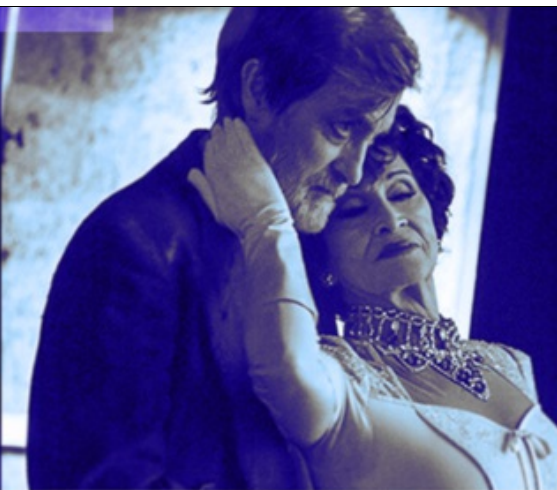


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The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance
New York, NY



THE
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AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE
IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE



Disney Theatrical Productions

**CONGRATULATES
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ROGER REES AWARDS
NOMINEES.**

BREAK A LEG!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



BROADWAY
EDUCATION ALLIANCE

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The Broadway Education Alliance is a non-profit corporation dedicated to supporting arts education programs and services that inspire creativity, build confidence and stimulate critical thinking in America's youth.

CULTIVATING A GENERATION OF GREAT PERFORMERS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Congratulations
to all the
Roger Rees
Award
Nominees!**



**Oceanside
High School**



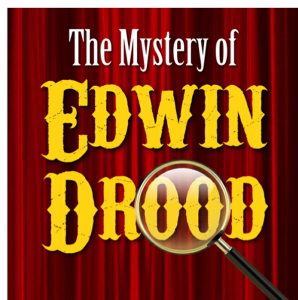
**Pelham Memorial
High School**



**South Side
High School**



**Wantagh
High School**



**West Babylon
High School**

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Kooper Campbell in *Tuck Everlasting* at Hale Centre Theatre, UT, 2018. (Douglas Carter)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THANKS THE INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS, COMPANIES, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, AND DONORS WHO ARE GIVING OF THEIR TIME, TALENTS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROGER REES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE.

THE ROGER REES AWARDS ADVISORS

Sarah Jane Arnegger (Playbill), **Scott Budoff** (Supporter), **Melissa Caolo** (Camp Broadway LLC), **Frank DiLella** (NY1 News), **Tim Federle** (Writer), **Andrew Flatt** (Disney Theatrical Group), **Nancy Gibbs** (GM/Producer), **Lisa Mitchell** (Disney Theatrical Group), **Susan E. Lee** (BEA) and **Eva Price** (Producer)

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Annie Soliminie Jon Patrick Walker Kate Wallace
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To make a tax-deductible donation,
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE ROGER REES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

promotes the value of formal theatre arts education by celebrating talented students who distinguish themselves for their work on stage, backstage and off stage while attending high schools located throughout the Greater New York region. In doing so, we also recognize the many educators who, like Roger Rees, share their passion for and knowledge of the theatre with their students. It's the art and artistry of dedicated teachers that make this event possible.

BROOKLYN

Sonya Baehr
Poly Prep Country Day School
Into The Woods

QUEENS

Joe Canzoneri
Townsend Harris High School
In the Heights

MANHATTAN

Sarah Stewaart
Columbia Grammar and Prep School
The Sound of Music

Kyle Pleasant
Professional Performing Arts School
West Side Story

Brooke Berry-Wolf
Talent Unlimited High School
Thoroughly Modern Millie

STATEN ISLAND

Craig Stoebling
New Dorp High School
Rent

Donna D'Ermilio
St. Joseph Hill Academy H.S.
The Sound of Music

LONG ISLAND

Christopher Bilella
Bay Shore High School
Evita

John Smykowski
Floral Park Memorial High School
Grease

Gregory Krajci
H. Frank Carey High School
Thoroughly Modern Millie

Ruthie Pincus
Hauppauge High School
How to Succeed...

Mary Deborger
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School
Pippin

Ilana Meredith
John L. Miller - Great Neck North H.S.
The Phantom of the Opera

Tasha Partee
Lawrence Woodmere Academy
Catch Me If You Can

Lisa Drance
North Babylon High School
Annie

Laura Gallo
Oceanside High School
Nice Work if You Can Get It

Ryan Lane
Plainedge High School
Fiddler on the Roof

Pamela Seiderman
South Side High School
Titanic, the Musical

Heather Naughton
Wantagh High School
Anything Goes

Mary Ann Cafiero
West Babylon High School
The Mystery of Edwin Drood

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Frank Portanova
Archbishop Stepinac High School
Ragtime

Tom Beck
Pelham Memorial High School
Hello, Dolly!

Kathleen Donovan-Warren
Pleasantville High School
The Sound of Music

Scott Harris
Rye Neck High School
Damn Yankees

Tammy Burgus
Walter Panas High School
Bullets Over Broadway

ORANGE COUNTY

Natalie Arneson
James I. O'Neill High School
Legally Blonde

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Lisa Demarest
Nyack High School
Smile

Note: No high schools from the Bronx applied in the 2017-2018 academic year. Borough representation in the awards program changes annually. To register your school for the 2018-2019 Roger Rees Awards, visit

www.rogerreesawards.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE ROGER REES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

is the Greater New York Chapter of The Broadway League Foundation's Jimmy® Awards (also known as the National High School Musical Theatre Awards.)

This season dozens of professional artists, educators and industry executives have committed time to attend high school musicals and to adjudicate the performances of students playing roles that qualify for the title of Best Actor and Best Actress at the regional level.

On behalf of participating high schools and their students, the Broadway Education Alliance wants to acknowledge and thank the following professionals:

August Abatecola Lindsey Alexander Steve Altinel
Christian Amato Leonard Antinori Tina Barone Leanna Bartley
Tom Beck Claire Beckman Winnie Berger Michelle Bruckner
Katie Campbell Heather Capelle Tiana Christoforidis Doug Coates
Julie Conuel Jacqueline Correa Janice Cosenza Kristen DaCosta
Francesca Day Stephanie DeJoseph Sam DeMarino Chris Dippel
Ken Dobbins Kimberly Eaton Cyndi Feinman Robb Fessler
Donna Fox Angelo Fraboni Lorrie Gerson Malcolm Gilbert
Thomas Gordon Jennifer Hart Bobby Hedglin-Taylor Leah Horowitz
Michele Imhof Margaret Jackins Andrew Kear Lisa Kolb Ed Kozlowski
Allison Kupferberg Joni Lanza Kyra Leeds Kelsey Locke Gabrielle Lowelle
Adam Mastrocola Sally Mayes Martin Meccouri Jermaine Miles
Meghan Miles Caitlin Murphy KerriAnne Murphy Karen O'Donnell
John Orefici Terrence Osbourne Rebecca Overton Michele Pawk Amy Persons
Alexis Pesenti Dennis Pettas Ilona Pierce Deborah Plezia
Alex Poller Stacey Portmore-Davies Kerry Prep Frank Reilly Nadia Rizzo
Ricky Romano Len Schiff Charles Siedenburg Victoria Stacy
Alex Swift Lynne Lori Sylvan Jacqui Tomlet Sandia Tosky
Steve Underhill Frank Vitanza Matthew Westerby Ashley Wool

Qualifications: A Roger Rees Awards adjudicator must have a degree or professional certification in music, theatre, dance or other aspect of the performing arts; membership in one of the Broadway industry unions or guilds, with at least 5 years of experience in the professional theatre; at least 5 years of experience as a teacher or teaching artist in any aspect of the performing arts at the high school or college level; and/or be an industry professional with at least 5 years of experience in theater arts education, audience development and/or youth enrichment. Adjudicators cannot be affiliated with the school, production or cast they are reviewing.

To become an adjudicator for the 2018-2019 Roger Rees Awards, please write to Laurie@campbroadway.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE ROGER REES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

celebrates the exceptional life and career-long artistic excellence of the beloved actor, artist and teacher, Roger Rees.



Roger Rees was born in Aberystwyth, Wales on May 5, 1944, and grew up in South London. He began his career in the theater as a scenery painter. While working backstage, the theater manager called upon him to replace an injured cast-member. He never painted scenery again.

He spent 22 years as a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company with whom he received the *Oliver*® and *Tony*® Awards for his performance in the title role in *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*. Roger continued as an Associate Artist of the RSC for the rest of his life. Over the course of his career Roger starred in dozens of plays and musicals produced on Broadway and the West End of London. Broadway audiences cheered his performance of Gomez opposite the Morticia played by Bebe Neuwirth and Brooke Shields in *The Addams Family*, and raved about his portrayal of Anton Schell starring opposite Chita Rivera in *The Visit*. Television audiences know him from recurring roles on *The West Wing*, *Cheers* and *Grey's Anatomy*; and guest appearances on dozens of other shows.

Roger was also a prolific director who whose work graced the stages of many world-class theater companies including the Williamstown Theatre Festival where he served as the artistic director. A new generation of theatergoers were introduced to his extraordinary artistry when he teamed with Alex Timbers to direct *Peter and the Starcatcher* by Rick Elice, for which he won the *Obie* Award for Outstanding Direction Off-Broadway and then garnered nine *Tony* nominations, including one for Best Direction of a Play.

Throughout his life, Roger was a committed educator and generous mentor to young artists. From his earliest days as a fledgling with the Royal Shakespeare Company when he traveled to schools in the Cotswolds on Sundays, to the master-craftsman courses at Columbia University (adjunct professor), Williams College (Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts, 2006) and Florida State University (Hoffman Chair); from community outreach he began as Artistic Director of the Bristol Old Vic to the Leap-Frog internships he pioneered as Artistic Director of Williamstown Theater Festival, Roger spent countless hours in rehearsals and classrooms coaching aspiring writers, directors and performers on character, craft, collaboration and the vast cannon of theatrical works. The Roger Rees Award for Excellence in Student Performance continues his work.

Roger Rees passed away in July 2015 after a year-long battle with brain cancer. He was posthumously inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in November 2015.

To read more about Rogers' life and legacy, please visit www.RogerReesAwards.com where you will find a detailed account of his accomplishments written by his partner, Rick Elice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Roger Rees Awards Facebook Live Preshow

Hosted by Tara Lynn Wagner, New York Culture Reporter,
and Phoebe Velez, Student Reporter

A behind-the-scenes report from the Greater New York area high school student performance competition that culminates in the selection of the Best Actor and Best Actress Award. The show includes interviews with—

Lisa Demarest, Club Advisor and **Laura DiSimone**, Junior/Club Member, Nyack High School's production of *Smile*
Winner of 1st PLAYBILLder Award for Marketing

Frank DiLella, 'On Stage' Host - Spectrum News NY1

Rick Elice, author of *Jersey Boys*, *Addams Family*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher* for Broadway and a memoir of his 34 years with Roger Rees, "Finding Roger"

Celia Keenan-Bolger, a critically acclaimed actress whose Broadway credits include *The Cherry Orchard* (2016), *The Glass Menagerie* (2013), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (2012)

John O'Connor, Director of Amateur Licensing, Music Theatre International

Cynthia Thole, actress and professor of Musical Theater at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Dance at Montclair State University

Phoebe Velez, Roger Rees Awards Student Reporter,
H. Frank Carey High School

Alton Fitzgerald White, a critically acclaimed actor best known for playing Mufasa in *Disney's The Lion King* on Broadway

Roger Rees Award-Winners and Social Media Correspondents

Kevin Crowley (2011) **Sarah Liddy** (2014)
Dean Klebonas (2017) **Ryan Koerber** (2015)

And more...

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

May 19, 2018

THE BROADWAY EDUCATION ALLIANCE GREATER NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE HONORS

Presents the

THE ROGER REES AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE
IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE

HOSTED BY
Frank DiLella

STARRING ROGER REES AWARDS NOMINEES

Matthew Adarichev Cameron Barr-Kotzen John Bentley Megan Campbell
Carl Capizzi Alyssa Cassese Joseph Castro Kyle Colasurdo Sophia Condon
Reece DeGraff Danielle Del Orfano Billy DeVito Francesco DiFlora
Andrew Feldman Joshua Goldin-McCarthy David Grant Mackenzie Grimes
Matthew Harmon James Hatter Jordan Hill Paul Hogan Erin Horan
Matthew Kenna Olivia Knutsen Daisy Korman Dalia Kropf Josephine Kurdziel
Dinghuan Li Julia Lo Cascio Christopher Manirampa Alyssa McDonald
Sonya McGaffey Daniel Mejil Kaitlin Meyers Drew Minard Lyndsey Minerva
Samuel Murdock Anthony Oliva Tyler Palma Michaela Reinertsen
Amanda Riché Sam Rodd Kristina Rossi Bridget Russell Ashley Schlusberg
Spencer Senzon Margaret Solimine Bennett Taylor Carlo Tobia
Bea Angela Tolentino Lindsay Whiteman Olivia Whitmer Athena Woodfin

SHOWCASE JUDGES
Celia Keenan-Bolger Amy Rogers Frank DiLella Merri Sugarman Alton Fitzgerald White
Rick Elice, Honorary Advisor

MASTERCLASS COACHES
FOR PERFORMANCE
Sean McKnight Cindy Thole Lanene Charters Robin Lewis
FOR VOCALS
Nissa Kahle Matt Cataldi Christine Riley Stephen Purdy

MUSIC EDITOR
Matt Cataldi

MUSIC ARRANGER
J. Navarro

STAGED BY
Theo Lencicki

EVENT MANAGER
Laurie Benoit

ROGER REES AWARDS PRE-SHOW

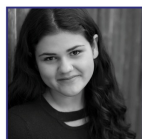
HOSTED BY
Tara Lynn Wagner and Phoebe Velez

SOCIAL MEDIA CORRESPONDENTS
Kevin Crowley Sarah Liddy Dean Klebonas Ryan Koerber

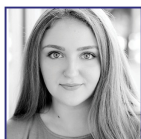
MEDIA PRODUCTION
Kerry Dineen Anna Raful

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

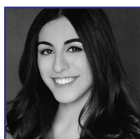
BEST ACTRESS NOMINEES



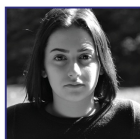
Cameron Barr-Kotzen
Maria, The Sound of Music
Columbia Grammar and
Preparatory School



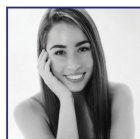
Megan Campbell
Mother, Ragtime
Archbishop Stepinac High School



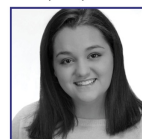
Alyssa Cassese
Millie Dillmount,
Thoroughly Modern Millie
H. Frank Carey High School



Sophia Condon
Moureen, Rent
New Darp High School



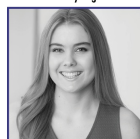
Danielle Del Orfano
Rosa Bud, The Mystery of Edwin Drood
West Babylon Senior High School



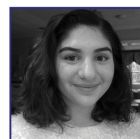
Mackenzie Grimes
Princess Puffer,
The Mystery of Edwin Drood
West Babylon Senior High School



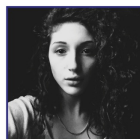
Erin Horan
Catherine, Pippin
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School



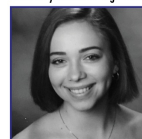
Olivia Knutsen
Cinderella, Into the Woods
Poly Prep Country Day School



Daisy Korman
Christine Dae,
The Phantom of the Opera
Great Neck North High School



Dalia Kropf
Helene Sinclair,
Bullets Over Broadway
Walter Panas High School



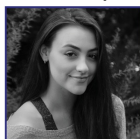
Josephine Kurdziel
Muzzy Van Hossemere,
Thoroughly Modern Millie
H. Frank Carey High School



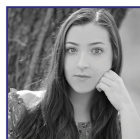
Julia Lo Cascio
Mother Abbess,
The Sound of Music
St. Joseph Hill Academy



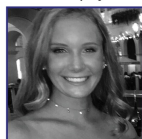
Alyssa McDonald
Doria, Smile
Nyack High School



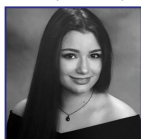
Sonya McGaffey
Mother Abbess, The Sound of Music
Pleasantville High School



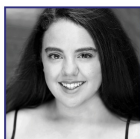
Kaitlin Meyers
Annie, Annie
North Babylon High School



Michaela Reinertsen
Ella Woods, Legally Blonde
James I. O'Neill High School



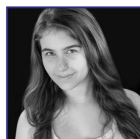
Amanda Riché
Edwin Drood,
The Mystery of Edwin Drood
West Babylon Senior High School



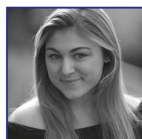
Kristina Rossi
Mrs. Meers, Thoroughly Modern Millie
H. Frank Carey High School



Bridget Russell
Sandy Dumbrowski, Grease
Floral Park Memorial High School



Ashley Schlusselfberg
Carlotta,
The Phantom of the Opera
Great Neck North High School



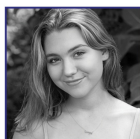
Margaret Solimine
Irene Molloy, Hello, Dolly!
Pelham Memorial High School



Bea Angela Tolentino
Nina, In the Heights
Towansend Harris High School



Lindsay Whiteman
Rene Sweeney, Anything Goes
Wentagh High School



Olivia Whitmer
The Witch, Into the Woods
Poly Prep Country Day School



Athena Woodfin
Dolly Levi, Hello, Dolly!
Pelham Memorial High School

ALTERNATE



Lindsey Minerva
Maria, The Sound of Music
Pleasantville High School

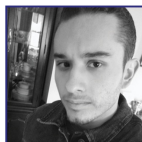


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BEST ACTOR NOMINEES



John Bentley
*Captain Von Trapp,
The Sound of Music*
Pleasantville High School



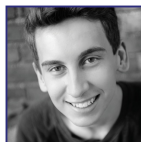
Carl Capizzi
Metal, Fiddler on the Roof
Plainedge High School



Joseph Castro
Leading Player, Pippin
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School



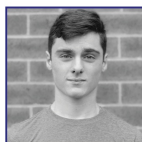
Kyle Colasurdo
*Trevor Graydon,
Thoroughly Modern Millie*
H. Frank Carvey High School



Reece DeGraff
Che Guevara, Evita
Bay Shore High School



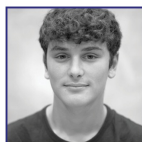
Billy DeVito
Sir Evelyn Oakleigh, Anything Goes
Wantagh High School



Francesco DiFlora
J. Pierpont Finch, How to Succeed...
Hauppauge High School



Andrew Feldman
Frank Jr., Catch Me If You Can
Lawrence Woodmere Academy



Joshua Goldin-McCarthy
Joe Boyd/Joe Hardy, Dams Yankees
Rye Neck High School



David Grant
*Chairman,
The Mystery of Edwin Drood*
West Babylon Senior High School



Matthew Harmon
Cheech, Bullets Over Broadway
Walter Panas High School



James Hatter
Frederick Barrett, Titanic, the Musical
South Side High School



Jordan Hill
Coalhouse, Ragtime
Archbishop Stepinac High School



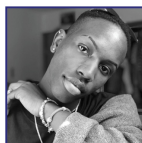
Paul Hogan
Pippin, Pippin
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School



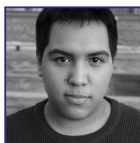
Matthew Kenna
Kenickie, Grease
Floral Park Memorial High School



Dinghuan Li
*The Phantom,
The Phantom of the Opera*
Great Neck North High School



Christopher Manirampa
Angel, Rent
New Dorp High School



Daniel Mejil
*Jimmy Smith,
Thoroughly Modern Millie*
Talent Unlimited High School



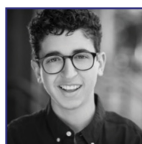
Drew Minard
Riff, West Side Story
Professional Performing Arts School



Samuel Murdock
Juan Pagan, Evita
Bay Shore High School



Anthony Oliva
Roger, Rent
New Dorp High School



Tyler Palma
Danny Zuko, Grease
Floral Park Memorial High School



Sam Rodd
Conanlike Harkl, Hello, Dolly!
Palham Memorial High School



Spencer Senzon
*Duke Mahoney,
Nice Work if You Can Get It*
Oceanside High School

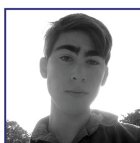


Carlo Tobia
Moonface Martin, Anything Goes
Wantagh High School

ALTERNATES



Matthew Adarichev
Murdoch, Titanic, the Musical
South Side High School



Bennett Taylor
Mr. Applegate, Dams Yankees
Rye Neck High School

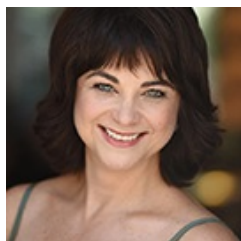


WHO'S WHO



Matt Cataldi, Music Coach

Matt Cataldi is a NYC based pianist, teacher and musical director. As a performer, Matt made his orchestral debut as a teenager playing Rachmaninoff's 3rd Piano Concerto, appeared in concert at Lincoln Center, the John F. Kennedy Center, the Sheen Center, and was featured in a documentary CD recording of Spanish and Latin American piano music. Theatre credits include: NYU Tisch Center for New Musicals, York Theatre, Gallery Players, Riverdale Rising Stars, Red Mountain Theatre, FSU School of Theatre, Theatre Tallahassee, RAPA Theatre, and Bishop Kearney HS, where he won a Stars of Tomorrow award for Conductor of Outstanding Student Orchestra. He has worked with Susan Stroman and the Met Opera, the Broadway Inspirational Voices, and the Jimmy® Awards (NHSMTA). Matt holds a DM in Piano Performance and Literature from Indiana University where he minored in jazz studies and music theory and served on faculty there before joining the Tisch School of the Arts.



Lanene Charters, Performance Coach

Broadway/Tours: *Mamma Mia!*, *Elf* (Deb), *Annie Get Gun* (Dolly Tate u/s), *Titanic* (Jack Thayer), *Big* (Diane), *Cats* (Sillabub). Toured Japan as a soloist with the Tokyo Philharmonic. Favorites: Helen (*Fun Home*), Miss Shields (*A Christmas Story*), Rosie (*Mamma Mia!*), Karen/Murial/Norma (*Plaza Suite*), Gloria (*Boeing Boeing*), Paulette (*Legally Blonde*). Lanene is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. and has a BFA from Point Park University. www.LaneneCharters.com.



Frank DiLella, Host & Showcase Judge

Frank DiLella is the Emmy Award winning host of "On Stage" on Spectrum News NY1, the news channel's weekly half-hour theater program. Since joining NY1 in 2004, DiLella has interviewed hundreds of legendary artists from Vanessa Redgrave to Elton John. He has traveled internationally to cover theater and has been a contributing correspondent for the Tony® Awards, the Olivier Awards at Royal Albert Hall, Playbill, BBC, Sirius XM, "The Early Show" on CBS, CTV, Al Jazeera TV and other media outlets. In 2013, he appeared on NBC's "Smash," portraying himself. A strong advocate of theater arts education, DiLella currently serves on the board of The Roger Rees Awards and is a part of the selection committee for the annual Clive Barnes Award and Foundation – which honors talented young professionals in the artistic fields of dance and theater. DiLella received a degree from Fordham University at Lincoln Center.



Alton Fitzgerald White, Showcase Judge

Alton performed a record-breaking 4,308 performances as King Mufasa in *Disney's The Lion King* on Broadway. He has also added Motivational Speaker and Author to his growing list of titles with his recent book release, *MY PRIDE: MASTERING LIFE'S DAILY PERFORMANCE*, an inspirational biography filled with secrets to fulfillment and joy in everyday work and life, published by Disney Editions. Other Broadway roles include *The Color Purple* (Mister), *Ragtime* (Coalhouse Walker Jr.), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Ken), *Miss Saigon* (John), and *Tommy* (Hawker). West End: *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Ken). Alton has performed concert dates all over the world, including music from his critically-acclaimed *Disney My Way!*, a CD full of wonderful re-imagined Disney classics. His TEDxTalk, performance videos, recordings and updates are available at www.altonfitzgeraldwhite.com or join him on his Facebook Fan Page, @WhiteAlton on Twitter and @Alton2459 on Instagram.



Nissa Kahle, Music Coach

Nissa has been with the Camp Broadway family for the Next Step program, show workshops, and the Jimmy and Roger Rees Awards. Broadway: *Great Comet*, *Chicago*. National/International Tour: *Chicago*. Other NYC projects include work with: The Big Apple Circus, New York City Children's Theater, Out of the Box Theatrics. MM from Texas State University.



Celia Keenan-Bolger, Showcase Judge

Broadway: (upcoming this fall) Scout in Aaron Sorkin's adaptation of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Glass Menagerie* (Tony Award Nom, Drama Desk Award, Dorothy Loudon Award,) *The Cherry Orchard*, *Peter And The Starcatcher*, (Tony Nom, Drama Desk Nom, Drama League Nom) *Les Miserables* (Drama Desk nom.), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Tony Nom, Drama Desk Award, Theatre World Award), Off Broadway: *A Parallelogram* by Bruce Norris (Second Stage), *The Oldest Boy* (Lincoln Center Theater), *A Small Fire* by Adam Bock (Playwrights Horizons), *Bachelorette* (Second Stage), & *Merrily We Roll Along* (City Center Encores) by Sondheim & Furth. Regional credits: Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* (Kennedy Center Sondheim Celebration), Emily in *Our Town* (Intiman Theatre) & Clara in *The Light In The Piazza* (Goodman Theatre) TV: *Louie*, *The Good Wife*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Law & Order*, *Heartland*, *Blue Bloods*. Film: *The Visit*, *Mariachi Gringo*. Celia is a graduate of The University Of Michigan.

WHO'S WHO



Sean McKnight, Performance Coach

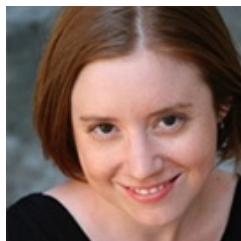
Sean McKnight brings over 20 years of experience in professional theatre to The Hybrid Agency. As a performer, he appeared on Broadway and in the National Tours of such shows as *Anything Goes*, *Shrek*, *Curtains*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Producers*, *42nd St*, *Cinderella*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. As a choreographer, his work includes music videos, a sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall and regional work which has earned him nominations for both the Ovation! and LA Drama Critics Circle Awards. He holds a degree in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan and has served on the faculty at Pace University and The New School. He has also worked at The Juilliard School, The Manhattan School of Music, Northwestern University, University of Nebraska, Ohio Northern University and the University of Melbourne Victoria College for the Arts.



Stephen Purdy, Music Coach

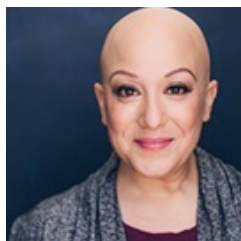
Stephen Purdy is on the Musical Theatre faculty at Marymount Manhattan College, the founder of the NY Vocal Coaching Studio and author of 'Musical Theatre Song: Selection, Preparation and Presentation for the Modern Performer' (Bloomsbury). Many of his students have been cast in Broadway/tour and often music directs at The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Camp Broadway and The Jimmy® Awards (NHSMTA). He is the vocal instructor for the NY 'Dancer's Voice' taught with casting directors from Telsey + Company, Duncan Stewart and Tara Rubin, as well as conducted Broadway/tours of *The Full Monty*, *Peter Pan* (Cathy Rigby), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and other U.S. and European productions. Regional credits include resident musical director at Westchester Broadway Theatre (19 shows), Alliance (Atlanta), Arena Stage, North Shore, Playwright's Horizons and others. Steven holds a Masters' Degree in Vocal Pedagogy from Westminster.

WHO'S WHO



Christine Riley, Music Coach

Christine is a Music Director, Vocal Coach and Arranger in NYC. National Tour and NYC credits include: *My Vaudeville Man* (The York Theatre), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (National tour), *Addy and Uno* (The Kirk), *Errol and Fide* (Peter Jay Sharp), *A Moment in Time*, a new musical with Stewart F. Lane; *Gemini the Musical* (The Acorn), *The Quiet Clock* (Stage 72), *Seesaw* (The Connelly Theatre), *Count to Ten* (Theatre at St. Clements), *Flight of the Lawnchair Man* (37 Arts), and *Mud Donahue and Son* (45th Street Theatre). Christine served as the MD for *Pangaea*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Shout! The Mod Musical*, *Edges*, *Sweet Charity*, *Rags*, *Triumph of Love*, *Wonderland*, and *The Boys From Syracuse* at Marymount Manhattan College, over 30 regional and university productions and Camp Broadway. Christine also arranged and conducted a new musical, *Caterina's Son*, in Florence, Italy. She received her BM from Ithaca College and an MM from Arizona State University.



Amy Rogers, Showcase Judge

Amy Rogers Schwartzreich is the director and founder of the B.F.A Musical Theater Program at Pace University in New York City. Amy is a highly-regarded academic, teacher, administrator, theater director and performer. Amy has directed over 20 new works and over 50 musicals both professionally and in academia. As a performer, Amy most recently performed with Emma Thompson and Bryn Terfel in *Sweeney Todd* with the New York Philharmonic. Originally from Canada, Amy has a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theater from Arizona State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theater from San Diego State University. Amy is passionate about the training the next generation of musical theater artists. Proud mom to Scarlett and Natalie.



Merri Sugarman, Showcase Judge

Initially an actress (*Les Miserables*, *Aspects of Love*), Merri found herself out West some years back where she began her Casting career working as an Executive Casting Director at DreamWorks Studios and Director of Casting at ABC. Merri returned to the East Coast to teach and coach actors, when Tara Rubin offered her a Casting Director position working on the Broadway and Touring companies of *Spamalot*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Phantom Of The Opera*, *Les Miserables*, *A Bronx Tale*, *School Of Rock* and *Miss Saigon*. She also casts for theaters regionally – including Chicago Lyric Opera, The Old Globe and The LaJolla Playhouse. She is the CD of the acclaimed web series SUBMISSIONS ONLY. Merri has a BFA in Musical Theater from Emerson College, is a Tony Voter and member of the Casting Society of America. Roger Rees was a dear pal, an incredible collaborator, one of the best actors the world over and Merri is very proud to be here in his name and is pretty sure he's here too.



Cynthia Thole, Performance Coach

Cynthia Thole is a veteran of the Broadway stage, working with theatre legends; Agnes DeMille, Twyla Tharp, Susan Stroman, Leonard Bernstein, Arthur Laurents, Ernie Flatt, and Mike Ockrent. Broadway performance credits include: *Me and My Girl*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *42nd Street*, *My Fair Lady*, *Nick & Nora*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and *A Christmas Carol* at Madison Square Garden. National tour: *42nd Street*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Sugar Babies* and the movie version of *The Producers*. Direction/Choreography credits include: Theater Under the Stars, Reagle Music Theater, Theatreworks USA, Two Beans Productions, Allenberry Playhouse, Mill Mountain Theatre, City College, Penn State University, and Camp Broadway. Currently a Clinical Assistant Professor of Musical Theater at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Cynthia also teaches in the dance department at Montclair State University. Cindy is a member of Actors Equity, SAG, and SDC and holds a B.A. in Dance from Butler University.



Robin Lewis, Performance Coach

Robin Lewis is a twelve-year Broadway and national Broadway touring veteran. Credits include: *Fosse*, Dance Captain of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, and Dance Captain of *A Christmas Carol* at Madison Square Garden. He toured with the first national tour of *The Producers* with Jason Alexander and Martin Short in Hollywood. He has toured in *A Chorus Line*, *Hello Dolly*, *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as performances at The Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Off-Broadway, he was the Dance Captain for Charles Busch's musical *The Green Heart* for the Manhattan Theatre Club. Robin can also be seen on the PBS Dance in America movie *Fosse: A Celebration in Dance*. He teaches masterclasses nationally and internationally. Also an accomplished choreographer, Lewis currently choreographed the movie "BERNIE" starring Shirley MacLaine and Jack Black directed by Rick Linklater. Robin is currently the Director of Musical Theater dance at Rider University. www.robinlewisdance.com



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Congratulations to:

Actresses: Kristina Rossi, Alyssa Cassese, Josephine Kurdziel

Actor: Kyle Colasurdo

Student Reporter: Phoebe Velez

Congrats to all, and break a leg... deluxe, sister!

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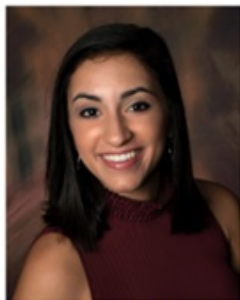


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Jimmy Awards Student Reporter Finalist

This program seeks to identify two aspiring journalists from across the country to serve as official behind-the-scenes correspondents at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards on Monday, June 25th at the Minskoff Theatre where a panel of Broadway industry judges will select the Best Actor and Best Actor in a high school musical.

#VOTE4PHOEBE

Help Phoebe get selected as an official correspondent at the Jimmy Awards! Here's what to do:

- Go to Facebook and visit the Jimmy Awards Official Page
- Search for Phoebe's video in their post feed
- Make sure to **WATCH** (the whole video)
LIKE (give it a thumbs up)
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what to
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Congratulations Michaela !!



On being chosen as a nominee for the Roger Rees Awards
for your role as Elle Woods @ James I. O'Neill H.S.
You are beyond talented – AMAZING!!

END NOTES



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