

Vol. 2 Issue 2

November 2013

Overture Center's Tommy Awards Newsletter

Happy November!

Did you catch WPT's broadcast of the highlights from the 2013 Tommy Awards Ceremony? We will be posting some extras for you to watch on our [website](#) this week. November is the busiest month for Tommy productions so get out and enjoy some excellent high school musical theater!

STUDENT CRITICS PROGRAM

Interested in journalism, writing and/or the performing arts? We still have room in our Student Critics program for the 2013/14 year. Students



involved with the program attend and review a selection of Broadway musicals at Overture Center including *Sister Act*, *Flashdance*, *Million Dollar Quartet* and *Warhorse*. Accompanied and instructed by Lindsay Christians, reporter for The Capital Times, students attend workshops prior to each performance and receive feedback on their reviews. In addition to Broadway performances, students often attend and review opera, classical music and dance performances as the schedule allows.

If you are interested in becoming a Student Critic, complete the application on this [page](#).

Here are excerpts from two of our student critics' reviews of *Chicago*:

"*Chicago* tells the story of two celebrity murderesses, each desperate to outshine the other and the corruption that helps them in seeking unjust acquittal. The tour boasts the bold staging and design seen in the Broadway revival while remaining loyal to the vaudevillian, surrealist style of Bob Fosse's original production. It takes time to warm up to but develops into a strong display of talent stemming from an honest, brave vision of the many production elements." - Alex Roller

"The crisp and clean choreography for the show, originally created by Bob Fosse sets a sexy, glamorous and exciting mood for the rest of the performance. As well, John Lee Beatty's scenic design is simple yet used in many unexpected ways which also add to the mood of the show." - Jessica Pawlak

TOMMY'S SPIRIT AWARD

There is a new Tommy Award that will be given out at the 2014 Awards Ceremony. The Tommy's Spirit Award will be given to students who are team players and leaders in their production are professional and prepared, and who inspire others. Both cast and crew members are eligible for this award and the best part is that each school will have a Tommy's Spirit Award recipient.



Recipients will not be chosen by the reviewers but by their peers in the production. Each director will choose how their cast and crew will select the recipient for their production; so contact your director to find out how you can cast your vote. Recipients of this award will be invited to perform on Overture Hall stage in a group number with their fellow Tommy's Spirit Award recipients at the 2014 Tommy Awards Ceremony in June.

UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

Support your fellow Tommy participants and see the fantastic work they are doing this season! Here are the upcoming productions in November and December. It is a BUSY but great month for High School Musical Theatre! Be sure to check our [website](#) for the most up to date information!

Seussical the Musical
[Beaver Dam High School](#)

NOV 7 - 9 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM

Shrek – The Musical
[Clinton High School](#)

NOV 7 - 9 | 7 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM



Margaret Bond in Lake Mills' 2013 production of *Seussical* and Anna Ewing in Clinton's 2013 production of *Once Upon a Mattress*

The Music Man
[Dodgeville High School](#)

NOV 7 - 9 | 7 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM

Footloose
[Edgerton High School](#)

NOV 8 & 9 | 7 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM



Jocelyn McGurk & Hannah Engstrom in Fort Atkinson's 2013 production of *Cinderella*

Cinderella (Enchanted Version)
[Lake Mills High School](#)

NOV 8 | 7 PM
 NOV 9 | 1 PM & 7 PM
 NOV 10 | 1:30 PM

Oliver
[New Lisbon High School](#)

NOV 8 & 9 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM

The Drowsy Chaperone
[Oregon High School](#)

NOV 8 & 9 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM

Les Miserables
[Sauk Prairie High School](#)

NOV 7 - 9 | 7 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM

Anything Goes
[Watertown High School](#)

NOV 8 & 9 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 10 | 4 PM

Godspell
[Waukesha South High School](#)

NOV 7 - 9 | 7 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM

Urinetown
[Divine Savior Holy Angels High School](#)

NOV 8 & 9, 14 - 16 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM

Bye Bye Birdie

[Hartford Union High School](#)
 NOV 8 & 9, 15 & 16 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 10 | 2 PM



Kendra Guy as Motormouth Mabel in Tosa East's 2013 production of *Hairspray*

Sweeney Todd
[Beloit Turner High School](#)

NOV 15 & 16 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 17 | 2 PM

Disney's Beauty & the Beast
[Fort Atkinson High School](#)

NOV 14 - 16 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 17 | 2 PM

Hairspray
[Oconomowoc High School](#)

NOV 15 & 16, 21 & 22 | 7 PM
 NOV 17 | 2 PM

Anything Goes

[Sun Prairie High School](#)
 NOV 15 & 16, 22 & 23 | 7 PM
 NOV 17 | 2 PM

Godspell
[Wauwatosa East High School](#)

NOV 15 & 16, 22 & 23 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 17 | 2 PM

Shrek – The Musical
[Janesville Parker High School](#)

NOV 21 - 23 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 24 | 2 PM & 6:30 PM

Cinderella (Enchanted Version)
[Darlington High School](#)

NOV 29 & 30 | 7:30 PM
 NOV 30 | 1:30 PM

Working
[Platteville High School](#)

DEC 5 & 6 | 7 PM
 DEC 7 | 2 PM



Robyn Haggerty & Ashley Quamme in Oregon's 2013 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*

COLLEGE AUDITIONING: Finding your “Type” by Matthew Edwards

Matthew Edwards, Assistant Professor of Voice and Musical Theatre Styles Specialist at Shenandoah Conservatory maintains a blog titled, “*The College Audition Blog*” which is a great resource for audition information and advice.

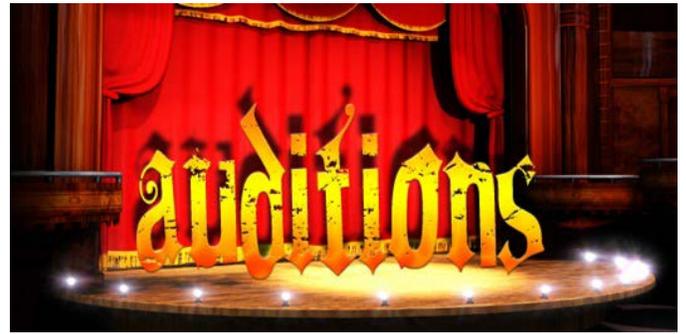
Type is one of the most troubling issues facing many young performers. Type is a term the industry uses to define whether or not you physically look like someone who could realistically play a specific role. To help save time, casting directors use type as a way to describe what they want and eliminate what they don’t want before they waste time listening to people sing. If you do not look like the type normally associated with the repertoire you will be singing, you will not be taken seriously. Type can seem limiting, but if you use it to your advantage, it’s liberating. When you start targeting the roles you are good for instead of targeting every audition possible, you’ll more than likely find better success.

#1: Ask your friends/teachers what celebrities you remind them of and write down those names. Ask your friends what words they would use to describe you and write them down. After asking several people, you should hopefully start seeing some similarities.

#2: Create a list with the most common terms you were given listed first. Circle the 3 to 5 terms that feel most comfortable to you.

#3: Research the celebrities your friends/teachers selected for you and write down the roles they have played in the past cross of any of the roles that do not match the 3 to 5 terms you decided on in step #2

#4: You now have a list of terms that describe you and a list of characters you could play based on the celebrities who are similar to you. Begin looking through musical theatre synopses of the current Broadway and Off-Broadway shows online—write down the names of roles that sound like they fit you based on your work in steps 1-3.



#5: Look those characters up on YouTube. Watch scenes and songs they appear in and start making a list of the roles that really interest you, and the songs that you like.

#6: Using the book: *The New Broadway Song Companion: An Annotated Guide to Musical Theatre Literature* by Voice Type and Song Style by Michael P. DeVenney, look up the range, style, composer, date of composition, librettist, and songs of each character you could play. Create a spreadsheet on your computer and begin filling in the information. This is an ongoing list that you will refer back to for the rest of your career, so take a little bit of time to do it right. If that idea doesn’t excite you, do it as you listen, it will make the time go by faster. This is the list you will use anytime you need to choose a song for a lesson/class.

#7: Using IBDB.com, look up each show and write down the names of the actresses/actors who played the roles you would play. At the bottom of the page, select “Display Replacement Casts”. Write down the names of all the other actresses/actors who played those roles. Go back and search the name of each actress/actor and see what other roles they have played—Go back to step #6 and repeat.

You will more than likely have too many songs to choose from rather than not enough after you have completed these steps. Pick the ones that seem most interesting to you now and start learning.

By this time, you should have a great list of possibilities. You are looking for something that grabs the audition panel’s attention. Think positive. Remember: most of all we want to like you. So keep it simple, fun, and be real.

For the full article, and for other great audition information, visit Matthew Edward’s blog here:

<http://auditioningforcollege.wordpress.com/2012/09/16/an-updated-process-for-finding-your-type/>



TOMMY HIGH SCHOOLS AT WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE FESTIVAL

Verona Area High School will remount their September production of *Spamalot* at the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association's Theatre Festival on Saturday, November 23 at 8pm at the Verona Performing Arts Center. Tickets are just \$7.

Performing in the festival's Forensic One-Act play competition are New Berlin Eisenhower, Monona Grove and Verona Area High School. Congratulations on your state achievement and break a leg!

Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival consists of educational theatre workshops, the Forensic One-Act play competition, and evening events which include two Wisconsin high schools showcasing their school's theatrical production to Festival participants. This Festival provides students and teachers an opportunity to learn from trained theatre professionals and educators, to take the stage, and to watch their peers perform. All Wisconsin high schools are invited to attend.

For more information about the festival visit their [webpage](#).



Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook. Throughout the year we post photos from your productions. You are always welcome to post your own photos from your show too! We also post information about the upcoming shows, master classes we are holding and even special offers to shows, including Broadway performances, here at Overture.



<https://www.facebook.com/TommyAwards?ref=hl>

UW WHITEWATER – 2014 AUDITION INFORMATION



The UW-Whitewater Theatre/Dance Department will hold its annual Scholarship Auditions/Portfolio Reviews for Fall 2014 Incoming Freshmen Theatre Majors on Saturday, February 22, 2014. For application forms and more information, please go to: www.uww.edu/cac/theatre/ This material should be on the website by mid-November.

I hope you enjoyed this issue of the Tommy Awards Newsletter. If you have an idea for something worth including, please drop me a line!

Break a leg to all our fall shows!
All the best,

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