GENERAL INFORMATION

PLAYHOUSE SQUARE MISSION STATEMENT
A not-for-profit arts center that presents and produces a wide variety of performing arts, advances arts education and creates a destination that is a superior location for entertainment, business and residential living, thereby strengthening the economic vitality of the region.

DAZZLE AWARDS MISSION
The Dazzle Awards aims to inspire and honor excellence in high school musical theater, and to recognize the importance of musical theater and arts education within the Northeast Ohio community.

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS:
Student participation in the Dazzle Awards will allow educators to reinforce the following Common Core State Standards and Objectives for Drama/ Theatre, Grades 9-12:

2012 Achievement Levels I-III for Producing and Performing:
Level I-1PR, 2PR, 4PR, 6PR, 7PR
Level II-1PR, 2PR, 3PR, 5PR
Level III-1PR, 2PR, 3PR, 6PR

Personal Choice and Vision: Students construct and solve problems of personal relevance and interest when expressing themselves in the dramatic and theatrical arts.

Critical and Creative Thinking: Students combine and apply artistic and reasoning skills to imagine, create, realize and refine dramatic and theatrical works in conventional and innovative ways and to understand the works produced and performed by others.

Authentic Application and Collaboration: Students work individually and in groups to focus ideas and create and perform works to address genuine local and global community needs.

Literacy: As consumers, critics and creators, students evaluate and understand dramatic and theatrical works and other texts produced in the media forms of the day.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Playhouse Square invites all public and private high schools in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit counties to apply for participation in the 2017 program. Playhouse Square can accommodate a limited number of schools for the 2017 program; therefore, participation will be on a first come, first served basis. Provided all criteria are met, the first twenty five (25) eligible schools who return a completed application form will be guaranteed participation. Applications will be processed in the order they are received. Exceptions may be made if fewer than twenty five (25) schools have applied by 5:00 p.m. on September 23, 2016.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Awards will be given for excellence in the following categories:

Best Musical – Tier 1
(Budgets under $9,999)

Best Musical – Tier 2
(Budgets $10,000+)

Best Actress
Best Actor
Best Supporting Actress
Best Supporting Actor
Best Ensemble/Chorus
Best Featured Performer

Best Student Orchestra
Best Choreography Execution
Best Costume Design
Best Scenic Design
Best Technical Execution

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Three (3) members of the adjudicator's panel will attend one performance at each participating school, and award points based on a set rubric. Following the performance, the three adjudicators will complete a comprehensive written critique. All schools will be sent the adjudicators' critiques to serve as a learning tool. Up to six (6) nominations will be given for each award category. The Best Musical category will consist of two budget tiers. Up to three (3) schools will be nominated within each tier.

STUDENT WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

All students participating in the Dazzle Awards are invited to attend free workshops and master classes offered throughout the year. These educational opportunities will provide students the opportunity to work with industry professionals on vocals, audition techniques, choreography and more.

THE DAZZLE AWARDS
The 2017 Dazzle Awards will be held at Playhouse Square on May 20, 2017 in the Connor Palace. The show will open and close with production numbers featuring three (3) student representatives from each participating high school as well as each individual nominee. In addition, the following student performances will be interspersed throughout the show: one number from each of the six (6) Best Musical nominees (three schools per budget tier) and two medleys featuring the nominees for Best Actress and Best Actor.

TICKETS
Playhouse Square requires all participating schools to purchase 50 $20 tickets to the Dazzle Awards at Playhouse Square on May 20, 2017. Any student participating in the Dazzle Awards (see 'The Dazzle Awards Participation'), or those selected to accept an award on behalf of their school will be seated in a reserved section of the theater and will not need to purchase a ticket.

More information regarding school ticketing will be distributed to each participating school upon entry into the program. Ticket information for the general public will be issued by Playhouse Square prior to the Dazzle Awards.

BEST ACTRESS/ BEST ACTOR WINNERS
The winner of the Best Actress and Best Actor awards will go on to represent Playhouse Square and Northeast Ohio at the National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA, also known as The Jimmy™ Awards) in June, 2017. The winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip to New York City where they will receive professional instruction and compete with students from other regional programs for the title of Best National High School Actress and Best National High School Actor. In the event the Dazzle Awards' Best Actress and/or Best Actor winner(s) are unable to participate in the NHSMTA program, the nominee(s) with the second highest adjudicator's score will be invited.

To be eligible to participate in The Jimmy Awards, the Best Actress and Best Actor winners must have played a NHSMTA-recognized leading role in their school's production. For this reason, only students playing a NHSMTA-recognized leading role in their high school's production will be eligible for a Best Actress and/or Best Actor nomination. Visit playhousesquare.org/dazzleawards for the complete list.

ABOUT NHSMTA

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA) was established in 2009 to elevate the importance of theatre arts education in schools and reward excellence in student performance. The program impacts over 50,000 students annually who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by thirty professional theatres throughout the US.

Since its inception, NHSMTA has been the catalyst for more than $1,000,000 in educational scholarships awarded to deserving young performers. Also known as The Jimmy™ Awards, named for Broadway impresario James M. Nederlander, this year-round program is administered by The Broadway League Foundation Inc.

The depth, scope, and education-centric mission of NHSMTA coupled with its extensive television and media exposure 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 human and financial resources to improve the quality of theatre arts education in their districts. This renewed enthusiasm for the performing arts in schools is already helping to invigorate local theatres and the communities they serve.