



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

Welcome to the 2021 Rising Star Awards! Our program this year will be entirely virtual and rely on digital submissions in each category. Specific criteria for each category can be found in the following pages, but below are overall guidelines for submissions.

- Video submissions may be an excerpt from a fully produced live production, an excerpt from a virtually produced production, a recreation of a live or virtually presented piece, or material prepared and executed specifically for 2021 Rising Star consideration. Regardless of performance venue or medium, review by the Nomination Committee will be based on the student performance rather than production elements. Click [HERE](#) to review RSA Performance Standards of Excellence.
- Video submissions must be recorded horizontally, and performers are encouraged to film from the waist to the top of the head.
- Submissions must be made via Google Form and include all requested accompanying information (e.g. performer name, school name, song/show information, and student media release).
- Every student submitted for consideration must have a media release form signed by a parent. While this document is not required at the time of submission, if a student or student group receives a nomination, a form will be required in order for them to be featured in the ceremony. A copy of the media release can be found [HERE](#).

Click on the category below to navigate to its submission criteria.

- Outstanding Solo Performance by an Actor
- Outstanding Solo Performance by an Actress
- Outstanding Performance by a Small Ensemble (2-6 performers)
- Outstanding Performance by a Large Ensemble (7 or more performers)
- Student Achievement Award(s)
- "Theatre for Everyone" Inclusion and Access Award
- Outstanding Educator(s)

OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR or OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS

The "Outstanding Solo Performance" category is an opportunity to feature the talent of one performer in an isolated moment. Examples of eligible Solo Performance submissions include pieces in which both the thematic and directive focus is on one performer.

To submit for OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR or OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS, the media must follow the following guidelines:

- The performance material must be a song in the musical theatre style from a published musical or an original work. We encourage students to use story driven material that shows off both acting and singing abilities equally. While the performance may include choreography, the emphasis of evaluation is on acting and singing.
- The submission must be a solo performance in which the performer performs a piece that is intended as a solo moment or individual song.
- The submission **must not exceed** 2 minutes.
- Each school may submit a **maximum of 2 performers** for Outstanding Solo Performance by an Actor.
- Each school may submit a **maximum of 2 performers** for Outstanding Solo Performance by an Actress.

If you have additional questions about submission material, please contact Mariah Black at risingstarwards@papermill.org.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A SMALL ENSEMBLE ***(Group of 2 to 6 Performers)***

The "Outstanding Performance by a Small Ensemble" category is designed to pull out smaller musical scenes in which several performers are highlighted in one piece. Examples of material appropriate for a Small Group submission might include a duet, trio, or quartet where the performers share the responsibility of communicating the story to an audience.

To submit for OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A SMALL ENSEMBLE (*Group of 2 to 6 Performers*), the media must follow the following guidelines:

- The performance material must be a song in the musical theatre style from a published musical or an original work. We encourage you to use story driven material that shows off both your acting, singing, and ability to connect honestly with your fellow performers.
- The submission must include no less than two performers and no more than six. We ask that you choose material intended for groups. Please do not use reimagined arrangements of songs intended for solo performance.
- The performance should be theatrically presented with basic staging or movement. This can be accomplished live or virtually, whichever fits the resources that are available to the students. Consideration will be given to submissions that are rehearsed and/or recorded remotely.
- The submission **must not exceed** 4 minutes.
- Each school may submit a **maximum of 2 groups** in this category.

If you have additional questions about submission material, please contact Mariah Black at risingstarwards@papermill.org.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A LARGE ENSEMBLE ***(Group of 7 or more Performers)***

The "Outstanding Performance by a Large Ensemble" Category should focus on how the ensemble works together both musically and in commitment to communicate a story. Examples of possible Large Group submissions may utilize Opening or Closing numbers to musicals or pivotal full-cast moments of a show. While certain performers may have solos, the story telling is a group effort.

To submit for OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A LARGE ENSEMBLE *(Group of 7 or more Performers)*, the media must follow the following guidelines:

- The performance material must be a song in the musical theatre style from a published musical or an original work. We encourage you to use story driven material that shows off both your acting, singing, and ability to connect honestly with your fellow performers.
- The submission must include no less than seven performers with no maximum limit. We ask that you choose material intended for groups. Please no reimagined arrangements of songs intended for solo performance.
- The performance should be theatrically presented with basic staging or movement. This can be accomplished live or virtually, whichever fits the resources that are available to the students. Consideration will be given to submissions that are rehearsed and/or recorded remotely.
- The submission **must not exceed** 5 minutes.
- Each school may submit a **maximum of 1 group** in this category.

If you have additional questions about submission material, please contact Mariah Black at risingstarwards@papermill.org.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD(S)

The “Student Achievement Award” recognizes student members of your production team who have given their time and talent in a backstage or non-acting capacity (*i.e. stage manager, stage crew, light board operator, costumes, student/assistant directors, student/assistant choreographers, graphic designers, dance captains, etc.*).

To submit for STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD the submission must follow the following guidelines:

- A brief (1-page) letter/essay detailing why you are nominating this student(s) uploaded as a PDF.
- Any support materials that best illustrate the work that specific student did. We recognize that production roles may look different this year and the examples below highlight what we’ve seen in the past. We are excited to see what creative work students produce for this unique year – whether that’s video editing or virtual stage management!
- Each school may submit a **maximum of 3 students** in this category.

Student Achievement Support Examples

Role	Support Material
Stage Manager	Production book
Designer	Sketches, process-related planning materials, light plots, audio files, production stills
Student Director, Choreographer, Music Director, Dance Captain etc.	Rehearsal footage or video of work
Web Master/PR/Marketing	Designs, show posters, marketing plans, website link,

If you have additional questions about submission material, please contact Mariah Black at risingstarwards@papermill.org.

“THEATRE FOR EVERYONE” INCLUSION AND ACCESS

“The ‘Theatre for Everyone’ Inclusion and Access Award” recognizes excellence in the promotion and practice of creative inclusion of students and adults with disabilities as performers, designers, musicians and production staff. Additionally, this award also seeks to recognize and reward a school that takes steps to ensure their performances are accessible to audiences with disabilities. An award of \$1,000 will be given to a single deserving school selected by a panel of Evaluators from Paper Mill Playhouse and the Cultural Access Network of New Jersey, a project of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

To submit for “THEATRE FOR EVERYONE” INCLUSION AND ACCESS AWARD the submission must follow the following guidelines:

- Clearly and thoroughly answer the questions on the application available via Google Forms
- Include any examples/testimonials of how inclusion and access were accomplished, such as photos, newspaper articles, student essays etc. uploaded as PDFs or JPEGS

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR(S)

The "Outstanding Educator(s) Award" recognizes those educators who bring the positive impact of theatre into their students' curriculum and lives. An award of \$1,000 will be given the winning Educator(s) school to encourage and support continued exploration of theater. **Please note:** Application for this award must be made separately from other category submissions and come from a colleague or supervisor of the nominated teacher.

Submission should include:

- A letter of support from colleague, supervisor, or department chair.
- A letter of support from a parent/guardian of one of the teacher's students.
- A letter of support from a student.
- The three letters of support should be submitted as a single PDF.