



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER

Press Contact: Antoine Johnson
Phone: 610-517-1851
Press Inquiries: antoine@houseoftalentpa.com
<http://independenceawards.com/>
<https://www.kimmelcenter.org/>
<https://www.jimmyawards.com/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KIMMEL CENTER CULTURAL CAMPUS SPONSORS THE PHILADELPHIA INDEPENDENCE AWARDS

Philadelphia, PA. (October, 2019) -- The Philadelphia Independence Awards is proud to announce a sponsorship by Kimmel Center Cultural Campus for two high school students to participate in The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (the Jimmy Awards®). This national competition is a celebration of outstanding student achievement, recognizing individual artistry in vocal, dance, and acting performance and elevating the importance of theatre arts education in schools. "We are proud to be sponsored by the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus to participate in the Jimmy Awards (the National High School Musical Theatre Awards). This sponsorship represents a commitment from the Philadelphia arts community to elevate arts education throughout the Philadelphia region. We look forward to a wonderful relationship with the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus and to provide Philadelphia area students with the opportunity to be awarded for excellence in student performance on a national stage," said Brian Weiner, President and co-founder of the Philadelphia Independence Awards.

[The Philadelphia Independence Awards](#) was created by high school theater teachers and directors for the purpose of sharing and awarding outstanding student theater performances and productions in the Philadelphia region. The Philadelphia Independence Awards celebrates regional high school musical theater and its student artists by providing rigorous development for existing high school theater programs, promoting diverse elements of the professional theater community, and fostering support for under-resourced school theater programs through its "Give a Musical" grant. The Philadelphia

Independence Awards is one of three programs in the state to afford students this prestigious opportunity.

“We are very excited to partner with Philadelphia Independence Awards to sponsor talented high schoolers from the Philadelphia area as they participate in the Jimmy Awards, further emphasizing the importance of nurturing young artists and arts lovers through educational development opportunities,” said Anne Ewers, President & CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “With our own growing in-school & on-Campus arts education programs, we realize more than ever the importance of these programs to the overall growth and success of the next generation.”

[The Jimmy Awards®/The National High School Musical Theatre Awards®](#) (NHSMTA®) program impacts more than 100,000 students who participate in high school musical theatre competitions sponsored by presenters of Touring Broadway productions throughout the United States. Presented by the Broadway League Foundation, the program sends a Best Actress and Best Actor winner from each of these competitions to New York for a week-long theatre intensive of coaching and rehearsals with industry professionals in preparation for a one-night-only talent showcase on Broadway. Named for Broadway impresario James M. Nederlander, the program has been the catalyst for more than \$2,000,000 in educational scholarships. The twelfth annual Jimmy Awards will take place on Monday, June 29, 2020 at the Minskoff Theatre in Manhattan. The ceremony will feature 96 nominees from 46 regions around the US, making it the biggest Jimmy Awards in history. This national talent showcase celebrates high school students from across the country and features dynamic ensemble and solo performances. At the ceremony, two talented students will be presented with a Best Performance by an Actor and Best Performance by an Actress award. Tickets will be on sale to the public on a soon-to-be announced date.

Connect with The Philadelphia Independence Awards via the website www.independenceawards.com, on [Instagram](#) (@phlindawards) and Facebook (facebook.com/phlindawards).

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Kimmel Center Education

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts reaches thousands of local students, teachers, families, and aspiring artists each year through a unique set of education offerings, creating future performers, audiences, and cultural enthusiasts. With a 17-year history of education programs, the Kimmel Center reaches arts lovers of all ages and skill levels, stimulating creativity through hands-on multidisciplinary experiences. The programs educate, engage, and inspire the next generation, fulfilling the Kimmel Center’s mission to transform lives daily through the arts.

The Kimmel Center provides education programs both on its campus and in Philadelphia classrooms. With a focus on jazz and musical theater, programs include summer camps, school residencies, student matinees, a Teacher Appreciation program, and free community events.

For more information on all Kimmel Center education programs, visit kimmelcenter.org/education.

The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, our mission is to engage the region's diverse communities with art through performance and education. Our Cultural Campus serves more than 1 million guests per year and includes the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Academy of Music**, and the **Merriam Theater**- representing more than 160 years of rich history for the performing arts along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. We are home to eight esteemed Resident Companies: **The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society**, and **Curtis Institute of Music**. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, we are the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. Our Cultural Campus serves as a preeminent and inclusive place to enjoy exceptional experiences that reflect the spirit of our region by cultivating a creative and socially responsible environment where our community shares experiences that are delivered with pride, integrity, and respect. As a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, we collaborate on, present, and produce a broad range of relevant and meaningful events, we serve as an active gathering space for social and community events, we educate the region's young people through access to quality arts experiences, and we provide support to artists in the creation of new work. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is our proud sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2019-20 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit www.kimmelcenter.org.