

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE
EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Presented by



2025 RISING STAR AWARDS NOMINATIONS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS

OUTSTANDING OVERALL PRODUCTION OF A MUSICAL

Final Nominations

Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTS	URINETOWN
Gill St. Bernard's School.....	SUNDAY IN THE PARK...
Moorestown HS.....	ONCE UPON A MATTRESS
Morris Knolls HS.....	ANYTHING GOES
Ridge HS.....	CINDERELLA
Summit HS.....	THE PROM
Voorhees HS	FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Honorable Mentions

Grunin Performing Arts Acad. At OCVTS	THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL
Princeton Day School.....	ALICE BY HEART

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN A FEMALE-IDENTIFIED LEADING ROLE

Final Nominations

Gloucester County Institute of Tech.	MARY POPPINS.....	Kaylin Stetser as "Mary Poppins"
Immaculata HS	ONCE	Susie Polito as "Girl"
Livingston HS.....	THE DROWSY CHAPERONE.....	Zoe Dee Lento as "Janet Van de Graff"
Pinelands Reg. HS.....	MEAN GIRLS	Kali Tucker as "Regina George"
Princeton Day School.....	ALICE BY HEART	Emma Salas as "Alice"
Summit HS	THE PROM	Rosie Gaeta as "Emma Nolan"
Summit HS	THE PROM	Sarah Walsh as "Dee Dee Allen"

Honorable Mentions

Christian Brothers Academy	TWELFTH NIGHT... ..	Elena Asfendis as "Viola"
Fair Lawn HS.	MAMMA MIA!	Michal Semory-Gertler as "Sophie"
Morris Knolls	ANYTHING GOES	Macey Hyatt as "Reno Sweeney"

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN A MALE-IDENTIFIED LEADING ROLE

Final Nominations

Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTSURINETOWN.....Simon Thornton as "Bobby Strong"
Academy of the Holy AngelsCINDERELLADerek Bedell as "Prince Topher"
Don Bosco Prep Academy.....HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAMEJames Coleman as "Quasimodo"
Grunin Performing Arts Acad. At OCVTS.....THE SPONGEBOB MUSICALJose Gonzalez as "Patrick Star"
Princeton Day School.....ALICE BY HEART.....Jonas Hinsdale as "Alfred"
Summit HSTHE PROM.....Nick Fenelus as "Barry Glickman"
Voorhees HS.....FIDDLER ON THE ROOFJoaquin Arce as "Tevye"

Honorable Mentions

Gill St. Bernard's School.....SUNDAY IN THE PARK...Harry Pambianchi as "George"
Gloucester County Institute of Technology. ..MARY POPPINS.....Nick Intrieri as "Bert"
Ramsey HSINTO THE WOODSNate Algor as "Baker"
St. Peter's PrepRENTEvan Donath as "Roger"

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN A FEMALE-IDENTIFIED SUPPORTING ROLE

Final Nominations

Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTSURINETOWN.....Jeylene Lugo as "Penelope Pennywise"
Cedar Grove HS.....SOMETHING ROTTEN!.....Kailyn Luizzi as "Bea Bottom"
Immaculate Heart AcademyMATILDA.....Katherine Ryan as "Miss Honey"
Moorestown HS.....ONCE UPON A MATTRESS.....Angela Cuccinotta as "Lady Larkin"
Nutley HSMEAN GIRLSAlexis Hamlin as "Gretchen Wieners"
Summit HSTHE PROM.....Ella MaGill as "Alyssa Greene"

Honorable Mentions

Eastern Reg.OKLAHOMA!.....Jaslene Williams as "Ado Annie"
Morris Knolls HSANYTHING GOESSofia Cifuentes as "Erma"

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER IN A MALE-IDENTIFIED SUPPORTING ROLE

Final Nominations

Dwight-Englewood SchoolMEAN GIRLSJian Harrell as "Damian Hubbard"
Lawrence HSHELLO, DOLLY!Lindsay Martin as "Cornelius Hackl"
Morris Knolls HSANYTHING GOESNolan Lardiere as "Sir Evelyn Oakleigh"
Ramsey HSINTO THE WOODSLucas Abraham as "Cinderella's Prince/Wolf"
St. Joseph Reg. HS.....FOOTLOOSEElijah Jackson as "Rev. Shaw Moore"
West Essex Reg. HS.....THE WIZARD OF OZEmma Casper as "Lion"

Honorable Mentions

North Star AcademyTHE WIZJustin Mincy as "Scarecrow"
Princeton HS.....GROUNDHOG DAYKonrad Hedges as "Ned Ryerson"

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A FEATURED ROLE

Final Nominations

Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTS	URINETOWN.....	Elyana Barroquero as "Little Becky Two Shoes"
Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTS	URINETOWN.....	Greg Pedicini as "Hot Blades Harry"
Morristown HS	LES MISERABLES.....	Amelia Corcoran as "Gavroche"
Pinelands Reg. HS.....	MEAN GIRLS	Summer Hudak as "Mrs. George"
Ridge HS.....	CINDERELLA	Anti Garcia as "Charlotte"
Summit HS	THE PROM	Noah Ibrahim as "Trent Oliver"
Summit HS	THE PROM.....	Scarlett Mai Ashcroft Bale Dyer as "Angie Dickinson"

Honorable Mentions

Princeton HS	GROUNDHOG DAY	Jacob Zaks as "Buster"
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OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEATURED ENSEMBLE MEMBER

Final Nominations

Delaware Valley Reg. HS	BIG FISH	Lila Pfefferle as "Mermaid"
Gloucester County Institute of Tech.	MARY POPPINS.....	Reilly Kearney as "Bird Woman"
Jose Marti STEM Academy.....	CINDERELLA	Angelina Sotomayor as "Dove"
Middletown HS	PIPPIN	Lilakoi Grover as "Player"
Piscataway HS	CHARLIE...CHOCOLATE FACTORY ...	Andrea Laida as "Cherry Sundae"
St. Peter's Prep	RENT	Sophia Santomauro as "Seasons of Love Soloist"

Honorable Mentions

Madison HS	SISTER ACT	Sophie Santoriello as "TJ"
Watchung Hills Reg. HS.....	THE ADDAMS FAMILY	Jason Barnoski as "Lurch"

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEATURED ENSEMBLE GROUP

Final Nominations

Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTS	URINETOWN.....	"The Rebel Poor"
Middletown HS.....	PIPPIN	"The Manson Trio"
Moorestown HS.....	ONCE UPON A MATTRESS.....	"The Ladies in Waiting"
Morris Knolls HS	ANYTHING GOES	"Reno's Angels"
Rahway HS	THE MUSIC MAN.....	"The Barbershop Quartet"
St. Joseph Reg. HS.....	FOOTLOOSE	"Rusty, Wendy Jo, Urleen"

Honorable Mentions

Passaic County Tech. Vocational School..	THE ADDAMS FAMILY	"The Ancestors"
Washington Township HS.....	SHREK	"Duloc Performers"

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A CHORUS

Final Nominations

Academy for the Performing Arts at UCVTS	URINETOWN
Columbia HS.....	THE PROM
Gill St. Bernard's School	SUNDAY IN THE PARK...
Morris Knolls HS.....	ANYTHING GOES
Rahway HS.....	THE MUSIC MAN
Ridge HS	CINDERELLA
Voorhees HS.....	FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Honorable Mentions

Moorestown HS	ONCE UPON A MATTRESS
Princeton HS.....	GROUNDHOG DAY
Summit HS	THE PROM

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ORCHESTRA

Final Nominations

Morristown HS	LES MISÉRABLES
The Pingry School	PIPPIN
Ridge HS	CINDERELLA
Shawnee HS	ANYTHING GOES
Southern Reg. HS.....	STATE FAIR
Toms River HS North	CRAZY FOR YOU
Westfield HS	SMILE

Honorable Mentions

Livingston HS.....	THE DROWSY CHAPERONE
Ocean Township HS.....	LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS
Summit HS.....	THE PROM

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY A TEACHER OR OUTSIDE DIRECTOR

Final Nominations

Gill St. Bernard's School	SUNDAY IN THE PARK	Paul H. Canada
Moorestown HS	ONCE UPON A MATTRESS	Erica Scanlon Harr
Morris Knolls HS.	ANYTHING GOES	Lindsay Dunn
Princeton Day School	ALICE BY HEART	Stan Cahill
Ridge HS.....	CINDERELLA	Tim Lynch
Summit HS	THE PROM	Anne Poyner
Voorhees HS	FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.....	Nancy Lomas-Reynolds

Honorable Mentions

Grunin Performing Arts Acad. At OCVTS ..	THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL	Carolyn Little
Immaculate Heart Academy	MATILDA.....	Jodi Capeless

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC DIRECTION

Final Nominations

Columbia HS	THE PROM	Jacob C. Ezzo
Gill St. Bernard's School	SUNDAY IN THE PARK.....	Jack Williams III
Moorestown HS	ONCE UPON A MATTRESS	Jonathan Rose, Erica Scanlon Harr
Morristown HS.....	LES MISÉRABLES	David Gallagher
Ridge HS.....	CINDERELLA	Madelyn Curtin
St. Joseph Reg. HS.....	FOOTLOOSE	Richard Todd Adams
Voorhees HS	FIDDLER ON THE ROOF	Andrew Finck

Honorable Mentions

Princeton Day School	ALICE BY HEART	Edgar Mariano
Summit HS.	THE PROM	Alex Bocchino, Mary-Lynn Rhodes

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CHOREOGRAPHY AND STAGING

Final Nominations

Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTS ...	URINETOWN.....	Raven Abbott
Columbia HS.....	THE PROM	Bethany Pettigrew, Britt Shubow Keshner
Morris Knolls HS	ANYTHING GOES	Stacie Gogo
Old Bridge HS	42 nd STREET	Jessica Tosonotti
Southern Reg. HS	STATE FAIR	Jessica Huch, Marcella Aboyoun
Summit HS	THE PROM	Kelly Mott Sacks

Honorable Mentions

Cherry Hill HS East.....	MARY POPPINS	Sandi Makofsky
Voorhees HS	FIDDLER ON THE ROOF	Morgan Strahle

OUTSTANDING SCENIC ACHIEVEMENT

Final Nominations

Atlantic County Institute of Tech.	CINDERELLA	Bud Morey
Harrison HS.....	BUBBLE BOY	Colin Shields
Immaculate Heart Academy	MATILDA.....	Vincent Gunn
Princeton Day School	ALICE BY HEART	Yoshi Tanokura
Ridge HS.....	CINDERELLA	Jason M. Stewart
Whippany Park HS.....	GREASE.	Brian Lynch

Honorable Mentions

Midland Park HS	SHREK.....	Vincent Gunn
Wallkill Valley Reg. HS	MAMMA MIA!	David McQuillen Robertson

OUTSTANDING LIGHTING ACHIEVEMENT

Final Nominations

Gill St. Bernard's School	SUNDAY IN THE PARK.....	Jason Flamos
Harrison HS.....	BUBBLE BOY	Colin Shields
Immaculate Heart Academy	MATILDA.....	Nikki Belenski
Madison HS.....	SISTER ACT	Cameron Filepas
The Pingry School	PIPPIN.....	Alan Van Antwerp, Joseph Napolitano
Ridge HS.....	CINDERELLA.	Colin Berry

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Honorable Mentions

Mt. Olive HS GREASE Brendan Harvey
Passaic County Tech. Voc. School THE ADDAMS FAMILY Edward Dombroski, Matthew Romano, Ruy Oliveira

OUTSTANDING COSTUMING ACHIEVEMENT

Final Nominations

Delsea Reg. HS THE WIZARD OF OZ Christine Gatto Dougherty
Gill St. Bernards School SUNDAY IN THE PARK... Paul H. Canada
Grunin Performing Arts Acad. at OCVTS... THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL Front Row Theatrical Originals, Tina Productions
Harrison HS BUBBLE BOY Mary Pat Shields, Colin Shields
Moorestown HS ONCE UPON A MATTRESS Erin Cramer
Morris Knolls HS ANYTHING GOES Maryanne Hannon
Voorhees HS FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Brianna O'Halloran, Nancy Lomas-Reynolds

Honorable Mentions

Madison HS SISTER ACT Linda Spence, Blake Spence
Ridge HS CINDERELLA Bonnie Grube
Washington Township HS SHREK Tina's Productions

OUTSTANDING HAIR AND MAKE-UP ACHIEVEMENT

Final Nominations

Delsea Reg. HS THE WIZARD OF OZ Raven Abbott
Dumont HS LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Samantha Davis
Gill St. Bernards School SUNDAY IN THE PARK... Stacie Gogo
Grunin Performing Arts Acad. At OCVTS... THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL Derek Alfano, Isabella Benavides, Chloe Murawski
Harrison HS BUBBLE BOY Colin Shields
Weehawken HS LEGALLY BLONDE Derek Alfano, Erin Caballero

Honorable Mentions

Morris Knolls HS ANYTHING GOES Erin Dawson, Evelina Oliveri, Derek Alfano
Carteret HS THE ADDAMS FAMILY Juanita Hemingway

OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE (DIGITAL SUBMISSION)

Final Nominations

High Tech HS "Lost in the Wilderness", CHILDREN OF EDEN Alfred Lemon
High Tech HS "The Devil You Know", SIDE SHOW.. Charles Bird
Howell HS "Diva's Lament", SPAMALOT Bandaid Isaacs
Moorestown Friends School "Last Midnight", INTO THE WOODS. Karrington Colon
Sparta HS "Somewhere That's Green", LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS... Jenna Flake

Honorable Mentions

High Tech HS "Sibella", A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE Matthew Herrera

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(20 finalists, 10 recipients will be announced)

Final Nominations

Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTS	URINETOWN	A. Pender, S. Cruz, A. Hajduk, AV Crew
Academy of the Holy Angels.....	CINDERELLA.....	Catherine Raimondi, Stage Manager
Christian Brothers Academy	TWELFTH NIGHT	Tyler DeBellis, Events Coordinator
Delaware Valley Reg. HS	BIG FISH	Lila Pfefferle, Dance Captain
Madison HS.....	SISTER ACT	Daania Fakhar, Asst. Lighting Designer
Morristown HS.....	LES MISÉRABLES	Aidan Orbeta, Pit Ensemble
Morristown HS	LES MISÉRABLES	Caden Janosy, Technical Director
Mt. Olive HS	GREASE.....	Brendan Harvey, Lighting Design
Ocean Township HS	LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS.....	Ben Jacobson, Head of Marketing
Ocean Township HS	LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS.....	Rowan Wilson, Graphic Design, Scenic Artist
Ocean Township HS	LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS.....	Puppetry Crew
Pascack Reg. HS.....	LEGALLY BLONDE.....	J. Merker, S. Huang, D. Grecu, K. Jean, Company Managers
Pinelands Reg. HS	MEAN GIRLS.....	A. Borderson, X. Clayton, Costume Design
Princeton Day School	ALICE BY HEART	Michael Berry, Asst. Stage Manager
Princeton Day School	ALICE BY HEART	Sahana Karthik, Stage Manager
Princeton HS	GROUNDHOG DAY	Colin Lansky, Sound Designer, Video Editor, Turntable Foreman
Princeton HS	GROUNDHOG DAY	Konrad Hedges, Social Media Manager
Shawnee HS.....	ANYTHING GOES	Aeron Hollenbeck, Student Choreographer
Voorhees HS	FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.....	Matt Saam, Lighting Designer
Voorhees HS.....	FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.....	Samantha Orr, Stage Manager

THE EDUCATIONAL IMPACT AWARD

Final Nominations

Academy for Performing Arts at UCVTS	URINETOWN
Madison HS	SISTER ACT
Morristown HS	LES MISÉRABLES
Piscataway HS	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
Ridge HS.....	CINDERELLA

RISING STAR “THEATRE FOR EVERYONE” INCLUSION AND ACCESS AWARD

Final Nominations

Atlantic County Institute of Technology	CINDERELLA
Madison HS	SISTER ACT
Moorestown HS.....	ONCE UPON A MATTRESS
Morristown HS	LES MISÉRABLES

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

Final Nominations

Collier HS	Emily Niemeyer
Harrison HS	Mary Pat Shields
Jose Marti STEM Academy	Ariane Ryan
Jose Marti STEM Academy	Victoria Meneses
South Brunswick Reg. HS.....	Jillian Trader
Spotswood HS	Annie Raczko

**Tickets to the live Rising Star Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 3rd will be made available to final nominees via their school contact on FRIDAY, MAY 2.
Please do not call Paper Mill Box Office for tickets.**

Performance details for nominated schools and individual students who will be asked to perform at the Awards Ceremony will be sent on FRIDAY, MAY 2. .

Scholarship prize details for Lead and Supporting performance nominees to the attend the Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theater Conservatory and appear in the New Voices Concert will be sent on FRIDAY, MAY 2.

Scholarship applicants and recipients will be notified by email the week of MAY 19.

Please email all spelling corrections to RisingStarAwards@PaperMill.org by FRIDAY, MAY 9.

The 30th Annual Rising Star Awards will be livestreamed on Paper Mill's YouTube Channel on TUESDAY JUNE 3RD AT 7:30PM.

The 30th Annual Rising Star Awards Presented by Investors Foundation and Citizens Philanthropic Foundation are supported by the Michael J. Kosloski Foundation.

The Hearst Foundations are Paper Mill's Education & Outreach Partner.

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HEARST foundations

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