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**DRAFT RELEASE ONLY**

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## **The spotlight shines on Kansas high school students at Music Theatre Wichita's Jester Awards**

*24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jester Awards to take place Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>*

WICHITA, Kan. – The [Jester Awards](#), a program of Music Theatre Wichita, proudly announces the nominees for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Jester Awards Ceremony, which celebrates excellence in Kansas high school musical theatre. Nominees across 23 categories – including “Outstanding Production,” “Leading Performer,” “Stage Crew” and “Technical Achievement,” – are [listed online here](#).

The Jester Awards Ceremony will feature performances from schools and individual nominees. High school students from across the state will celebrate each other throughout the evening. It's a high school version of the Tony Awards.

“The level of talent present in our high schools around Kansas is spectacular,” said Joshua Larson, MTWichita's Education Director. “Having been involved with Music Theatre Wichita and the Jester program for over 15 years, it has been incredibly rewarding to witness the growth of high school musical theatre throughout our state.”

The Jester Awards showcase the next generation of musical theatre talent in Kansas. Each year, trained volunteer judges attend and evaluate hundreds of performances. In 2026, 67 judges viewed 154 performances of 50 productions, involving more than 3,000 students and 50 schools across the state of Kansas. While the program began in Wichita, it has grown to serve schools across the state far as Liberal, Hays, Topeka, and Pittsburg, in addition to the greater Wichita area.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jester Awards Ceremony will take place at Century II Performing Arts Center's Convention Hall in Wichita at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2026. The ceremony brings together thousands of students and supporters for an afternoon of performances and shared celebration culminating in the awarding of prestigious scholarships.

Tickets to the ceremony are \$15 and available in advance ([online only](#)) or at the door. The Jester Awards is sponsored by the Lois K. Walls Jester Fund at MTWichita.

Alumni of the Jester Awards program can be seen onstage and backstage at Music Theatre Wichita this summer, as well as working on Broadway and in regional theatres across the country.

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### **About Music Theatre Wichita:**

Music Theatre Wichita advances the musical theatre art form by educating and nurturing creators, artists, and audiences, primarily through the production of Broadway-caliber shows. Founded in 1972, MTWichita has attained an international reputation for excellence. Each summer, MTWichita self-produces five Broadway-scale musical productions, using a unique mixture of top-flight professionals from Broadway and Hollywood working alongside talented Midwesterners. [Learn more](#).