

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 3:30 P.M. CT APRIL 24, 2025**

**CONTACTS:**

Ellen McDonald  
Publicist, Mershon & McDonald, LLC  
ellen@mershonandmcdonald.com  
816-213-4355

Rachel Bliss  
Director of Marketing, Starlight  
rachel.bliss@kcstarlight.com  
816-997-1151



## **Starlight Reveals the Nominations for the 23rd Annual Blue Star Awards**



*Starlight's 23rd Annual Blue Star Awards Ceremony will be held Thursday, May 15, 2025.*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Each year, thousands of high school students across the Kansas City metro wait in anticipation for the announcement of the annual Blue Star Awards nominations. Today, Starlight leadership, staff, and board members revealed this year's nominees via in school presentations and Starlight's social media. In the 2024-25 Blue Star Awards season, 66 schools and nearly 5,300 metro area students participated, making the program one of the largest and most respected high school musical awards shows in the nation.

Modeled after Broadway's Tony Awards®, Starlight's annual Blue Star Awards recognize achievement and excellence in musical theatre among Kansas City area high school students. Winners will be announced in 31 categories and \$10,000 in monetary prizes will be awarded at the Blue Star Awards Ceremony, which will also feature 10 onstage performances.

The 23rd annual Blue Star Awards Ceremony will take place Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at Starlight Theatre. Premium seating is available for \$20 per ticket. Additional seating is free but will be ticketed. To reserve tickets, visit [kcstarlight.com](http://kcstarlight.com) or call the box office at (816) 363-7827. There will be limited concessions available for purchase.

### **2024-25 Blue Star Awards Nominees**

#### **Ceremony Ensemble**

Bishop Miede - Isaac Frenzel

*MORE*

Blue Valley - Theshiona Fleming  
Blue Valley - Clara Thompson  
Blue Valley Southwest - Madeline Hendricks  
Blue Valley Southwest - Kellen Serrano  
Central - Macormick Carlson  
Grain Valley - Ayannah Vaughn  
Grain Valley - Dylan Rucinski  
Lee's Summit North - Taylor Bell  
Lee's Summit North - Rowan Sopher  
Liberty - Maddy Hand  
Liberty - Maddy Heits  
Liberty North - Jillian Downing  
Liberty North - Gillian Miller  
Liberty North - Hunter Anderson-Jones  
Liberty North - Caden Barner  
Liberty North - Cole Herrig  
Liberty North - Tony Monaco  
Liberty North - Tommy Monaco  
Liberty North - Zack DeWet  
Mill Valley - Allyson Makalous  
Olathe East - Lorien Colucci  
Olathe East - Delainey Mock  
Olathe East - Caroline Kelley  
Olathe East - Avery Valentine  
Olathe East - Avery Satterfield  
Olathe East - Max Haney  
Olathe Northwest - Maggie Sykes  
Olathe West - Jameson Mangold  
Olathe West - Addy Davis  
Olathe West - Aaron Shirley  
Olathe West - Gage Pfannenstiel  
Park Hill - Chamberlain Webster  
Park Hill - Rylee Bornheimer  
Park Hill - Jalen Mack  
Park Hill South - Rozella Ranes  
Platte County - Kaitlyn Seim  
Platte County - Charlotte Sweet  
Platte County - Kendall Heckman  
Platte County - Finley Pennington  
Platte County - Aidan Lindsey  
Rockhurst - Delilah Pellow  
Rockhurst - George Nessinger  
Rockhurst - Charlie Tietjen  
Saint Thomas Aquinas - Hailey Selock  
Saint Thomas Aquinas - Matthew Fortino  
Shawnee Mission Northwest - Louisa Bartlett  
Shawnee Mission South - Katie Hull  
Shawnee Mission West - Amarie Brown

*MORE*

Shawnee Mission West - Sutton Claycamp  
Smithville - Syllis Newman  
St. Teresa's Academy - Andie Bradley  
St. Teresa's Academy - Sola Owens  
St. Teresa's Academy - Sabine Federlein  
Staley - Olivia Canovi

#### **Community Impact Award**

Liberty North  
Olathe East  
Olathe South  
Olathe West  
St. James Academy

#### **Creative Contribution Award**

Blue Valley - Clara Thompson for Choreography  
Central - Macormick Carlson for Choreography  
Mill Valley - Allyson Makalous for Choreography  
Olathe East - Delainey Mock for Choreography  
Olathe East - Sara Slade and Paige Schmidtberger for Music Direction  
Olathe West - Lydia Treff for Choreography  
Park Hill South - Rozella Ranes for Choreography  
St. James Academy - Cristian Valldeperas for Direction

#### **Technical Contribution Award**

Liberty - Mary Brink for Hair and Makeup Design  
Liberty - Iris Vallier for Sound Design  
Olathe East - Rylee Carney for Scenic Design  
Olathe North - Lauren Ware for Sound Design  
Olathe West - Harper Adams for Sound Design  
Park Hill South - Maya Villanueva for Technical Direction and Costume Lead  
Raytown - Lucas McCarroll for Lighting Design  
Rockhurst - Aldric Yang for Stage Management and Sound Design

#### **Dream Production Award**

Blue Springs South - Sydney Dilks for Costume Design  
Blue Valley - Clara Thompson for Choreography  
Liberty North - Tony Monaco for Hair and Makeup Design  
Liberty North - Violet Sudholt for Choreography  
Liberty North - Elizabeth Spangler for Costume Design  
Olathe Northwest - Maggie Sykes for Choreography  
Olathe West - Ashlyn Warren for Direction  
St. James Academy - Will Book for Direction

#### **Sophomore Rising Star Scholarship**

Blue Valley North - Soren Petrikin  
Liberty - Maddy Heits  
Liberty - Lauryn Anspaugh

*MORE*

Liberty North - Kennisyn Nanninga  
North Kansas City - Esther Taylor  
Oak Park - Kennedie Holland  
Olathe North - Kennedy Pence  
Shawnee Mission Northwest - Louisa Bartlett

**Junior Rising Star Scholarship**

Central - Macormick Carlson  
Central - Lilly Carter  
Lawrence Free State - Piper Northrop  
Olathe Northwest - Maggie Sykes  
Olathe South - Tristan Jenkins  
Olathe West - Addy Davis  
Olathe West - Ashlyn Warren  
Olathe West - Lily Smith

**Senior Rising Star Scholarship**

Blue Springs South - Audrey Legg  
Blue Valley Southwest - Cameron Hargrove  
Blue Valley Southwest - Sophie Ermgodts  
Liberty - Iris Vallier  
Park Hill - Jalen Mack  
Raytown - Lucas McCarroll  
Staley - Olivia Canovi  
The Barstow School - Lauren Rothhaas

**Outstanding Scenic Design, Tier I**

Basehor-Linwood - *Anastasia The Musical*  
Blue Springs - *Into the Woods*  
Blue Springs South - *Fiddler on the Roof*  
Blue Valley North - *Chicago: Teen Edition*  
Excelsior Springs - *Mamma Mia!*  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!*  
Ruskin - *Pippin*  
Spring Hill - Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*

**Outstanding Scenic Design, Tier II**

Blue Valley - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Central - *Elf The Musical*  
Liberty North - *Anastasia The Musical*  
Olathe East - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Olathe North - *Hairspray*  
Park Hill - *Sister Act*  
Park Hill South - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Winnetonka - *9 to 5 The Musical*

**Outstanding Costume Design, Tier I**

Cameron - Disney's *Newsies*

MORE

Excelsior Springs - *Mamma Mia!*  
Harrisonville - *Mamma Mia!*  
Kearney - *Into the Woods*  
Piper - *Sister Act*  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!*  
Raytown - *Little Shop of Horrors*  
Ruskin - *Pippin*

**Outstanding Costume Design, Tier II**

Belton - Disney's *Mary Poppins*  
Blue Valley Northwest - *Mamma Mia!*  
Central - *Elf The Musical*  
Liberty - *Anything Goes*  
Liberty North - *Anastasia The Musical*  
Oak Park - *School of Rock*  
Park Hill - *Sister Act*  
Shawnee Mission Northwest - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

**Outstanding Hair & Makeup Design, Tier I**

Bishop Miege - *She Loves Me*  
Blue Springs South - *Fiddler on the Roof*  
Fort Osage - *The SpongeBob Musical*  
Leavenworth - *The Addams Family Musical: School Edition*  
Piper - *Sister Act*  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!*  
Ruskin - *Pippin*  
Truman - *Little Women*

**Outstanding Hair & Makeup Design, Tier II**

Belton - Disney's *Mary Poppins*  
Blue Valley - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Central - *Elf The Musical*  
North Kansas City - *The Music Man*  
Olathe South - *The Pirates of Penzance*  
Park Hill - *Sister Act*  
Shawnee Mission Northwest - *Chicago: Teen Edition*  
Shawnee Mission South - *Six: Teen Edition*

**Outstanding Lighting Design, Tier I**

Basehor-Linwood - *Anastasia The Musical*  
Blue Springs - *Into the Woods*  
Blue Valley North - *Chicago: Teen Edition*  
Excelsior Springs - *Mamma Mia!*  
Piper - *Sister Act*  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!*  
Raytown - *Little Shop of Horrors*  
Ruskin - *Pippin*

MORE

**Outstanding Lighting Design, Tier II**

Central - *Elf The Musical*  
Lee's Summit West - Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*  
Liberty - *Anything Goes*  
Liberty North - *Anastasia The Musical*  
Olathe East - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Olathe West - *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*  
Park Hill South - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Shawnee Mission East - *Zombie Prom*

**Outstanding Orchestra, Tier I**

Blue Springs - *Into the Woods*  
Blue Valley North - *Chicago: Teen Edition*  
Blue Valley West - *Mean Girls: High School Version*  
Fort Osage - *The SpongeBob Musical*  
Kearney - *Into the Woods*  
Lawrence - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!*  
Smithville - *Little Shop of Horrors*

**Outstanding Orchestra, Tier II**

Blue Valley - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Blue Valley Northwest - *Mamma Mia!*  
North Kansas City - *The Music Man*  
Olathe East - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Olathe South - *The Pirates of Penzance*  
Park Hill South - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*  
Raymore-Peculiar - *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*  
Shawnee Mission Northwest - *Chicago: Teen Edition*

**Outstanding Technical Crew - Tier I**

Basehor-Linwood - *Anastasia The Musical* - Lighting Crew  
Blue Valley North - *Chicago: Teen Edition* - Lighting Crew  
Blue Valley West - *Mean Girls: High School Version* - Costume Crew  
Excelsior Springs - *Mamma Mia!* - Lighting Crew  
Excelsior Springs - *Mamma Mia!* - Set Crew  
Harrisonville - *Mamma Mia!* - Costume Crew  
Harrisonville - *Mamma Mia!* - Sound Crew  
Piper - *Sister Act* - Lighting Crew

**Outstanding Technical Crew - Tier II**

Belton - Disney's *Mary Poppins* - Costume Crew  
Blue Valley - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Sound Crew  
Liberty - *Anything Goes* - Lighting Crew  
Olathe Northwest - Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* - Costume Crew  
Olathe Northwest - Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* - Hair & Makeup Crew  
Olathe South - *The Pirates of Penzance* - Costume Crew  
Park Hill South - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Lighting Crew

MORE

Shawnee Mission South - *Six: Teen Edition* - Lighting Crew

**Outstanding Ensemble – Tier I**

Basehor-Linwood - *Anastasia The Musical*

Blue Springs South - *Fiddler on the Roof*

Harrisonville - *Mamma Mia!*

Lee's Summit - *May We All*

Piper - *Sister Act*

Platte County - *Mamma Mia!*

Ruskin - *Pippin*

Smithville - *Little Shop of Horrors*

**Outstanding Ensemble – Tier II**

Blue Valley - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*

Blue Valley Northwest - *Mamma Mia!*

Blue Valley Southwest - *The Wedding Singer*

Liberty - *Anything Goes*

North Kansas City - *The Music Man*

Olathe East - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*

Park Hill - *Sister Act*

Raymore-Peculiar - *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

**Outstanding Performer in a Featured Role, Tier I**

Bishop Miege - *She Loves Me* - Isaac Frenzel as Arpad Laszlo

Blue Springs South - *Fiddler on the Roof* - Kody Paris as Lead Russian

Blue Valley West - *Mean Girls: High School Version* - Katie Coughlin as Ms. Norbury

Blue Valley West - *Mean Girls: High School Version* - Noah Ledom as Glen C.

Mill Valley - *Footloose* - Izzy Simms as Ensemble

Ruskin - *Pippin* - Syerra Funderburke as Berthe

Saint Thomas Aquinas - *Footloose* - Harper Wright as Principal Clark/Featured Dancer

Summit Christian Academy - *The Music Man* - Abby Gleason as Zaneeta Shinn

**Outstanding Performer in a Featured Role, Tier II**

Central - *Elf The Musical* - Anthony Frump-Halloran as Charlie/Manager

De Soto - Disney's *Mary Poppins* - Savannah Hendy as Miss Andrew

Lee's Summit West - Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* - Brody Smith as LeFou

Lee's Summit West - Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* - Lauren Knight as Madame de la Grande Bouche

Olathe West - *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* - Santana Romero as Judah

Park Hill - *Sister Act* - Angela Villamayor as Sister Mary Lazarus

Park Hill - *Sister Act* - Clair Pearson as Sister Mary Patrick

Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts - Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* - Isis Raspberry as Beggar/Enchantress

**Outstanding Performer in a Supporting Role - Tier I**

Blue Springs South - *Fiddler on the Roof* - Sydney Dilks as Hodel

Blue Valley North - *Chicago: Teen Edition* - Drew Squire as Amos Hart

Lawrence - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Giulia Ventello as Fate 1

MORE



Lawrence Free State - *Footloose* - Liv Brack as Rusty  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!* - Charlotte Sweet as Rosie Mulligan  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!* - Finley Pennington as Sam Carmichael  
Smithville - *Little Shop of Horrors* - Dom Santulli as Mr. Mushnik  
Truman - *Little Women* - Ivy Brillhart as Marmee

#### **Outstanding Performer in a Supporting Role - Tier II**

Blue Valley - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Sarah Tonkin as Persephone  
Blue Valley Southwest - *The Wedding Singer* - Emily Chipak as Rosie  
North Kansas City - *The Music Man* - Zion Edwin as Winthrop Paroo  
Olathe East - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Devin Cunagin as Hermes  
Olathe Northwest - *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* - Max Elmore as Lumiere  
Park Hill - *Sister Act* - Jalen Mack as Eddie Souther  
Park Hill - *Sister Act* - Rylee Bornheimer as Mother Superior  
Pembroke Hill - *Something Rotten!* - Gabe Calvert as Nostradamus

#### **Outstanding Performer in a Lead Role, Tier I**

Basehor-Linwood - *Anastasia The Musical* - Colton Longstaff as Dmitry  
Bishop Miege - *She Loves Me* - Tess Sollars as Amalia Balash  
Blue Valley North - *Chicago: Teen Edition* - Cam Moore as Roxie Hart  
Fort Osage - *The SpongeBob Musical* - Supha Yates as SpongeBob SquarePants  
Lawrence - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Adelle Spiess as Eurydice  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!* - Kaitlyn Seim as Donna Sheridan  
Ruskin - *Pippin* - Desmond Walker III as Pippin  
Smithville - *Little Shop of Horrors* - Sylis Newman as Seymour

#### **Outstanding Performer in a Lead Role, Tier II**

Blue Valley - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Jenna Hass as Eurydice  
Blue Valley Southwest - *The Wedding Singer* - Cameron Hargrove as Robbie Hart  
Central - *Elf The Musical* - Macormick Carlson as Buddy  
Liberty North - *Anastasia The Musical* - Ava Powers as Anya/Anastasia  
Liberty North - *Anastasia The Musical* - Caden Barner as Dmitry  
Olathe East - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Caroline Kelley as Eurydice  
Park Hill - *Sister Act* - Chamberlain Webster as Deloris Van Cartier  
Park Hill South - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* - Megan Sheehan as Orpheus

#### **Jimmy Awards**

Blue Springs South - *Fiddler on the Roof* - Sydney Dilks as Hodel  
Blue Valley Northwest - *Mamma Mia!* - Hadley Wilson as Donna Sheridan  
Lee's Summit North - *Legally Blonde The Musical* - Rowan Sopher as Paulette  
Lee's Summit West - *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* - Keaton Bradford as Beast  
Liberty North - *Anastasia The Musical* - Caden Barner as Dmitry  
Olathe Northwest - *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* - Jac Davies as Beast

#### **Outstanding Overall Production, Tier I**

Basehor-Linwood - *Anastasia The Musical*  
Harrisonville - *Mamma Mia!*  
Platte County - *Mamma Mia!*

MORE



Ruskin - *Pippin*

**Outstanding Overall Production, Tier II**

Blue Valley - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*

Central - *Elf The Musical*

Park Hill - *Sister Act*

Park Hill South - *Hadestown: Teen Edition*

**About Starlight**

Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and connects our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages. Offering diverse programming year-round, Starlight presents Broadway musicals, concert events, and extensive community engagement programming, including classes, scholarships, and one of the largest high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, the historic, city-owned venue is the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country with almost 8,000 seats.

Follow Starlight on social media @kcstarlight and visit [kcstarlight.com](http://kcstarlight.com) for more information.

Starlight is supported in part by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

###