

2021 NHSTA Showcase Guide

You are invited to join us at this year's live and physically distanced **Nebraska High School Theater Academy Showcase on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Holland Center Outdoors!** The 8th annual Tony Awards-inspired celebration will feature both live and digital performances, a Broadway host and several awards. Tickets are FREE and will be available to reserve on [Ticket Omaha](#) later this spring. In this guide, you'll find information on digital and in-person performance opportunities, awards, application guidelines, important dates and much more. **Please share this guide with students, parents and other members of your school community!**

Showcase Ensemble

Each school is invited to select up to 4 student representatives to join the Showcase Ensemble and perform in the opening and closing numbers of the Showcase. Although this year's Showcase will be a live outdoor event, the Showcase Ensemble will be a virtual performance experience - students will be asked to record a video of themselves singing their parts that will be edited into a produced piece that will premiere at the Showcase (there will be a very large LED wall onstage). New for this year - there are also opportunities to feature outstanding student dancers in this year's Showcase Ensemble videos.

How to Participate: Teachers can select up to 4 students to represent their school as Showcase Ensemble performers. When selecting your student representatives, we strongly encourage you to consider the diverse population of your school. **Please email the following information to NHSTA@O-pa.org by Monday, April 12, 2021 for each student:**

- Name:
- Preferred pronouns:
- School and grade level:
- Vocal part:
- Email (where all Showcase Ensemble info will be sent):
- Interested in being featured dancer (yes or no):

During the week of 4/12, we'll email students music (in their vocal part), rehearsal tracks and specific instructions for creating and submitting their videos. Videos will be due no later than **May 10, 2021**. Students interested in being a featured dancer will receive additional instructions and deadlines via email as well.

Looking for an example? Watch last year's Showcase Ensemble perform the [Opening](#) and [Closing](#) numbers.

Photos

Email photos that represent your school's performing arts program and/or shows for us to feature in the NHSTA Showcase to NHSTA@O-pa.org by **May 7, 2021**.

Informed Consent and Release Forms

All students and educators must submit an informed consent and release form (attached) to participate in the NHSTA Showcase - including, but not limited to, Showcase Ensemble, National Finalists, award winners and appearances in photos. Please note that participants under the age of 19 will need to obtain the signature of a parent/legal guardian to complete the form. You can scan and email forms to NHSTA@O-pa.org or fax forms to 402-345-0222. Completed forms will also be accepted until **June 1, 2021**.

National Jimmy Awards

The Broadway League's national Jimmy Awards is back this year as a digital experience including a week of online coaching with Broadway artists and casting directors, the chance to compete with top students from across the U.S. for 20+ awards and scholarships, virtual performance opportunities and much more!

Winners will be selected through an application/video audition process. This year, **ALL high school students are eligible to apply** – regardless of whether or not they performed any role in a musical. From the pool of applicants, up to 14 students will be selected as National Finalists. From that group of finalists, 2 students will be selected as National Nominees and will go on to represent the state at the National Jimmy Awards.

Application & Video Audition: Students should [apply online here](#) by **Friday, April 9, 2021**. When filling out the application, students should be prepared to submit the following items:

- 1-page resume
- Headshot photo
- Audition video: perform a 32-bar cut solo. The solo can be any song from any musical. You can also choose to submit a video from a past application**
- Music: Attach the piano/vocal score for the full song (not just the 32-bar cut) featured in your audition video.

***If you submitted an audition video for this year's Nebraska Thespians solo musical theater I.E. you can reuse that video for this application if you want to (even though it's not a 32-bar cut). Also, if you submitted an audition video to NHSTA in the past and want to reuse that video you are welcome to do so. If you choose to use an audition video from a past application, it is your responsibility to find/provide that video and the music as we do not keep this information on file.*

National Finalists: From the pool of applicants, we will select up to 14 top students as National Finalists. **If selected as a National Finalist you should be available to perform your solo live and physically distanced at the NHSTA Showcase on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Holland Center Outdoors.** Finalists will also be expected to attend a sound check/rehearsal that afternoon. Lunch/dinner will be provided to all National Finalists the day of the Showcase. National Finalists will be notified on **May 7, 2021**.

National Nominees: From the group of National Finalists, we will select 2 National Nominees to participate in the Jimmy Awards, which will be a fully virtual experience this year. **National Nominees will be announced live onstage at the NHSTA Showcase.** Nominees must also be available to participate in the digital Jimmy Awards tentatively scheduled from **June 20 – July 1, 2021**. The Broadway League will produce a special Jimmy Awards Showcase video featuring performances by National Nominees and the announcement of several awards/scholarships, which will air on **Thursday, July 15, 2021**. More information is available on the [Jimmy Awards website](#).

We want these opportunities to be available to ALL STUDENTS across the state of Nebraska. **Assistance with travel, accommodations, etc. is available for students/families in need and will be awarded on a case-by-case basis.** Please contact Kathleen Husted, O-pa Associate Director of Education at khusted@O-pa.org for more information.

Outstanding Student Reporter

One outstanding high school student reporter will be selected to cover the NHSTA Showcase and digital Jimmy Awards on social media. **The winner will have the opportunity to help promote NHSTA on a state and national level and should have an interest in journalism, film, marketing, PR and related fields.** The winner will work directly with Omaha Performing Arts and the Jimmy Awards digital/marketing teams.

The student reporter should be available to attend/report on the NHSTA Showcase on **Monday, June 7, 2021** at 7:00pm at the Holland Center Outdoors, as well as a sound check/rehearsal that afternoon. Lunch/dinner will be provided. This year's winner will also go on to represent NHSTA at the digital Jimmy Awards and should be available **June 20 – July 1, 2021**. The Broadway League will produce a special Jimmy Awards Showcase video featuring performances by National Nominees and the announcement of several awards/scholarships, which will air on **Thursday, July 15, 2021**.

HOW TO APPLY: Create a video up to 3 minutes in length showing or describing how you would uniquely cover the NHSTA Showcase on social media, as well as promoting tuning into a live stream performance or attending in-person. The video should be minimally edited and should include at least one unedited segment of at least one minute in length with the applicant speaking directly to the camera. We want to see your personality shine in this video! Think of it as hosting a version of "MTV Cribs" or an audition video to be on a non-performance reality show. **Send the following to NHSTA@O-pa.org by Friday, April 16, 2021:**

- Name:
- Preferred pronouns:
- School and grade level:
- Email and phone number:
- Link to video (unlisted YouTube link):

The winner will be notified in early-May 2021. Want an example of a great application video? Check out award-winning student reporter, Hannah Kate-Kinney's video [here!](#)

Awards

We are excited to celebrate students and educators through a series of awards at this year's NHSTA Showcase. Winners will be determined through an application/nomination process and should be submitted no later than **Friday, April 16, 2021**. Winners will be announced in early-May 2021.

Outstanding Achievement in Stage Management – This award honors students who demonstrate professionalism, leadership and commitment to excellence in stage management. Student stage managers or assistant stage managers in grades 7-12 can [apply here](#).

Outstanding Achievement in Design – This award honors students who demonstrate artistry, skill and a commitment to excellence in costume, hair/makeup, props, scenic, sound or lighting design. Students in grades 7-12 can [apply here](#).

Outstanding Educator Award – This award honors teachers for their outstanding achievements in performing arts education. The awards will recognize middle school and high school educators who embody the highest standards in performing arts education and demonstrate a positive impact on the lives of students. Anyone can select a teacher to [nominate here](#).

Backstage Excellence Award – This award honors one group of students for demonstrating teamwork, professionalism and a commitment to excellence behind-the-scenes. Teachers can nominate student run crews, costume crews, set construction crews, stagehands or any group of students in grades 7-12 who have dedicated time in a backstage capacity. Select a crew to [nominate here](#).

Senior of the Year Award – This award honors one senior for their outstanding achievements in performing arts throughout high school. The award will recognize a student who embodies the highest standards of leadership within their school and demonstrates a positive impact on the lives of their fellow peers and teachers. Educators, fellow students, school administrators, parents or community members may [nominate here](#).

For more details on eligibility, required materials, how to apply, etc. visit our [awards page](#).

Important Dates:

April 9 → Application/video audition deadline for Jimmy Awards

April 12 → Showcase Ensemble student information due

April 16 → applications/nominations for following awards due:

- Outstanding Achievement in Stage Management
- Backstage Excellence
- Outstanding Achievement in Design
- Outstanding Educator
- Senior of the Year
- Outstanding Student Reporter

April 30 → Reserve free tickets for NHSTA Showcase

May 7 → photos due

May 10 → Award winners announced in all categories

June 7 → NHSTA Showcase at the Holland Center Outdoors:

- National Finalists and Student Reporter attend sound check/rehearsal that afternoon
- Live/physically distanced performance begins at 7:00pm (will also be livestreamed)

June 20 – July 1 → digital Jimmy Awards experience

July 15 → digital Jimmy Awards Showcase livestreamed (time TBA)