



**OVERTURE CENTER TOMMY AWARDS NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH/APRIL 2016**

**VOL 4, ISSUE 4**

The spring Tommy shows are up and rolling and we are only one month until the announcement of the 2016 Tommy Award Recipients and less than 70 days from the 2016 Tommy Awards Ceremony (not that we're counting or anything!).

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## **SPECIAL TICKET OFFER TO DISNEY'S THE LION KING AT OVERTURE CENTER!**

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016**

WORKSHOP | 4:30PM - 5:45PM

MOCKTAILS WITH TIM & KARRA | 6PM - 7PM

DISNEY'S THE LION KING | 7:30PM

As a student, parent or educator from a school that participates in The Tommy Awards, Overture would like to offer you discounted tickets to attend The Lion King.

Join a cast member from the Broadway touring production of The Lion King for a dance workshop. Participating students are asked to wear clothes and shoes they can dance in. Bring your questions as there will be time for Q&A at the end of the session. There are a limited number of spots available.

When the workshop is complete Join Tim Sauers, VP of Programming and Community Engagement and Karra Beach, Tommy Awards Program Manager, for a fun and educational night discussing Disney's The Lion King and Broadway. Dinner and "mocktails" will be provided to those attending.

Then relax and enjoy the show that more than 70 million people around the world have experienced. Winner of six Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, this landmark musical event brings together one of the most imaginative creative teams on Broadway. Tony Award®-winning director Julie Taymor brings to life a story filled with hope and adventure set against an amazing backdrop of stunning visuals.

If you are looking for 10 or more tickets, please contact Sarah Knab, Group Sales Manager at sknab@overture-center.org or 608.258.4159

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

[ORDER TICKETS HERE](#)



## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Support your fellow high school performers and attend one of the upcoming performances from these participating schools. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit the Tommy Awards [website](#).

### APRIL & MAY

#### **LEGALLY BLONDE**

MONONA GROVE HIGH SCHOOL  
APR 7 - 9 | 7:30PM  
APR 9 & 10 | 2PM

#### **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

ST AMBROSE ACADEMY  
APR 8 & 9 | 7PM  
APR 10 | 2PM

#### **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL\*  
APR 14 | 6PM  
APR 15 & 16 | 7PM  
APR 17 | 2PM

#### **ANYTHING GOES**

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL  
APR 21 - 23 | 7PM  
APR 24 | 2PM

#### **RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA**

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
APR 28 - 30 | 7:30PM  
APR 30 | 2:30PM

#### **BYE BYE BIRDIE**

EVANSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
MAY 6 & 7 | 7:30PM  
MAY 8 | 2PM

#### **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL\*  
APR 7 - 9 | 7:30PM

#### **THE MUSIC MAN**

EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
APR 8, 9, 15 & 16 | 7PM  
APR 10 & 17 | 2PM

#### **CRAZY FOR YOU**

GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
APR 15 & 16 | 7PM  
APR 17 | 2PM

#### **NUNSENSE**

WAUKESHA WEST HIGH SCHOOL  
APR 21 - 23 | 7:30PM  
APR 23 | 4PM  
APR 24 | 2PM

#### **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**

NEW BERLIN EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL  
APR 28 - 30 | 7:30PM  
MAY 1 | 2PM

#### **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS**

MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL  
MAY 5 - 7 | 7:30PM

#### **GREASE**

PORTAGE HIGH SCHOOL  
APR 7 - 9 | 7:30PM  
APR 10 | 2PM

#### **GREASE**

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL\*  
APR 14 - 16 | 7PM  
APR 17 | 2:30PM

#### **THE WIZARD OF OZ**

WAUWATOSA WEST HIGH SCHOOL  
APR 15, 16, 22 & 23 | 7PM  
APR 17 | 2PM

#### **BRING IT ON**

VERONA AREA COMMUNITY THEATRE  
APR 21 - 23 | 7:30PM

#### **WEST SIDE STORY**

JANESVILLE CRAIG & PARKER HIGH SCHOOLS  
APR 28, 29 & 30 | 7:30PM  
APR 30 & MAY 1 | 2PM  
MAY 1 | 6:30PM

#### **INTO THE WOODS**

WAUNAKEE HIGH SCHOOL  
MAY 5 - 7 | 7PM

\* = New school in 2015/16

## AUDITION NOTICE: 2016-17 TOMMY PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE

The Tommy Performance Ensemble is the premier performance group representing the Tommy Awards. This group of students performs at Overture's pre-Broadway audience engagement series events called Cocktails with Tim and Karra, Overture's Season Announcement event, UW Badger basketball games, Kids in the Rotunda and other special events. This year the group had the opportunity to sing with Broadway star Kristen Chenoweth. Each year the Ensemble develops and performs a showcase cabaret performance.

Any student going into grades 9-11 who attends a school participating in the Tommy Awards program is eligible to audition. Once a student is accepted into the Ensemble, they will remain in the group until they graduate.

Rehearsals are typically held on Sundays from 3pm - 5pm. Members are asked to make the Ensemble a priority over non-school productions however flexibility is given while they are rehearsing and performing in their school musical.

Auditions for the Tommy Performance Ensemble will be held on Sunday, May 22 at 4pm in the Wisconsin Studio at Overture Center for the Arts in Madison.

**Tommy Ensemble Auditions  
Sunday, May 22 at 4pm  
Overture Center for the Arts**

**Interested students are asked to prepare one full song in the musical theater genre and register to audition. Once registered students will receive a number to learn on their own to sing at the audition.**

If you are looking for another outlet for your musical theater skills and passion for performing, are motivated and excited to learn new and challenging music - the Tommy Performance Ensemble is perfect for you!

Contact [Karra Beach](#) with any questions.

**Register [HERE](#)  
to audition  
Registration due May 15**

## NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATER AWARDS

Each year, one actor and one actress is selected to represent the Tommy Awards at the National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA). Student representatives from across America compete for the coveted Jimmy™ Award, named for legendary Broadway Theatre owner and producer James M. Nederlander, at a ceremony at the Minskoff Theatre.

NHSMTA nominees prepare for their Broadway debut after a week of private coaching, master classes, and rehearsals with theatre professionals. Their week's journey concludes with a panel of industry experts selecting exceptional students for The Jimmy™ for Best Performance by an Actress and Actor. Students receive opportunities for merit scholarships, professional advancement, and other prizes.

All Outstanding Lead Performance Award Recipients are eligible to audition to be selected to attend the Jimmy Awards. We will host auditions on Saturday, May 28,

2016. Tommy Award recipients will be announced the week of May 9th. Audition registration will be available at that time. Interested students will be asked to prepare a 32-bar cut from their performance this year as well as two additional songs one ballad and one up-tempo, not from Nominee's winning performance, from a show on the Qualifying Show List. This year those auditioning will learn choreography for a dance audition in addition to performing their vocal selections. More audition materials will be available after May 9.



## STUDENT CRITICS REVIEW MOTOWN THE MUSICAL

Last month the Student Critics attended **Motown the Musical** with mentor Lindsay Christians, journalist for 77 Square. Here are clips from their reviews.

“Allison Semmes’ Diana Ross steals the show. She is talented and funny, changing from likable to a diva at the drop of a hat, but always remaining engaging.” – **Elijah Genda**

“Gordy, as portrayed by Chester Gregory, expresses sparkling determination and smooth vocals as he works along side best friend and business partner, Smokey Robinson (played by Jesse Nager). Together they build an empire as strong as their vocal cords.”  
– Sydney Hansing

“Motown is a flashy jukebox musical that serves as a tribute to artists that helped make Motown famous. ... As Berry Gordy, Chester Gregory’s vocal and acting skills make Motown such an incredible musical. Every song he sings adds soul to the overall performance, making it even more enjoyable. His talent is equally matched with co-lead Diana Ross (Allison Semmes) ... The two of them are very romantically involved in the musical, and the amazing chemistry between them shows.” – Olivia Osinski

[Apply to be a 2016/17 Student Critic!](#)

“Seeing The Temptations dressed up in golden suits singing “My Girl,” or watching an enormous crowd of protesters slide and groove along to “War” along with countless other songs are exciting experiences one won’t forget. Due to the work of Patricia Wilcox (choreographer), Warren Adams (choreographer), and the entire cast’s wide vocal ranges.”

– Lillian Norman

“The real star of the show was the costumes, designed by Esosa. My personal favorite(s) were The Supremes’ outfits, which were form fitting but always so colorful.

... ‘Motown’ isn’t a musical for everyone. The younger you are, the less you will understand. The plot is there, but the songs don’t really weave them together, unlike ‘Mamma Mia.’ The cast is well in sync though, and the show is eye catching and witty.”

– Blythe Callahan

“The audience sings and dances along to popular, classic hits such as ‘ABC’ by The Jackson 5 and ‘Baby Love’ by The Supremes. Motown is light on plot but heavy on vocals, which makes the whole experience lighthearted and fun. ... The set of Mowtown is best described as groovy. Designed by David Korins, it simply encapsulates the 60s in a minimalistic manner.” – Teagan Davis

## 2016 TOMMY AWARDS SHOW 101

New to the program? Here are a few basics before announce week 2016...

### 1. There are multiple award recipients in each category

Recognizing Excellence means you won’t see just one “winner.” The Awards Show is a celebration of the amazing talent we have seen throughout the year. The result is a show packed with one incredible performance after another.

### 2. Performance Award recipients perform at the awards show

Outstanding Lead Performance recipients perform solos in medley groups, Outstanding Supporting, and Dance performers perform together in one super group number and all three - Lead, Supporting & Dance - are eligible to perform in the group Finale number.

### 3. Outstanding Musicals perform a medley

Each of the Outstanding Musical Award recipients will perform a 4 minute selection - one song or a medley - from their production.

### 4. Spirit Award Recipients also perform

The students who inspired and were selected by their peers team up for a group performance.

### 5. We don’t do acceptance speeches

If you haven’t noticed the trend, the awards show is not like one you see on tv. We pack ours full of performances instead of acceptance speeches. So if you aren’t performing - come to the show for an amazing showcase of the best of high school musical theater in Wisconsin!

Tickets for the show go on sale May 20, 2016!