the following Northern California counties: *Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, Yuba.*

REGISTRATION

Registration will open on **August 11, 2025**. Schools may then begin to register their productions for adjudication via Acceptd:

[CLICK HERE TO BEGIN](#)



FEES

There is a registration fee of \$155 per production registered via the portal Acceptd, and must be paid with a credit card.

This is also applicable to shows with double casts, as each cast registration has its own \$155 fee.



IMPORTANT DATES

To prepare teachers and educators as best as possible, below is the anticipated timeline of important dates and deadlines. These dates are subject to change over time, and educators will be notified of those changes if/when they occur.

August 11, 2025	Registration Opens! Schools can officially begin registering their productions for adjudication via Acceptd .
Two (2) Weeks Before Production Opens	Schools <u>must</u> register their production for adjudication in Acceptd at least two (2) weeks before the production opens . This is to ensure that we can schedule adjudicators in a timely manner. Registration includes: - Production Details (Title of show, licensing house, performance dates & times, venue, etc.) - Adjudication Submission (Production, Lead Actor, Lead Actress, Supporting Performer, & Student Choreographer details, including names and characters)
Within two (2) weeks of seeing the show	Adjudicators must submit their scores and notes via Acceptd
Within One Month after Production Closes	Optional deadline to submit media uploads. This can include: - Production photos (overall production AND nominee production photos) - Video of the performance (either uploaded files or weblinks) - Video clips for Outstanding Lead Actor, Actress, and Supporting Performer nominees
March 3, 2026	Deadline for registering a production
April 5, 2026	Final production performance eligible for adjudication
April 9, 2026	Nominations will be announced
After Nominations are Announced	Optional critique packets sent to schools
May 2-3, 2026	Sara Bareilles Awards Weekend! (Optional Student Workshops May 2; Auditions & Ceremony May 3)
June 12-23, 2026	Jimmys Week in NYC
June 22, 2026	Jimmy Awards Ceremony in New York City at Broadway's Minskoff Theatre

AWARD CATEGORIES

For the 2025/2026 Sara Bareilles Awards, the below are the award categories for the May 3, 2026 ceremony, and therefore the categories evaluated by adjudicators.

- **Outstanding Lead Actor ***
- **Outstanding Lead Actress ***
- **Outstanding Supporting Performer**
- **Outstanding Overall Cast Performance**
(Formally Outstanding Overall Production)
- **Outstanding Student Choreographer ****
- **Fan Favorite Performance *****

*The winners in these categories will compete in the [Jimmy Awards®](#) in New York City in June 2026.

** New this year!

*** This category will be evaluated at the awards ceremony.



ADJUDICATION

- The Sara Bareilles Awards has selected a group of adjudicators to travel all over Northern California to evaluate your school's productions. These adjudicators possess a wide range of professional knowledge and backgrounds in the industry, including education, music, dance, performance, design, and production. All adjudicators will use the criteria in the chart on the right to evaluate the performances digitally on a scale of 1-10.
- As training, adjudicators will each complete a practice evaluation form, a one-hour required training session, and anti-bias training before being assigned a school performance to evaluate.
- Each school production will be evaluated by three (3) adjudicators.
- Schools will be notified of the performance an adjudicator will attend and will be asked to hold 1 to 2 complimentary reserved tickets at the Box Office under the adjudicator's name.
- We will try to assign each adjudicator to a different performance date for a well-rounded evaluation. For productions with short runs, this may not be possible.
- If a school's production is double cast, each cast will be assigned three (3) adjudicators.

RUBRIC

FOR OVERALL CAST PERFORMANCE	FOR OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR, LEAD ACTRESS and SUPPORTING PERFORMER	FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY
Overall Pace	Character Interpretation	Originality and Creativity
Effective use of performers	Stage Presence and Artistry	Entertainment Value
Choreography: Execution and Consistency	Vocals: Clarity and Diction	Use of Space and Cast Members
Musicality: Clarity & Diction	Vocals: Pitch and Tonality	Cohesiveness and Musicality
Musicality: Execution of Harmony	"It" Factor Quality	
Ensemble: Expression through Performance		
Ensemble: Worked well as a Group		

Adjudicators will also leave notes regarding: Highlights or standout moments, and other notes and comments.

PARTICIPATION RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Overall Cast Performance

- The Sara Bareilles Awards will only allow productions to be submitted by someone 18 or over who is associated with the school or production. This may not be a student.
- Schools who are submitting themselves for “Overall Cast Performance” should keep licensing for any music (including backing tracks & sheet music) through the ceremony date of May 3, 2026.
- Schools will be required to upload a copy of their program prior to adjudication. This is for adjudicators to be able to have the physical program handy in case the school has gone paperless.
- A 15-minute highlight reel video of the production may be requested should the production become a nominee for “Overall Cast Performance”. This will be used for Sara Bareilles Award judges' evaluation.
- Schools who are submitting a **double cast** production:
 - Each production must be submitted separately on Acceptd, including the \$155 application fee for each.
 - Each production submission will be adjudicated individually by three (3) adjudicators. Because of this, performers being submitted for adjudication should only be listed on one (1) application. (Ex: Lead Actor submitted for Baker in “Into The Woods” performs in both casts A and B, but other performers are double cast. Baker can only be submitted for adjudication on *one (1)* application.)
 - Should a production become a nominee for the Sara Bareilles Awards, only that nominated cast will be invited to perform at the ceremony.
 - Overlapping performers between casts is perfectly acceptable, including leads who double as ensemble members in alternate casts.

PARTICIPATION RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Lead Actor / Lead Actress & Supporting Performer

- Lead Actor & Lead Actress
 - The Sara Bareilles Awards will accept the same qualifications for Lead Actor and Lead Actress roles that The Jimmy Awards accepts for those to become Jimmys nominees. Those qualifications are detailed on Page 12 of this packet.
 - Productions need only to submit performers for adjudication who wish to be evaluated and potentially nominated. There is no requirement to submit all performers who are in Jimmys qualifying roles.
- Supporting Performer
 - Performers submitted for adjudication must be performing in roles that are not qualifying roles for The Jimmy Awards.
 - We use the same criteria to evaluate supporting performers as we do lead performers. For this reason, those roles must have multiple moments of solo singing *and* dialogue. These moments do not have to be complete solo songs but must have enough solo song moments in the show for adjudicators to evaluate them as individuals.
 - The Program Directors will make the final determination if a nominated performer meets the criteria.



PARTICIPATION RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

NEW THIS YEAR! Student Choreography

- We asked, you answered, and we listened! Based on community response, we have added a new category this year to celebrate all the excellent student-designed choreography in our participating productions.
- To qualify for this category, the choreography of a production being submitted for "Overall Cast Performance" must be 100% designed by student(s) at the school.
- Schools may submit more than one name; however multiple student choreographers will be adjudicated as one entity.
- These students must have designed the choreography for the production without the assistance of a teacher, parent, volunteer, or paid contractor. It must be 100% designed by the student(s)
- The school must submit these student(s) to be evaluated before adjudicators attend performances.
- Criteria for adjudication can be found on Page 8 of this packet.



QUALIFICATIONS

Production Qualifications:

The Sara Bareilles Awards will adhere to the same production qualification requirements as The Jimmy Awards®.

The Jimmy Awards / National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA) has reviewed the professional standards for identifying the definition of an Approved Musical and a Qualifying Role in an Approved Musical for the purposes of our program. These standards serve as a guide to create a minimum standard and criteria for what defines a Qualifying Role in the category of Best Actor / Actress in an amateur production of an Approved Musical.

A) For the purpose of qualifying for the National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA), an Approved Musical is one that:

- Held performances in a major New York City/Broadway theatre, professional regional, or touring theatre outside of New York City prior to being made available for licensing to the regional, amateur, or school theatre /circuit.
- Was originally conceived and produced for a core audience over eight years of age.
- Is officially available for a performance license by a high school from the licensing entity that manages such licenses on behalf of the rights holder for such musical.
- Is officially licensed from the licensing entity that manages such licenses on behalf of the rights holder for such musical.
- Is the standard or school edition/version
 - The following editions/versions are **not** eligible: 101 Collection (Middle School Editions), Broadway Junior, G2K (Getting to Know Series), Young Performers Edition, and Young@Part. Concert versions are not permitted.

QUALIFICATIONS

B) Definition of a Qualifying Lead Actor / Actress Role

For the purposes of NHSMTA®, a Qualifying Role in an Approved Musical is a role in which the character has a name, provides a vehicle for the actor or actress to demonstrate the ability to deliver the exceptional performance of a solo song and the ability to interact with other leading and featured performers in scenes and / or songs.

For Approved Musicals with both a book and libretto, a Qualifying Role must, at minimum, include:

- At least one solo, featured song
- Appearances in more than one scene with spoken dialogue with other leading or featured performers
- Appearances in both or all acts

For Approved Musicals with a libretto only, a Qualifying Role must, at minimum, include:

- At least one solo, featured song
- At least one song featuring solo lines or dialogue with other leading or featured performers in the same song
- Appearances in both or all acts

C) For the purposes of the NHSMTA® program, students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role that they played. Students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select the category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of the gender of the role) OR they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they played. All casting or script change requests for performances in the NHSMTA® program must be approved beforehand. The Sara Bareilles Awards will be prepared to submit proof of approval from the show's licensing organization.

QUALIFICATIONS



List of Approved Musicals and Qualifying Roles

Each year, in consultation with the major licensing houses, NHSMTA® updates the list of Qualifying Roles and Approved Musical titles made available for high school licensing. As of August 1 each year, no roles will be removed from the Qualifying Roles List for the upcoming program year. However, because appeals are made and approved throughout the year, the list of Qualifying Roles continues to be updated with additions. The Sara Bareilles Awards will frequently consult this list to ensure that schools have the most current list, which will be fully updated by April of 2026. There is an internal process by which the Sara Bareilles Awards may submit an appeal for a show of a role to be added to the list. Please contact us for more information.

- [Current list of 2025 Qualifying Shows](#) (Updated 9/5/2025)
- [Current List of shows and roles ineligible for the Jimmy Awards](#)

PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

One goal of the Sara Bareilles Awards is to raise the visibility of high school performing arts programs throughout Northern California, and showcase the talented students involved in them. We ask participating schools to mention their involvement in the Sara Bareilles Awards in their show programs. We would also encourage schools to include their involvement in the program in school newsletters, school and department websites, and social media accounts.

During the 2025/2026 school year, BroadwaySF will utilize the Sara Bareilles Awards Instagram and other social media platforms to highlight the program, and those schools involved. Your registration will include a question about Instagram handles the school would like us to tag to promote your production and involvement with the program. We encourage schools and individual teachers, staff, parents, community, and students to follow our accounts!

- Instagram: [@sarabareillesawards](https://www.instagram.com/sarabareillesawards)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/BroadwaySF

You can also reach out with specific stories, photos, and videos for us to post at SBawards@ATGentertainment.com

If you are contacted by any media outlets regarding your participation in the Sara Bareilles Awards or The Jimmy Awards®, please promptly let us know at SBawards@ATGentertainment.com



THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS® (NHSMTA®) / THE JIMMY AWARDS®



ABOUT THE JIMMY AWARDS®

The Jimmy Awards®/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®) program was established in 2009 to elevate the importance of theatre arts education in schools and reward excellence in student performance. Since then, the NHSMTA has been the catalyst for more than \$6 million in educational scholarships awarded to deserving young performers. Over the years, the NHSMTA has grown to include 55 affiliated regional high school musical theatre awards programs in communities throughout the United States and impacts approximately 150,000 students from 2,300 high schools. Sponsored annually by presenters of touring Broadway, nominees selected by these regional competitions travel to New York City to participate in the national program, a rigorous theatre intensive that includes coaching sessions, training, and rehearsals led by some of Broadway's most accomplished professionals, culminating in an extraordinary, one-night-only talent showcase.

The seventeenth annual Jimmy Awards ceremony will take place in **June 2026**, when 110 students will make their debuts on a Broadway stage. During this unforgettable event at the Minskoff Theatre, a panel of judges will bestow a number of awards and scholarships, including the coveted awards for Best Performance by an Actor and Actress. Participants in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards will be in New York City for 10 days in June.

Named for Broadway impresario James M. Nederlander, this year-round program is administered by The Broadway League Foundation Inc., The Broadway League's charitable division. The Foundation's mission is to support the arts education, community engagement, and audience access programs of the Broadway League, which envisions a world that universally recognizes Broadway theatre as a dynamic, vibrant, inclusive, and accessible entertainment experience.

The depth, scope, and education-centric mission of the Jimmy Awards coupled with its extensive television and media coverage has made participating in the program an aspiration for a growing number of high schools. Based on feedback from participating theatres, school administrators are now directing both staff and financial resources to improve the quality of theatre arts education in their districts. This renewed enthusiasm for the performing arts in schools across the country is already helping to invigorate local theatres and the communities they serve. For more information, please visit www.JimmyAwards.com.

DEI COMMITMENT

BroadwaySF commits to creating a supportive, uplifting, and equitable environment for all who participate in the Sara Bareilles Awards. To uphold that commitment, we promise to adhere to the following:

- We are committed to maintaining an inclusive environment and making sure all who participate feel comfortable and welcome regardless of age, race or ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or any other characteristics that make artists, creatives, staff, and volunteers unique.
- We are aware that school budgets across the region we represent vary. Due to this, we have committed to emphasizing performance over production value with our adjudicators. This is also reflected in the award categories for the awards ceremony in May of 2026.
- Adjudicators are required to take Unconscious Bias training before attending performances.
- We will adopt the same qualifying standards for non-binary or gender-fluid students as the NHSMTA® (seen under **Qualifications - > bullet "C"**)

ATG ENTERTAINMENT IDEA MISSION STATEMENT

At ATG Entertainment, our commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) is reflected in our IDEA mission statement: A stage for everyone.

Our stages are a platform for compelling stories – stories that are for all, by all, and of all. We shine our spotlight on our differences and believe that understanding and celebrating these differences makes us better global citizens. We are committed to strengthening the sense of belonging by ensuring diversity and equity in everything we do. We strive to make our venues beacons of these ideals in our communities. Onstage and off, we hold ourselves accountable for nurturing an inclusive culture, one in which everyone can bring their authentic selves, and everyone feels they belong.

At ATG Entertainment, we provide a stage for everyone.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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