



STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

2021-2022 SEASON

PRODUCTION AWARDS

Play

All the elements of the production work together to exceed the sum of its individual parts:

- **Performances** bring the roles to life through technical execution and artistic interpretation. The cast works as an ensemble.
- **Design elements** integrate and elevate the production and create a compelling world for the actors and audience.
- **Direction** makes the most of the team's individual and combined talents and defines the production with a unique, cohesive and clear interpretation, all while remaining true to the source material.

Musical

The elements of the production work together to exceed the sum of its individual parts:

- **Performances** bring the roles to life through technical execution and artistic interpretation. The cast works as an ensemble.
- **Design elements** integrate and elevate the production and create a compelling world for the actors and audience.
- **Choreography** works in conjunction with the text, lyrics, vocals, score, and all technical and creative elements to elevate the production.
- **Music** is successfully executed in the style appropriate to the show and enhances the entire production.
- **Direction** makes the most of the team's individual and combined talents and defines the production with a unique, cohesive and clear interpretation, all while remaining true to the source material.

Youth & Family Production

Productions are eligible for this award if the company bills the production for youth and family audiences, regardless of the ages of the cast and crew. Eligibility for a youth/family award does not exclude them from other awards. The standards are the same for Play and Musical awards.

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Performance in a Lead Role in a Play

Performance in a Featured Role in a Play

Mechanics

- Moves in a way that supports the character's emotions and motives.
 - entrances, exits, posture, gestures
- Projects appropriate energy, focus and presence.
- Listens and performs in character.
 - focus, concentration
- Speaks at an appropriate volume to be heard and clearly enough to be understood.
- Demonstrates clear understanding of the script.
 - memorization, internalization

Character Development

- Embodies the character through movement, voice and interaction with others on stage.
- Takes an imaginative and practical approach to developing the character.
- Demonstrates give and take, collaboration, and engagement with the other characters.
- Builds believable relationships within the context of the script.
- Presents a full range of emotions, as dictated by the text.
- Develops internally to accomplish the arc of the character and arc of the story.

Overall

Brings the role to life through technical and artistic skills, elevating the entire production.

Performance in a Lead Role in a Musical

Performance in a Featured Role in a Musical

Mechanics

- Moves in a way that supports the character's emotions and motives.
 - entrances, exits, posture, gestures
- Dances with confidence, accuracy and appropriate style.
- Projects appropriate energy, focus and presence.
- Listens and performs in character.
 - focus, concentration
- Speaks at an appropriate volume to be heard and clearly enough to be understood.
- Sings with confidence and accuracy.
 - intonation, diction, breath support, tone and resonance
- Demonstrates clear understanding of the script.
 - memorization, internalization

- Shifts smoothly between acting and musical numbers.

Character Development

- Embodies the character through movement, voice and interaction with others on stage.
- Takes an imaginative and practical approach to developing the character.
- Demonstrates give and take, collaboration, and engagement with the other characters.
- Builds believable relationships within the context of the script.
- Presents a full range of emotions, as dictated by the text.
- Develops internally to accomplish the arc of the character and arc of the story.
- Radiates and sets the tone for the style and spirit of the choreography, score and story.

Overall

Brings the role to life through technical and artistic skills, elevating the entire production.

Performance by an Ensemble

This award honors exceptional individual performances in smaller roles and/or the interaction between performers in ensemble scenes where both large and small groupings show effective give and take. The ensemble performance elevates the entire production.

Performance by a Youth Ensemble

Ensembles are eligible for this award if they are predominantly comprised of youth performers. Eligibility for this award does not exclude any individual cast members from other performance awards.

This award may honor many exceptional individual performances in smaller roles and/or the interaction between performers in ensemble scenes where both large and small groupings show effective give and take. The ensemble performance elevates the production.

Jeanne Hopson Rising Star

This award honors performers who are younger than 18 at the time of the performance. The award recognizes the standards for performance awards as outlined above. The award could recognize a performer's single role or several.

TECHNICAL & CREATIVE AWARDS

Direction (Plays & Musicals)

Concept

- Creates a cohesive vision, building a world for the story to inhabit.
- Casting is true to the story with a genuine representation of the story's culture.
- Interprets the story with a clear concept through imaginative and innovative choices.
- Develops individual characters and a cohesive ensemble.
- Creates a sense of intrigue that builds to the climax.

Execution

- Builds the story's world through effective staging.
- Guides pacing.
- Coordinates all technical elements to support the vision of the story.
- Uses the space to its maximum creative potential.
- Performers are believable, energized, focused.

Overall

- Makes the most of the team's individual and combined talents.
- Inspires designers, cast and crew in ways that challenge their talents and brings out their best creative energy.
- Defines the production with a unique, cohesive and clear interpretation while remaining true to the material.

Scenic Design

Concept

- Encompasses all the required elements of the script.
- Establishes the story's era, place, mood and spirit.
- Effectively frames all the scenes in the story -- large, medium and small.
- Reflects the vision of the production in color, texture, line, levels, style and genre.
- Is creative within the parameters of script, vision and space.

Execution

- Is safe and functional.
- Enables performers to move around with ease.
- Allows for smooth, efficient and appropriate transitions.
- Works in conjunction with lighting and other design elements.

Overall

- Elevates the production as an integral and essential part of the story.
- Creates a compelling world for the actors and audience.

Costumes & Makeup Design

Concept

- Costumes and makeup are appropriate for each character, period, style and genre.
- Reflect the vision of the production in color, texture, line, style and genre.
- Are creative, and innovative, within parameters of the script, vision, and space.
- Establish the time period, mood, and spirit of the story.
- Become an extension and identifying feature of each character.

Execution

- Costumes and makeup suit the performers.
- Makeup is suited to each performer, taking into account lighting and distance from the audience.
- Costumes allow performers to move with ease.
- Each performer's look is intentional and fully realized.

Overall

- Costumes and makeup are an integral and essential part of the story.
- Costumes and makeup elevate the vision of the production.

Lighting Design

Concept

- Encompasses all the required elements of the script.
- Establishes the story's time, place, mood and spirit.
- Effectively frames all the scenes in the story -- large, medium and small.
- Reflects the vision of the production in color, shadows, intensity, motion and texture.
- Is creative within the parameters of script, vision and space.

Execution

- Illuminates the playing space appropriately.
- Allows for effective cues and transitions, consistent with the pace and mood of the story.
- Works in conjunction with scenic design and other design elements.

Overall

- Elevates the production as an integral and essential part of the story.
- Creates a compelling world for the actors and audience.

Sound Design

Concept

- Encompasses all the required elements of the script.
- Establishes the story's time, place, mood and spirit.
- Reflects the vision of the production.
- Is creative within the parameters of script, vision and space.
- Supports transitions in the story with sound, music or silence.

Execution

- Sounds authentic to the world of the show.
- Works in conjunction with dialog and music.
- Allows for effective cues and transitions, consistent with pace and mood of the story.
- Projects at an appropriate volume for the space and the intended effect.
- Sound balances dialog, music and sound effects.

Overall

- Elevates the production as an integral and essential part of the story.
- Creates a compelling auditory world for the actors and audience.

Choreography

Concept

- Draws inspiration from the music and text.
- Progresses and clarifies each character, the story and themes.
- Uses the space, props, and dancers to tell the story.
- Displays seamless transitions.
- Captures the time period, place, and culture.
- Is stylistically accurate and elevates the form.

Execution

- Utilizes performance space appropriately and creatively.

- Suits the skill level of the dancers, and the dancers are in sync, energized, focused and confident.
- Movement is polished and well executed.

Overall

- The choreography works in conjunction with the text, lyrics, vocals, score, and all technical and creative elements to elevate the production.
- It defines and enhances the vision and spirit of the show.

Music Direction

Concept

- Directs attention to the important action of the story.
- Performers demonstrate understanding of story and character through musical interpretation.
- Actors interpret the music in a way that makes it their own and is in alignment with their character.
- Music weaves together with staging and choreography to elevate the vision of the show.

Execution

- Demonstrates competencies: pitch, harmony, rhythm and diction.
- Emphasizes emotion with tempo, dynamics and phrasing.
- Creates a cohesive, balanced and well-blended ensemble.
- Works well with the choreography, staging and transitions.
- Delivers a musical style consistent with the director's vision.

Overall

Uses music to enhance and expand the director's vision in a way that distills and shares the story's essence.

Members of the 2021-2022 Leadership Task Force include:

COMPANY	FIRST	LAST
Ankeny Community Theatre	Cheryl	Clark
Carousel Theatre of Indianola	DC	Felton
Des Moines Community Playhouse	Katy	Merriman
Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre	Charissa	Hamel
Iowa Shakespeare Experience	Lorenzo	Sandoval
Iowa Stage Theatre Company	Matt	McIver
Kata Kalysmic Productions	Emily	Davis
Open Door Rep	Josh	Visnapuu
Pyramid Theatre Company	Alexis	Davis
Tallgrass Theatre	Tom	Perrine
Theatre Midwest	Erin	Tracy
Urbandale Community Theatre	Tony	Tandeski
Judge Representative	Michael	Morain