

Eisenhower, West Theater Programs Recognized for Excellence with Jerry Award Nominations

New Berlin, Wis. – The School District of New Berlin amazingly talented high school theater programs combined for more than 20 Jerry Award nominations from the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison.

The Eisenhower program had 16 nominations for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, including for Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Orchestra. Four students earned nominations for Outstanding Lead Performance - Larsen Seely (*Quasimodo*), Aaron Jackson (*Phoebus de Martin*), Jake Ringwall (*Claude Frollo*) and Emily Wang (*Esmeralda*) – while two earned Outstanding Supporting Performance nominations: Aidan Lindner (*Clopin Trouillefou*) and Nivae Clausen (*Leah, Florika*).

West's production of *Legally Blonde* earned nominations for Outstanding Lead Performance by Olivia Vernon (*Elle*), Alyx Knueppel (*Paulette*) and Ryan Bartley (*Professor Callahan*) and Outstanding Supporting Performance by Alyssa Buckett (*Enid Hoops*) and Connor McKenzie (*Kyle O'Boyle*) William Dettlaff was nominated for a Spirit Award.

Eisenhower also earned nominations for Outstanding Direction (Mary Kirby and Natalie Baertschy), Outstanding Musical Direction (Baertschy), Outstanding Choreography (Sara Zavadsky), Outstanding Stage Management (Monica Kemstra and Lianna Knoblauch), Outstanding Scenic Design (Kirby and Baertschy), Outstanding Lighting Design (Kirby) and Outstanding Costume Design (Kirby).

Formerly known as the Tommy Awards, the Jerry Awards recognize and honor excellence in high school musical theater. Overture's Jerry Awards program is an education initiative that recognizes, honors and encourages excellence in musical theater production among area high school students. Musicals of participating schools are reviewed by a panel of educators, theater experts and industry professions. Based on reviewers' comments and tabulations, productions and individuals receive awards in specific categories.

Jerry adjudicators review roughly 100 high school musicals throughout Wisconsin this school year. Winners will be announced in May.

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