

Eisenhower's 'Aida', West's 'Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat' Collect Combined 26 Tommy Award Nominations for Musical Excellence

New Berlin, Wis. - New Berlin Eisenhower's *Aida* and New Berlin West's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* have collected a combined 26 Overture Center for the Arts Tommy Awards nominations. Among the nominations are Outstanding Musical for *Aida* and Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Orchestra for both productions.

West's Alex Zerman was nominated for Outstanding Lead Performer for his role as Pharaoh; Eisenhower's Erin Ashenhurst (as Amneris), Drew Spadaro (as Radames) and Maddie Teipner (as Aida) were nominated in the same category.

Earning Outstanding Supporting Performer nominations were Eisenhower's Sam Schwab (Zoser) and Tyler Behm (Mereb) and West's Emilio Bruemmer (Simon/Potiphar), Zach Karolek (Brother Reuben) and Amanda Fischer and Payton Pruitt (Camel).

Overture's Tommy Awards program is a statewide education initiative that recognizes, honors and encourages excellence in musical theater production among area high school students. Musicals of more than 60 participating schools are reviewed by a panel of educators, theater experts and industry professionals. Based on reviewers' comments and tabulations, productions and individuals receive awards in specific categories at a ceremony held each year at Overture Center in June. The ceremony also features performances and production numbers from award winners in several categories.

Additional Eisenhower nominees are:

- Natalie M. Baertschy – Outstanding Musical Direction
- Mary E. Kirby – Outstanding Costume Design and Outstanding Lighting Design
- Kirby and Baertschy – Outstanding Direction
- Nick Winders & Doug Hoeft – Outstanding Sound Design
- Chad Abramowski – Outstanding Scenic Design
- Maria Butscher – Outstanding Stage Management
- Overall Outstanding Design

Additional West nominees are:

- Judy Smith – Outstanding Scenic Design and Outstanding Costume Design
- Jessica Ferguson – Outstanding Stage Management
- Karen Kryzek – Outstanding Sound Design

Final winners will be announced in May. This year's Tommy Awards ceremony is Sunday, June 12, at the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison.

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