

8TH ANNUAL



SEASIDE
MUSIC THEATER

BLAZING STAR AWARDS

RULES & GUIDELINES

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

GARY CADWALLADER
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
386/226-1934
386/226-1939 (FAX)

GARY.CADWALLADER@SEASIDEMUSICTHEATER.ORG

SEASIDE MUSIC THEATER
221 N. BEACH ST.
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119

WHAT ARE THE SEASIDE MUSIC THEATER BLAZING STAR AWARDS?	p. 1
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE & WHAT IS REQUIRED?.....	p. 2
BLAZING STAR AWARDS Guidelines and Disclaimers.....	p. 2
ROUNDS OF COMPETITION	p. 3
PRODUCTION ROUND.....	p. 4
NOMINATION ROUND.....	p. 4
CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE NOMINEES IN THE CATEGORY OF OUTSTANDING OVERALL PRODUCTION.....	p. 5
APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINE.....	p. 6
EVALUATION PROCESS	p. 7
CASTING	p. 8
TICKETING & EVALUATOR ATTENDANCE	p. 9
EXCLUSIONS	p. 10
NOMINATIONS	p. 11
EVALUATOR FEEDBACK	p. 11
MANDATORY SUPPORT MATERIAL GUIDELINES.....	p. 12
Special Awards.....	p. 14
AWARDS CEREMONY & TICKETING.....	p. 14
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	p. 15
PROGRAM LISTINGS & CREDITS	p. 15
AWARD CATEGORIES.....	p. 15

FORMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.seasidemusictheater.ORG

- 2008 BLAZING STAR AWARDS APPLICATION FORM
- 2008 SUPPORT MATERIAL PACKING SLIP
- 2008 FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

- ✓ Plan to produce a legally licensed musical between 8/1/08 and 4/26/09.
- ✓ Only school sanctioned productions may be entered.
- ✓ Application must be authorized and submitted by the faculty or school administration.
- ✓ Submit a complete application at least 90 days prior to the first public performance.
- ✓ Include application fee of \$65 (*see page 6 for more information of fee*).
- ✓ Confirmation that your application has been accepted will be within seven (7) business days of applying.
- ✓ Hold up to 8 tickets on reserve for Evaluators attending your show.
- ✓ Send Seaside Music Theater a program/playbill as soon as possible following the close of your show.

WHAT ARE THE Seaside Music Theater Blazing STAR AWARDS?

Modeled after Broadway's Tony Awards, the *Seaside Music Theater Blazing Star Awards* were created in 2000 to encourage and reward exceptional accomplishments in the production of high school musical theater in Volusia and Flagler Counties. The Blazing Star Awards are the first high school recognition awards program of its kind in Florida and is now expanding to six additional counties.

Recognition of outstanding achievement by students and educators will be made in the areas of performance, direction, choreography, technical production and overall production excellence (*see award categories on p. 15*). The Blazing Star Award Evaluators are comprised of working theatre professionals, performing artists and designers, as well as theatre arts educators and see high school musicals from August to April. Evaluators make suggested nominations in fourteen various performance and production categories. Four evaluators will attend each school's production. **Final Nominations** will be announced at the end of April, 2009. Approximately the second week of May, 2009, the Tony Awards-style **8th Annual Blazing Star Awards** gala ceremony will be presented on the News-Journal Center stage, with special guest presenters and performances by nominees in the Best Overall Production category.

The Seaside Music Theater BLAZING STAR AWARDS program is comprised of two rounds of competition. *The Production Round* runs from August to April when Evaluators attend school musicals and make recommendations of performances or production elements which they feel should move into the second round of competition, the Nomination Round. *The Nomination Round* begins after all shows have been initially adjudicated. The Nomination Committee, made up primarily of Seaside Music Theater staff, considers the recommendations made by the Evaluators and analyzes the support materials submitted by participants to determine the slate of Final Nominees. All participating schools receive feedback from the Evaluators including their comments, scores and nomination recommendations, if any were made. (*See page 4 for details on the Nomination Round*).

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE AND WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Any Volusia, Flagler, Lake, St. Johns, Putnam, Seminole, Lake, and Brevard County public, private, parochial or charter school may enter by submitting a [Completed Application](#) signed by the adult director or school administrator (no student or parent submissions will be accepted) by the deadline of at least 90 days prior to the first public performance. To participate, the school's performances must take place between **August 1, 2008 and Sunday, April 26, 2009.**

Productions entered must fall into one of the following categories and must be billed accordingly in the program:

- a published musical, operetta or revue that is presented with the approval or permission of the original creators or their representatives (*either currently held by a licensing house or having entered public domain*).
- an original piece which features an original script, music and/or lyrics and which is covered under a valid copyright that is presented with the approval or permission of the original creators or their representatives.
- an original compilation of material from other sources that is presented with the approval or permission of all of the original creators or their representatives.

Also, each entered school must pay an application fee of \$65 no later than 90 days prior to the first public performance of the musical, provide accurate driving directions to the performance, and provide up to eight (8) complimentary tickets throughout the run of the show for attending evaluators.

Blazing Star Award Guidelines and Disclaimers

- Any school employing Seaside Music Theater to direct their school musical will be ineligible for nominations in all categories, except the five main acting awards. (*see page 10*)
- Rented materials are acceptable to the Blazing Star Awards Nomination Committee (unless rented from Seaside Music Theater). (*see page 10 for more details*)
- Student-led work is eligible for nomination in any Blazing Star Award category, including direction, choreography and all design categories.
- The percentage of student musicians required to be designated a "primarily student orchestra" is 75%. Therefore, an eligible orchestra must be comprised of at least three quarters students and no more than 25% hired professionals or non-student players. Student musicians must be currently enrolled in a high school. School alumni or college age musicians are not considered student musicians for the purposes of determining eligibility in the Outstanding Orchestra Category.
- In past seasons there were no requests for the submission of support materials. It is now a **mandatory** requirement to be considered for a nomination in any category by the

Nomination Committee. Only items listed in the Support Material Guidelines (*see page 12*) will be accepted by the Seaside Music Theater Education Department in support of a school's production. **Please refer to the mandatory support material guidelines on pages 12 and 13 of this booklet. Mandatory support material includes a DVD of the show as well as pictures in CD-R or printed formats.**

- Schools will receive copies of the original Evaluator Performance Response Forms which will include comments, scores and recommendations for nominations if any are made. A blank advance reference copy of this form, which details the criteria Evaluators use when adjudicating productions, is emailed to schools at the beginning of each season.
- If double casting (with as little as one role being shared by two students), a school must select a designated cast to represent the school in the Blazing Star Awards. Each school may enter one cast only. (*see Casting, p. 8*)
- When a school chooses to cast adult performers (*defined for Blazing Star purposes as someone who has graduated from high school, or home-schooled individuals age 18 and over*) in their production, they are doing so with the understanding that they may be disqualified from nomination consideration in the categories affected by that casting, up to and including the Outstanding Overall Production category. (*See page 8 of this booklet for more information*)
- All schools must send Seaside Music Theater a copy of their program/playbill as soon as possible after closing their show. The Seaside Music Theater Education office needs the program before we can send out Evaluator feedback forms, so it is important to send one promptly.

ROUNDS OF COMPETITION

The Seaside Music Theater Blazing Star Awards is comprised of two rounds of competition. ***The Production Round*** runs from August to April and consists of Evaluators attending school productions and making recommendations of performances or production elements which they feel should move into the second round of the competition, the Nomination Round. ***The Nomination Round*** begins after all shows have been initially adjudicated. The Nomination Committee, made up of Seaside Music Theater Staff and select Blazing Star Evaluators, considers the recommendations made by the Evaluators and analyzes the support material submitted by participants to determine the slate of Final Nominees.

PRODUCTION ROUND

Evaluators attend productions between August 1, 2008 and Sunday, April 26, 2009 and submit recommendations for nominations based on the performances and production elements they see.

Criteria and Tools used in the PRODUCTION ROUND

- *Evaluator assessment of the performance attended*
- *Information on the production contained in the [Blazing Star Application](#) received from each school*
- *Production and Performance Standards of Excellence that provide Evaluators with evaluation criteria and benchmarks in each award category*

NOMINATION ROUND

At the conclusion of the Production Round, the Nomination Committee, made up primarily of Seaside Music Theater staff, convenes for a one week period during which time each category's Evaluator recommendations are independently reviewed. The Nomination Committee considers all eligible candidates with a fresh perspective and thoroughly reviews the Evaluator feedback, scoring and mandatory support material. At the conclusion of the one-week Nomination Round, a slate of Final Nominations will be announced. The list will be emailed to each school and announced on the Seaside Music Theater website on May 1, 2009.

Criteria and Tools used in the NOMINATION ROUND

- *Mandatory Support Material submitted by the school*
- *Scores assigned to the Evaluators' recommendations*
- *Number of recommendations received (need at least a majority consensus of Evaluator Panel)*
- *Narratives submitted by the Evaluators regarding those recommendations*
- *Experience and accumulated musical theatre knowledge of the Nomination Committee, which will acknowledge the disparity of production requirements between shows and recognize the level of difficulty in mounting certain works.*

PLEASE NOTE: EVALUATOR RECOMMENDATIONS DO NOT GUARANTEE A FINAL NOMINATION.

The Nomination Committee brings a variety of factors into consideration in reaching their decisions. In some cases, this may lead to the committee overriding the recommendations of the Evaluators, but this will only be done when deemed necessary. *All decisions of the Nomination Committee are final.*

CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE “OUTSTANDING OVERALL PRODUCTION” NOMINEES

Evaluators will score the category of “Outstanding Overall Production,” but their recommendation is just one of several factors used to determine the category. **Final Nominees for “Outstanding Overall Production” are determined by the Nomination Committee using the following indicators:**

- *The scores assigned by the Evaluators in the category of Outstanding Overall Production*
- *The Production Scores which are assigned by Evaluators based on the 13 general questions answered for all productions*
- *A thorough review of the mandatory support material submitted by the school*
- *The cumulative number of nominations received in other Blazing Star categories*
- *Narratives submitted by the Evaluators in the category of Outstanding Overall Production*
- *Experience and accumulated musical theatre knowledge of the Nomination Committee, which will acknowledge the disparity of production requirements between shows and recognize the level of difficulty in mounting certain works*

Among the eligible candidates, the Nomination Committee will be assessing the following achievements:

- *Continuity and appropriateness in all production elements according to the demands and specifications of the script*
- *Outstanding execution of production elements and performances*
- *Balance between the physical production and the performances*
- *Demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment from the cast*

APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINE

Schools wishing to participate in the 2009 Seaside Music Theater Blazing Star Awards must complete an application and produce a licensed musical between the dates of **August 1, 2008 and Sunday, April 26, 2009.** The [Blazing Star Application](#) can be found at www.seasidemusictheater.org, click on Education, and click on Blazing Star Awards. The application should be printed, all requested information filled in, and either faxed (386/226-1939) or mailed to Seaside Music Theater (221 N. Beach St., Daytona Beach, FL 32114). All applications MUST be received at Seaside Music Theater no later than 5:00 p.m., 90 days prior to the first public performance. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

All completed applications must be received at Seaside Music Theater at least 90 days prior to the first public performance of your school's production.

If schools do not receive an email receipt confirmation within 7 days of mailing or faxing their application they should assume there was trouble transmitting the attachment and should call our office immediately at (386) 226-1934. Do not assume that we have received any documents that we have not specifically confirmed. Finally, all applicants must mail to Seaside Music Theater the printed, signed hardcopy along with the application fee. The mailed hardcopy of the Application must arrive in our office within seven days of the faxed submission.

PLEASE NOTE: If your school's agreement with a licensing house is still pending you may enter "To Be Announced" for the *Name of Musical* and *Dates and Times of Performances*. All other questions must be completed.

The mailed hardcopy of the application must include the following two items:

- ✓ • A \$65 application fee per school.

The application fee helps defray the cost of travel expenses for Evaluators and other administrative costs. Checks or money orders should be made payable to ***Seaside Music Theater***. **School Purchase Order Forms will be accepted as an indication of payment but must be received by Seaside Music Theater within seven (7) business days of receipt of the Application.**

AND

- ✓ • **Be sure to complete the page in the application that requires schools to provide accurate, typewritten driving directions** and/or a map to the school or performance location, including **walking directions** from parking lots to the auditorium/venue. Driving directions should include landmarks and rush-hour traffic and parking advisements and should originate from a major highway (*i.e. I-4, I-95, SR 407, SR 434, 17-92, etc.*), and ***NOT ORIGINATE FROM Seaside Music Theater.*** Evaluators travel to your school from throughout Central and North Florida. All schools **must** submit this information. Do not assume that we have this information on file or that we know where your school is located. Applications missing this information may not be considered.

<p>Two ways to enter your school in the Blazing Star Awards process:</p>	<p><u>Fax a signed hardcopy of the application</u> found at www.seasidemusictheater.org to the Seaside Music Theater Department of Education 386/226-1939</p>	<p><u>Mail the signed hardcopy of the application with application fee</u> to: Department of Education Seaside Music Theater 221 N. Beach St. Daytona Beach, FL 32114</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

EVALUATION PROCESS

Seaside Music Theater will send four (4) Evaluators to see the productions at each entered school between August 1, 2008 and Sunday, April 26, 2009. The Evaluators will submit a written response form on each production and, if warranted, will make recommendations for nominations in specific categories. *A list of categories appears on page 15 of this booklet.* Our evaluators are comprised of theatre educators as well as representatives from Florida professional and community theatres, presenting halls and arts education organizations. Evaluators hold degrees in music, theatre, dance or a related area; have extensive work experience in one of those disciplines on a professional or academic basis; are professional artists or educators with wide knowledge of American Musical Theatre. They have an understanding of and/or experience in mounting high school musicals and are avid theatergoers. Evaluator performance and compliance is closely monitored by the Seaside Music Theater Education Department, and the effectiveness of their responses is assessed each year. Evaluators who do not meet Blazing Star criteria are not invited to return.

Evaluators use a *Performance Response Form* to assess your production. They are asked to recommend elements of the production for nominations meeting specific criteria for excellence in each performance and production category. Evaluators will provide comments on the high points of a production as well as identify areas for improvement. A blank copy of the 2009 Performance Evaluation Form with the recommendation criteria will be sent to you prior to your production, and photocopies of the completed evaluations will be sent to each school after they have been processed by the Education Department.

The Seaside Music Theater BLAZING STAR AWARDS are comprised of two rounds of competition. *The Production Round* runs from August to April and consists of Evaluators attending school productions and making recommendations on performances or production elements which they feel should move into the second round of the competition, the Nomination Round. *The Nomination Round* begins after all shows have been initially adjudicated.

To be considered for a nomination during the Nomination Round, a school must receive recommendations from a majority of the Evaluators in attendance in a given category during the Production Round. Those schools/performers with a majority consensus of assigned

Evaluators will be considered for the Final Nomination slate after a thorough review of Evaluator comments, category scores and the mandatory support material submitted by the schools themselves.

Once the Final Nominations are determined by the Nomination Committee, the full Evaluator panel convenes to discuss the Nominees and to anonymously vote for award recipients.

The Rules and Guidelines related to the Evaluation process are as follows:

CASTING

- ☆ Schools that double or triple cast their show, must choose one cast, their *“Designated Cast,”* to be entered in the Blazing Star Awards and provide us with the Designated Cast’s performance date(s). For scheduling purposes, the Designated Cast must perform in at least two public performances. This would enable more flexibility for Evaluators.
- ☆ **Each school must determine who will perform in their “Designated Cast” and it is not Seaside Music Theater’s intention to imply that principle roles should be played by upperclassmen.** Whichever cast the director determines best represents the efforts of that school should be selected as the Designated Cast. Once submitted, a school may not change the dates of their Designated Cast performances. The selection of a Designated Cast ensures that all nominees have equal representation at the end-of-season Final Evaluators Meeting, when Evaluators vote for the recipients in each category.
- ☆ If a school chooses to cast adult performers (*defined for Blazing Star purposes as someone who has graduated from high school, or home-schooled individuals age 18 and over*) in their production, they are doing so with the understanding that they may be disqualified from nomination consideration in the categories affected by that casting, up to and including the Outstanding Overall Production category. In most situations a high school’s chosen cast is comprised entirely from students enrolled at that high school or in the case of some children’s roles, from the lower grades of that school district. In some cases, such as with single gender parochial or private schools, a high school will invite students from other schools to join the cast. Students who are home-schooled often participate in Blazing Stars in this way. In very limited cases, a high school will cast an adult, perhaps an alumnus of the school or a faculty member, for reasons as varied as low audition turnout or school tradition.

[EXAMPLES: Invited non-student performances that may occur are: Officer Krupke and Lt. Schrank in WEST SIDE STORY and Miss Hannigan in ANNIE. In these cases, for example, the adult actors appearing in WEST SIDE STORY would be disqualified in the “Outstanding Featured Ensemble” category (*but other STUDENT featured performers in the same productions WOULD be eligible in that category*). However, the school producing ANNIE and using an adult to portray Miss Hannigan would be disqualified from the “Outstanding Supporting Actress” category (*again, all other*

STUDENT supporting actresses in the same production WOULD be eligible in that category), and the entire production would be disqualified from the “Outstanding Overall Production” category since Miss Hannigan is a principle role and the quality of that portrayal contributes to the overall effectiveness of the production. The Seaside Music Theater Education Department will make disqualification determinations on a case by case basis as they arise, and all decisions of the Seaside Music Theater Education Department will be final.]

TICKETING & EVALUATOR ATTENDANCE

- ☆ Each production will be attended by four (4) Evaluators representing Seaside Music Theater. The Seaside Music Theater Education Department requests a maximum of eight (8) complimentary tickets (2 per Evaluator) to entered productions. If a guest cancels and will not accompany the Evaluator to the production, that Evaluator will inform the box office that one seat may be released upon picking up his/her reserved ticket. Tickets shall not be unreasonably requested by Seaside Music Theater or unreasonably denied by participating schools. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, an Evaluator fails to attend an assigned performance, the Seaside Music Theater Education Department will attempt to re-assign that Evaluator to another of the school’s performances, if any remain. If no performances remain the Education Department will double the highest score and all pre-nominations received by that school from the remaining three Evaluators assigned to that production. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, more than two or more Evaluators fail to attend an assigned performance, rendering a fair assessment of the production impossible, the school will regrettably be withdrawn from the competition and the application fee will be refunded in full.
- ☆ The Seaside Music Theater Education Department **strongly** recommends that teachers allow the Evaluators to attend performances anonymously so that they can fairly evaluate the production without lobbying from cast members’ families and friends. Eight (8) tickets to each performance should be held by the school until they receive specific reservation instructions at least one week prior to each participating school’s performance dates, or sooner if scheduling permits. Tickets may be reserved under a name other than Seaside Music Theater and will be known only to the school’s ticket coordinator, Evaluators and Seaside Music Theater Education staff. Evaluators will pick up the reserved tickets immediately prior to their assigned performance. **Please do not mail tickets to Seaside Music Theater.**
- ☆ Evaluators will be sent to regular public performances and only assigned to rehearsals or student matinees if no other scheduling option exists.
- ☆ The Seaside Music Theater Education Department makes every effort to send a full complement of Evaluators to each school. **Schools that believe that Evaluators have not picked up tickets or attended performances should leave a message for Gary Cadwallader, Director of Education at 386/226-1934 as soon as possible so that subsequent**

arrangements may be made. The voice mail on this number will be regularly checked on weekends during the period of the Blazing Star productions. Similarly, Evaluators are instructed to contact Seaside Music Theater in case they cannot make a particular performance so that replacement Evaluators may be sent. On weekends and at other times, it may not be possible to reach the schools and make actual reservations for these replacement Evaluators. In this case, the Evaluator will purchase tickets at the door and the Education Department will refund the price of the ticket to the Evaluator.

- ☆ Every attempt will be made to re-schedule Evaluators in the event of inclement weather or cancelled performances.
- ☆ As individual Evaluator assignments are made, every attempt will be made to ensure non-partiality on the part of the Evaluators. Evaluators having a relationship, either professional or personal, with individuals at a particular school will not be assigned to evaluate that school's production. Seaside Music Theater also makes every effort to send Evaluators skilled in various areas of theatre production to each school (i.e. a director, a designer, a choreographer, etc.) and to rotate the pool so that the same Evaluators do not attend shows at the same school in consecutive years (*unless an Evaluator is stepping in as an emergency substitute at the last minute*).
- ☆ We recommend that teachers not tell their students when the Evaluators are coming so that the Evaluators will see a typical performance as an average member of the audience. Roping off or placing reserved signs on seats that read "Seaside Music Theater" is strongly discouraged.

EXCLUSIONS

- ☆ High Schools participating in other Seaside Music Theater Education Department programs are eligible to participate in the Blazing Star Awards. However, these schools are not eligible for nomination in a category where a specific Seaside Music Theater residency, workshop, or activity lends assistance or provides guidance in the area of that category. For example – a school receiving choreography from a resident Seaside Music Theater choreographer would not be eligible for nomination in the category of Outstanding Achievement in Choreography. High schools hiring Seaside Music Theater professionals to direct their productions are not eligible for any categories, except the five main acting categories: Outstanding Performance by an Actor/Actress, Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actor/Actress, and Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Performer.
- ☆ Schools participating in the Blazing Star Awards who rent costumes or set pieces from Seaside Music Theater will not be eligible in the categories of Outstanding Costume or Scenic Achievement, if rental items constitute more than 50 percent of their production's design elements.
- ☆ Only schools using orchestras that are comprised of a minimum of 75% student musicians will be eligible in the category of Outstanding Achievement by an Orchestra, with no more

than 25% hired professionals or non–student players. Student musicians must be currently enrolled in a high school. School alumni or college age musicians are not considered student musicians for the purposes of determining eligibility in the Outstanding Achievement by an Orchestra Category. Determination of eligibility in this category will be based on information provided in the school’s application form and program listings, and will be at the discretion of the Seaside Music Theater Education Department.

- ☆ If a school chooses to cast adult performers (*defined for Blazing Star purposes as someone who has graduated from high school, or home-schooled individuals age 18 and over*) in their production, they are doing so with the understanding that they may be disqualified from nomination consideration in the categories affected by that casting, up to and including the Outstanding Overall Production category. (*See page 7 for details on casting*)
- ☆ Design and/or creation of props created for a school’s production are taken into consideration as an achievement in either the scenic or costume category, accordingly, at the discretion of the Nominating Committee.

NOMINATIONS

- ☆ Please refer to page 4 of this booklet for details on the criteria and tools used by Evaluators during the Nomination Round.
- ☆ Please refer to page 5 of this booklet for details on the criteria used by the Nomination Committee to determine the category of Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical.
- ☆ Final Nominations will be posted on the Seaside Music Theater website in late April, 2009.

EVALUATOR FEEDBACK

- ☆ Seaside Music Theater strives to mail Evaluator comments and recommendations as soon as possible following your show. Reports are mailed on a rolling basis. Please note some factors when considering the timeliness of your school’s report:
 - Evaluators have ten days to submit their Performance Response Forms following a show.
 - Comments cannot be sent until all Evaluators in attendance have submitted their reports.
 - A majority of schools participating hold their musical in November and March. Because of the sheer volume of schools producing during those months, schools producing in November and March should expect a delay of at least one month in receiving their Evaluator Performance Response Forms.

SUPPORT MATERIAL GUIDELINES

Other than presenting their musical, a school's primary responsibility when participating in the Blazing Star Awards is to assemble and submit the required support material by the stated deadline of **Monday, April 27, 2009 at 5:00 pm.** The importance of this cannot be understated! It is suggested that all participants have a plan to provide Seaside Music Theater with adequate support material. The most successful productions will often assign a team or "crew" whose job it is to document the rehearsal process and performances for the purposes of presenting their show to the Nomination Committee of the Blazing Star Awards. All schools **must submit** support material to be considered for a Final Nomination in any category. This material is used to augment and support Evaluator comments and observations and to demonstrate the quality and character of your production throughout the nominating and voting process. Schools that fail to submit support materials are in effect **withdrawing themselves** from the competition prematurely and, despite any recommendations they or their students may have received by Evaluators will not be given further consideration by the Nomination Committee.

ACCEPTABLE SUPPORT MATERIAL INCLUDES:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ☆ production photos (<i>digital CD preferred</i>) <u>(MANDATORY)</u> | ☆ video footage in DVD format preferably <u>segmented or chaptered (MANDATORY)</u> |
| ☆ production drawings (<i>scenery, costumes</i>) | ☆ programs/playbills |
| ☆ audio CD | |

**** IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SUBMISSION OF VIDEO** – *Seaside Music Theater will only accept footage that has been sanctioned by the licensing/publishing house holding the copyright for your production. Although most contracts forbid taping of productions, special permission may be granted to create a single disc for archival purposes or for the express purpose of participating in a high school musical competition. Please consult your licensing agent to obtain permission. We will accept the following:*

- 1) *full-performance footage that has been approved by your licensing house*
- 2) *footage of a rehearsal (preferably a final dress rehearsal)*
- 3) *edited highlights footage of select production numbers or scenes*

**** IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DVD/CD-ROM FORMATING** – DVD/CD-ROMs submitted should be segmented into files or chapters by production number and each

and must be compatible with the Microsoft Windows Operating System and Windows Media Player. Seaside Music Theater will only accept:

- 1) *DVD/CD-ROM content files must have one of the following extensions: .avi, .mpg, .m1v, .mp2, .mp2v, .mpeg, .mpe, .mpv2, .wmv, OR .asf,*
- 2) *Each file's name should describe its content (example of a production of "Camelot" at John F. Kennedy High School: KHS Carousel opening.mpeg)*

Please keep the following in mind when deciding what support material to send to Seaside Music Theater:

- Enclose the ***support material packing slip*** with your items to ensure their safe return. This form may be downloaded from www.seasidemusictheater.org
- ***Each item*** submitted must be labeled with the school's name and the name of the show.
- Since support material is returned following the May awards ceremony, please include a summer shipping address if it is different from your school address.
- Photos submitted in an album or binder should be removable and not permanently glued to a page or other surface.
- Schools anticipating a nomination in a technical category should send photos that highlight individual technical elements (i.e. sets, costumes, lights) without performers standing in front of them, as well as sending photos of an actual performance that demonstrates the technical element as it was used in the show.
- Schools anticipating a nomination in the category of Outstanding Achievement by an Orchestra should send an audio sample of the show's overture, entr'acte, incidental music or a segment of a production or dance number that does not feature solo or choral singing and does not include spoken dialogue. Multiple excerpts are permitted, but the total time of all excerpts combined may not exceed two minutes in length

**Support material must be received in the
Seaside Music Theater Education office
by
Monday, APRIL 27, 2009 at 5:00 PM**

SPECIAL AWARDS

In addition to the Blazing Star Awards performance and production categories, special awards are being determined and may be included. Visit www.seasidemusictheater.org for the latest information. **SPECIAL AWARDS MAY BE GIVEN AT THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGES FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN AREAS THAT DO NOT FALL INTO ANY OF THE EXISTING CATEGORIES.**

AWARDS CEREMONY AND TICKETING

The Awards Ceremony, modeled on the Tony Awards format, will be held at Seaside Music Theater's home, The News-Journal Center, in early May, 2009. The ceremony will feature performances by schools nominated in the Outstanding Overall Production Category. Schools invited to perform will be asked to present one (1) musical number from their production. Final selection of the number will be made by the Seaside Music Theater Education Department. Other performances may be requested and the school will be notified at least 30 days prior to the ceremony. Tickets for the awards ceremony will be sold through the News-Journal center box office. Complimentary tickets will be given to each student performing in the ceremony, as well as their accompanist. Ticketing is limited (850 seats). Individuals recognized with an award will be invited on stage and permitted to make an acceptance speech not exceeding two minutes in length. Transportation to and from Seaside Music Theater for the Awards Ceremony will be the responsibility of each individual school.

Schools asked to perform at the ceremony should not bring their own scenic or lighting elements. However, costumes and hand props that can be transported to Seaside Music Theater by the students will be permitted. Production numbers shall be performed with piano accompaniment only, and the school must provide the accompanist. Taped accompaniment is acceptable.

Individuals nominated in the categories of Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role and Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role may be asked to perform in a medley arranged by Seaside Music Theater at the Awards Ceremony. Rehearsal time will be required and will be scheduled on the day of the Awards Ceremony.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Blazing STAR AWARDS PROGRAM LISTINGS

The Seaside Music Theater Education Department is dependent upon your school's playbill/program for accurate information regarding the students and faculty involved. Please list information as clearly as possible; include the full name and credits for each of the following production positions:

- Director(s)
- Choreographer(s)
- Scenic Designer(s)
- Musical Director(s) (instrumental & vocal)
- Lighting Designer(s)
- Costume Designer(s)
- Hair & Makeup Designer(s)

Please indicate clearly with an asterisk (*) or other symbol, any production elements designed by a STUDENT or team of students.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical

★

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role

★

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role

★

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role

★

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role

★

Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Member

★

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group

★

Outstanding Performance by an Orchestra

(must be 75% students – see page 11 of this booklet)

★

Outstanding Achievement in Musical Direction

★

Outstanding Achievement in Choreography

★

Outstanding Scenic Achievement

★

Outstanding Lighting Achievement

★

Outstanding Costuming Achievement

★

Outstanding Hair & Make-up Achievement

***ALL DECISIONS OF THE SEASIDE MUSIC THEATER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
AND BLAZING STAR EVALUATORS ARE FINAL.***