



## 2023-2024 Program Overview

Dear New York City Regional High Schools,

The Broadway Education Alliance is pleased to welcome you to The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance. The mission of the program is to promote the educational value of musical theater in schools, as well as celebrate emerging talent – on stage, backstage, and off stage.

The Broadway Education Alliance and educational partners present a portfolio of awards and recognition opportunities for theater arts students. These opportunities\* include:

- **The Roger Rees Awards for Outstanding Performance in a Musical** – awarded to two students who performed in qualifying roles in their high school’s musical. These two students go on to represent the Greater New York City area at The Broadway League Foundation’s National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®), The Jimmy Awards®.
- **New Faces Honors for Excellence in Solo Performance** – acknowledges thirty (30) students for their dedication and excellence in their craft of acting, dancing, and/or singing. Open to students grades 9-12, this recognition track offers various educational and scholarship opportunities.
- **The Harmony Helper® Award for Excellence in Choral Group Performance** – showcases high school choral groups around the region. One group is awarded the Harmony Helper® prize package along with the opportunity to perform on stage at The Roger Rees Awards Showcase.
- **The Student Reporter Search** – features students with an interest in media marketing or journalism. One student will be selected as the Roger Rees Awards Student Reporter. This student will co-host The Roger Rees Awards Showcase Pre-Show as well as be submitted to The Jimmy Awards’ Student Reporter Contest for a chance to serve as The Jimmy’s Student Reporter.

*\*Awards, recognition opportunities, and scholarships may vary each year based on sponsors and educational partners.*

**If you are interested in enrolling your high school in The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Students Performance program, please carefully review this packet which contains information regarding guidelines for registering and the details of each award category.**

Please note that some procedures have changed from previous years. Questions may be directed to RRA program management at [RRAadmin@bealliance.org](mailto:RRAadmin@bealliance.org).

Best regards,  
The Roger Rees Awards Team

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## **Requirements for High School Participation**

### **SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE**

High Schools in the designated Roger Rees Awards (RRA) region that are interested in participating in any award track offered by the program must submit a new registration each school year. Schools must designate **one representative** who will be the point-of-contact. This person must be an **employee or contractor of the school**. The School Representative will be responsible for registering the school and will receive all communications from the RRA team. Upon registration, the School Representative will receive additional materials including all necessary links and forms for participation.

### **REGION**

As of the 2023-2024 school year, any public or private high school located in the following counties may register for participation: Bronx, Dutchess, Kings (Brooklyn), Nassau, New York (Manhattan), Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond (Staten Island), Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

*As dictated by program funding, sponsorship, and the high volume of school interest, we are unable to accept school applications from outside of these counties or from New Jersey.*

### **REGISTRATION**

A registration fee of **\$200** will be charged to all participating schools. This fee helps cover administrative and production costs of the program and provide unique educational experiences for student participants. *Registration fee is waived for Title 1 Schools.*

Payments may be made via the online registration form using a credit/debit card, OR a check can be mailed. To request an invoice for your school administration OR if your school is a Title 1 school, please email **school name, school address, school county representative name, email address and phone number** to [RRAAdmin@bealliance.org](mailto:RRAAdmin@bealliance.org).

Visit [www.RogerReesAwards.com](http://www.RogerReesAwards.com) for the link to complete your school's online registration. (See page 14 for the full list of school registration questions for reference prior to registering).

### **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION**

Schools should be registered a minimum of two weeks prior to their musical performance dates (if participating in the Outstanding Performer Award category) and in no case later than the registration deadline of **January 31, 2024**. A maximum of 70 schools will be accepted. Registration will be closed once the program hits capacity.

### **AWARD CATEGORIES**

Registered schools are eligible to participate in any or all award categories presented during the current season. Each category has its own specific guidelines and requirements. Please carefully review the details of each category. We highly encourage submitting students in ALL categories to maximize opportunities and recognition for students.

### **2023-2024 Roger Rees Awards Important Dates**

September 12	School Registration Opens
January 31	Deadline for School Registration (or when program hits capacity)
April 22	Final Deadline for Outstanding Performer Award student submissions from participating schools (Musicals must be completed prior to this date).
May 3, 4 & 5	Outstanding Performer “Nominee Selection Phase” Auditions and Workshops
Approx May 7	Outstanding Performer Nominees notified and confirmed
May 9	Deadline for Playbill Ad purchase
May 17	Outstanding Performer Nominee Welcome & Rehearsals
May 18	Outstanding Performer Nominee Rehearsals & Coaching
May 19	<b>Roger Rees Awards Showcase</b>

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### **2023-2024 Roger Rees Awards Showcase**

The 2023-2024 Roger Rees Awards Showcase will take place on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 4:30pm. Location to be announced. Showcase tickets will go on sale in early May.

## Award Categories

Below are the details and guidelines for each award/recognition category. Please carefully review each section as participation requirements vary.

### THE ROGER REES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A MUSICAL – Guidelines

The Roger Rees Award for Outstanding Performer in a Musical recognizes student performers from Greater New York Area high schools for distinction in performance. The two (2) student winners of this award will go on to represent The Roger Rees Awards at The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®), also known as The Jimmy Awards®.

#### **SCHOOL/STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

All public and private high schools located in the eligible regions presenting an officially licensed edition of a NHSMTA® approved Broadway musical during the current academic year are eligible to submit students for participation. Students performing a qualifying role as defined by the NHSMTA® are eligible for in-school adjudication.

The school must be registered by the school representative a minimum of 2 weeks prior to their show dates. To meet programmatic deadlines, ALL participating shows should take place prior to April 21, 2024.

*\*To learn more about what defines an “Approved Musical” and “Qualifying Roles”, please visit the Jimmy Awards website at: <https://www.jimmyawards.com/participation/qualifying-shows-and-roles/>.*

#### **AWARD TRACK OVERVIEW**

***PLEASE NOTE: There have been changes made to the in-school adjudication and nominee selection process. If your school has participated in previous years, please carefully review this section. Based on educators’ feedback, these changes have been made with careful consideration to expand and elevate the educational benefits of our program for all participating schools.***

**School Representatives are responsible for managing the in-school adjudication phase of the program.**

All interested students performing an eligible role in their musical should be evaluated by a team of unbiased Adjudicators using the RRA rubric. Based on the Adjudicators scores, this evaluation process will identify the top two students to be submitted to The Roger Rees Awards who will move onto the **Nominee Selection Phase**.

The **Nominee Selection Phase** will involve an in-person vocal audition in front of a panel of Broadway professionals and an educational workshop that will take place at one of three locations based on the geographic location of the school. See below for dates and corresponding counties; locations to be announced. Qualifying students should keep their corresponding audition date open. These sessions will give students the unique opportunity to participate in a professionally run audition to gain experience in a supportive educational setting.

**Friday, May 3:** Bronx, Kings (Brooklyn), New York (Manhattan), Queens, Richmond (Staten Island)

**Saturday, May 4:** Nassau, Suffolk

**Sunday, May 5:** Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester

The Nominee Selection Phase (in-person audition) will result in fifty (50) students being selected as the official “Nominees” for The Roger Rees Award for Outstanding Performer in a Musical. These students will attend The Roger Rees Awards Weekend and perform in The Roger Rees Awards Showcase. The RRA Weekend will be held on **May 17, 18 & 19, 2024**. The two (2) Outstanding Performer winners of The Roger Rees Awards will be offered the opportunity to represent The Greater NYC Area at The Jimmy Awards® in June.

### **IN-SCHOOL ADJUDICATION DETAILED**

In accordance with the NHSMTA’s eligibility requirements, The Roger Rees Awards has instituted an adjudication process whereby each participating school must identify a minimum of three (3) credentialed and impartial theater professionals to serve as adjudicators for the eligible roles of their high school production.

#### **ADJUDICATOR ELIGIBILITY**

Adjudicators must be impartial theater professionals with at least one of the following qualifications:

- A degree or professional certification in music, theatre, dance, or other aspect of performing arts with at least 5 years of professional experience
- 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 of any aspect of the performing arts at the high school or college level
- An industry professional with at least 5 years of experience in theatre arts education, audience development and/or youth enrichment

*Note: Adjudicators should NOT be faculty of the school, directly involved with the musical production, or a family-member of the cast or crew.*

**IMPORTANT CHANGE:**

School representatives will manage **ALL** the in-school adjudication process including:

- (1) Vetting and securing unbiased Adjudicators
- (2) Providing Adjudicators with instructions and the official RRA scoring rubrics
- (3) Collecting and tabulating scores to determine the top two scoring students
- (4) Submitting a copy of the of final score tally of all students adjudicated to the RRA
- (5) Completing the RRA form to submit top two (2) students to move onto the “Nominee Selection Phase”

The Roger Rees Awards team will provide school representatives with:

- (1) Rubric and scoring systems for Adjudication
- (2) Form to submit the two top scoring students
- (3) An example “final score tally” for reference

*In response to feedback we’ve received, this process allows for school representatives to collaborate more closely with Adjudicators and arrange for providing post-performance feedback to the students to help them further develop their skills.*

Once Adjudication has occurred, the school representative will use the provided form to submit student information as well as a copy of the final score sheet to the Roger Rees Awards team within **ONE (1) WEEK** following their show. (See page 16 for Student Submission Form questions). Upon the RRA team receiving student information from the school representative, parents/guardians of the selected students will be required to officially register their student for participation in The Roger Rees Awards.

The top two (2) students from each school will need to be available on the date of their designated in-person audition. Locations will be announced. The duration of the audition/workshop will be approximately 2-2.5 hours. Students should also be available May 17, 18 & 19 for The Roger Rees Awards weekend should they be selected as one of the 50 Nominees. If one of your top scoring students is NOT willing or able to participate on all dates mentioned, please submit an alternate student based off in-school adjudication scores.



### **STUDENT REGISTRATION**

A parent/legal guardian is required to complete an online registration for their student's participation in the program. This registration must be completed in its entirety to be considered for the Nominee Selection phase of the program. (See page 17 for registration questions and requirements). Registered students will receive the details for the Nominee Selection Phase.

One requirement of student registration will include providing a **2-2 ½ minute song cut** from a solo song they performed in their musical. Theater Educators and Musical Directors are a valuable resource as they can provide students support in acquiring sheet music, making appropriate cuts if necessary to meet the guidelines and assist with preparing students for success. This music cut will be the students audition song during the Nominee Selection Phase, The Roger Rees Awards coaching and finalist selection, AND could be used for The Jimmy Awards. Ensure that this is a cut your student is happy with and confident performing.

### **NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Following the "Nominee Selection Phase," students will be notified **on or around** May 7, 2024 if they have been selected as a Roger Rees Award Nominee. This information will be emailed to the email address that was provided during registration. An immediate response will be required either **ACCEPTING** or **DECLINING** the Nomination and confirming the student is willing and available to participate in the Roger Rees Awards Weekend and Showcase as well as willing and available to participate in The Jimmy Awards in June. Nominees will be publicly announced via press release shortly thereafter and the Nominee List will be posted on The Roger Rees Awards website.

### **ROGER REES AWARDS WEEKEND**

The Roger Rees Awards Rehearsal, Coaching and Showcase weekend will take place on Friday, May 17 (approx. 4pm-8pm), Saturday, May 18 (approx. 8am-5pm) and Sunday, May 19 (approx. 8am-6pm), locations to be announced. Nominees must be available for the entirety of the weekend program.

Friday will kick off with an introduction to the program and showcase rehearsals begin. Saturday will consist of rehearsals and coaching sessions. During the coaching sessions, nominees will work with a Broadway Coach and Music Director on their solo song cut from their qualifying role. All Nominees will perform in the Opening and Closing numbers of The Roger Rees Awards Showcase.

Rehearsals continue Sunday culminating in The Roger Rees Awards Showcase at 4:30PM. During the showcase 12 finalists will be announced live, and those students will perform their solo song cuts. Their performances will be scored by a panel of distinguished judges to determine two (2) Outstanding Performers and two (2) Emerging Artists. The Outstanding Performer winners and their parents/guardians will be provided with further instructions for participation in The Jimmy Awards.

The Roger Rees Awards Showcase is open to the public and tickets will be available for purchase. All family and friends are invited to attend. The Showcase will begin at 4:30 PM and run approximately 1.5 hours.

## **NEW FACES HONORS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOLO PERFORMANCE – Guidelines**

### **AWARD TRACK OVERVIEW**

Presented by the Broadway Education Alliance (BEA) and Casting Society of America, the New Faces Honors was developed to expand access to recognition and training for students outside of the lead roles of a musical AND for students attending schools that may not produce a traditional musical. Established in 2021, New Faces recognizes excellence in solo performances by students, grades 9-12, pursuing education or training in acting, dance, and singing – in any genre.

The name “New Faces” is inspired by *New Faces of 1952*, a musical revue with songs, dances, and comedy sketches that ran on Broadway for nearly a year. Later made into a movie and a TV Show, many top entertainers of the day began their careers with a performance on this program with winners occasionally going on to great success in the entertainment industry.

### **AWARD TRACK DETAILED**

Schools that are registered for participation in The Roger Rees Awards, may invite up to eight (8) students from their school to submit an audition video in any or all three performance categories. Audition videos will be reviewed by a panel of professional casting directors, and up to ten (10) students from each category will be recognized with “Top Honors”.

There is not one specific “winner” in the New Faces Honors program. These 30 students (10 per category) will have an equal opportunity to be selected for various scholarship and exclusive training opportunities based on their audition videos. All Top Honors Students will be recognized during the New Faces Honors Ceremony (date and location to be announced) and names will appear in the Roger Rees Awards Playbill. They will receive a 2-hour workshop in their specific performance category taught by top Broadway industry professionals – date/time to be announced.

### **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

Students, grades 9-12, who attend at high school registered for participation in The Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance, are eligible for participation. Students do NOT have to be cast in the school’s musical production. This is an opportunity to recognize talented students outside of the musical setting who may excel in a singing, dance, or acting. We encourage School Representatives to involve drama, choral departments, and/or extracurricular clubs to engage students.

*Note: The two students who are submitted for the Outstanding Performer Award are NOT eligible for the New Faces Honors Program.*

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

School representatives will be provided with the information required for students to submit an audition for the New Faces Honors track. If selected for Top Honors, parents/guardians will be sent the information needed to officially register their students for participation in the in-person workshops and recognition events.

### **AUDITIONS**

Students may choose to submit an audition video in any or all of the performance categories: acting, singing, and/or dance. Submissions should be personal to the student. There are no parameters with regards to the genre or style, the goal is to highlight each student's interests and strengths.

### **ADJUDICATION**

All video auditions will be reviewed by a panel of industry casting agents to determine the top 10 in each category. Other educational partners will have the opportunity to review the submissions of the Top Honors students and present additional scholarships and prizes.

## **HARMONY HELPER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHORAL GROUP PERFORMANCE – Guidelines**

### **AWARD TRACK OVERVIEW**

Broadway Education Alliance is proud to partner with Harmony Helper® and The Goren Family Foundation to present the Harmony Helper Award for Excellence in Choral Group Performance. This award celebrates the artistry and creativity of high school choral groups and rewards the talent, dedication, and teamwork essential in choral music.

### **CHORAL GROUP ELIGIBILITY**

Schools registered for participation in the current season of The Roger Rees Awards are eligible to submit a choral group for consideration for the Harmony Helper Award.

Choirs or student vocal groups should feature a minimum of 4 students. The song performed for the video submission should be an approved licensed arrangement performed during the current academic year.

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Detailed instructions for submitting videos will be sent upon completion of school registration for The Roger Rees Awards Program.

- School Representative will submit a video of the student choral performance.
- Song selection may be in any genre including contemporary pop/rock show choir, a cappella vocal ensemble, musical theatre, or any other style that represents the group's vocal skills and performance capabilities. *While the song may be a musical theater song, it should not be a video clip from a musical production.*
- Record an introduction that includes the name of the school and group, any background on the program, and an introduction to the piece being submitted. The introduction should not exceed 60 seconds.
- Produce a video of the choral performance. Piece should not exceed 4 minutes. Pay close attention to lighting and sound.

### **ADJUDICATION**

Videos will be reviewed by a panel of judges from Harmony Helper that will include theatre industry professionals and music directors. The top scoring choir will be invited to perform at The Roger Rees Awards Showcase as well as receive additional prizes.

### **SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE**

The Roger Rees Awards Showcase will take place on Sunday, May 19, 2024, location to be announced. The choir, choir director, and chaperones will receive instructions for arrival and on-stage rehearsal/sound check prior to the showcase.

## **Student Reporter Search – Guidelines**

### **RECOGNITION OVERVIEW**

The Student Reporter Search is an opportunity for students with an interest in media marketing and journalism to explore their passions and share their talents. The student with the winning submission will be invited to appear as the co-host for The Roger Rees Awards Pre-Show, where they will interview special guests. This student will also be invited to represent the Greater New York Region in The Jimmy Awards® National Student Reporter Search. (Requires additional application submitted to The Jimmy Awards).

### **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

Students of registered schools, grades 9 -12, with an interest in media marketing and/or journalism, are eligible to participate.

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Requirements for participation may vary each year based on Award partners. Guidelines for the 2024 Student Reporter Search will be announced at a later date and provided to all School Representatives.

## **Registration Questions**

This section is to prepare School Representatives and Parents to complete online registrations. These questions are for reference and subject to change.

### **School Registration – To be completed by School Representative**

#### School Info

1. School Name (as it should appear in printed materials)
2. School Address
3. City, State, Zip
4. County
5. Has your school participated in The Roger Rees Awards (previously called The Gershwin Awards)? (to the best of your knowledge select all years that apply)

#### School Representative Info

6. First Name
7. Last Name
8. Email Address
9. Phone Number

#### Award Categories

10. Award Categories interested in participating (select all that apply). This question is for reference, you may decide at a later time if your school would like to also participate in additional categories.
  - The Roger Rees Award for Outstanding Performer (musical performance must be completed by April 22, 2024 in order to qualify)
  - Harmony Helper Award for Excellence in Choral Group Performance
  - New Faces Honors for Excellence in Solo Performance
  - The Roger Rees Awards Student Report Search

#### Musical Production Info

11. Show Title (full show title as licensed)
12. Opening Date of Show
13. Licensing Agency
14. Director
15. Music Director
16. Choreographer
17. Estimated number of student participants involved in the Musical Production. Including cast, crew, and orchestra. (This can be an estimate).
18. Does your school involve students in design or production? (Lighting, Scenic, Costume, etc.)  
(continued)

19. Production Budget (select one)

- Under \$5000
- \$5000 - \$10,000
- Over \$10,000

Waivers

20. I understand the procedures for the 2023-2024 program are exclusive to this year and subject to change in future seasons. I understand that it is at the discretion of the school's administration to participate in the program and implement a fair selection process.

(Signature Required)

21. I understand that during the course the program including but not limited to nominee auditions, programmatic activities, and the presentation of The Roger Rees Awards Showcase, video and audio recordings and photos may be taken. By submitting this application, you are giving full rights and permissions to companies approved by the Broadway Education Alliance, The Roger Rees Awards, and The National High School Musical Theatre Awards to use video/audio recordings and photos for posters, press releases, websites, and/or other promotional materials associated with the production and presentation of this event. There is no commercial value associated with these materials.

(Signature Required)

Registration Fee

\$200 due at time of application submission

*Schools that require to pay by check and Title 1 Schools should contact [RRAAdmin@bealliance.org](mailto:RRAAdmin@bealliance.org). Please include **School Name, School Address, School County, and School Representative Name, Email, and phone number.***

### **Registration Questions**

This section is to prepare School Representatives and Parents to complete online registrations. These questions are for reference and subject to change.

**Outstanding Performer Award, selected students** – To be completed by School Representative within 1-week of musical performance. Total of 2 students submitted per school.

1. Student First Name
2. Student Last Name
3. Role
4. Show Title
5. School
6. Parent/Guardian First Name
7. Parent/Guardian Last Name
8. Parent/Guardian Email Address
9. Parent/Guardian Phone Number



## Registration Questions

This section is to prepare School Representatives and Parents to complete online registrations. These questions are for reference and subject to change.

### **Outstanding Performer Award Student Registration – To be completed by parent/guardian.**

#### Student Info

1. First Name (as it should appear in printed materials)
2. Last Name (as it should appear in printed materials)
3. Date of Birth
4. Grade Level
5. Pronouns
6. T-Shirt Size

#### Parent/Guardian

7. First Name
8. Last Name
9. Email Address
10. Phone Number

#### School Info

11. School Name

#### Musical Production Info

12. Show Title
13. Show Role

#### Medical

14. Emergency Contact Name
15. Emergency Contact Phone Number
16. Are there any health concerns the on-site staff should be aware of?
17. Does your students have any food allergies or dietary restrictions?
  - For on-site events where food is provided, we will accommodate allergies and dietary restrictions so long as we are notified prior to the event. All provided food will be peanut and nut free. Students are welcome to bring food, we kindly request food is peanut and nut free.

*\*BEA will follow all current CDC and venue requirements regarding COVID vaccinations and precautions.*

#### Required Uploads

18. Headshot
19. Music Cut (approx. 2 – 2.5 mins, in the appropriate key, with cuts clearly marked)