

Eisenhower's 'Aida' Earns Outstanding Musical Tommy Award, One of 10 Total Awards for the District's High School Musicals

New Berlin, Wis. – New Berlin Eisenhower's *Aida*, the epic tale of love, loyalty and betrayal, has been named "Outstanding Musical" by the 2016 Overture Center for the Arts Tommy Awards, a program that recognizes and encourages excellence in high school musical theater.

The "Outstanding Musical" award encompasses direction, musical direction, choreography, stage management, lighting design and sound design. Directors Mary E. Kirby and Natalie Baertschy, choreographer Sara Zavadsky, scenic designer Chad Abramowski, sound designers Nick Winders and Doug Hoeft, and stage manager Maria Butscher share in the recognition.

Eisenhower's *Little Shop of Horrors* also earned several Tommy Awards. Jordan Forberg earned an Outstanding Leading Performance award for his portrayal of Seymour, while Drew Spadaro (voice of Audrey II), Brendan Sienko (Mr. Mushnik) and Tyler Behm (Orin Scrivello) earned Outstanding Supporting Performance awards. Additionally, the musical was recognized for Outstanding Ensemble, and Maddie Mainwood earned an award for Outstanding Stage Management.

School District of New Berlin performances also earned three Tommy Spirit Awards: Eisenhower's Emma Freichels (*AIDA*) and Tyler Behm (*Little Shop of Horrors*), and New Berlin West's Alex Zerman (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*).

This year, the Tommy adjudicators reviewed 77 productions.

The 2016 Tommy Awards will take place Sunday, June 12, at the Overture Center in Madison. Supporting, Leading, and Tommy Spirit Award winners are invited to perform in medleys. Additionally, the cast of *Aida* has been invited to perform a 4-minute medley during the awards ceremony.

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