

SAN JOSE STAGE COMPANY

...The Bay Area's Award-Winning Off-Broadway Theatre...

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Envelope Please:

San Jose Stage Announces *Top Honor Awards* to Local High School Students

Two Top Honor Award Winners Go to New York for the 2010 National High School Musical Theatre Awards

San Jose, CA --- June 8, 2010 - San Jose Stage Company and Broadway San Jose are pleased to announce the winners of the National High School Musical Theatre Awards. Two Bay Area students, Matt Hill and Katherine Dela Cruz, were also chosen for Outstanding Performance by an Actor and Actress in a Musical to participate in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards 2010 JIMMY Awards and compete for a four-year academic scholarship to New York University.

Local high school students learned on Monday, June 7 at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose, at a gala ceremony worthy of red carpet pomp and circumstance, that they were winners in various categories in the Top Honor Awards. From Best Actress and Actor, Costume or Hair and Make Up Design, to Lighting and Scenery, and Orchestra and Chorus, the winners and their fan clubs celebrated.

"It is so exciting to witness the growth and accomplishments of the students, designers and directors in the Top Honors program," said Spencer Williams, Director of Education for the San Jose Stage Company. "The musical theatre talent in the Bay Area is astounding and it was fantastic to have all of that talent be recognized for one night in the California Theatre. I can't wait to see what the schools produce next year!"

And the winners are:

BEST OVERALL PRODUCTION:

- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels – Archbishop Mitty High School

BEST LEADING ACTOR:

- Matt Hill (Freddy Benson) - Dirty Rotten Scoundrels – Archbishop Mitty High School

BEST LEADING ACTRESS:

- Katherine Dela Cruz (Aida) – Aida – Irvington High School

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

- James Seifert (Marius) – Les Misérables – The Harker School

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

- Sarah Bernosky (Muriel Eubanks) - Dirty Rotten Scoundrels – Archbishop Mitty High School

BEST FEATURED PERFORMER:

- John Ammatuna (Enjolras) - Les Misérables – The Harker School

CHORUS:

- 42nd Street – San Mateo High School

ORCHESTRA:

- Dave Gregoric - Singing in the Rain – Valley Christian High School

MUSICAL DIRECTION:

- Mason Kimont - Dirty Rotten Scoundrels – Archbishop Mitty High School

CHOREOGRAPHY:

- Robyn Tribuzi – 42nd Street – San Mateo High School

DIRECTION:

- Doug Santana - Dirty Rotten Scoundrels – Archbishop Mitty High School

SCENIC DESIGN:

- Fred Alim - Aida – Irvington High School

LIGHTING DESIGN:

- Natti Pierce-Thomson - Les Misérables – The Harker School

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

- Nate Marshall and Judy Fuller - Singing in the Rain – Valley Christian High School

COSTUME DESIGN:

- Tammy Davies and Amanda Craine - Into the Woods – Westmont High School

HAIR/MAKE-UP DESIGN:

- Sundee Medeiros - Aida – Irvington High School

The Top Honor Awards recognize excellence in High School Musical Theater in the Bay Area. The program is spearheaded by San Jose Stage Company's Director of Education, Spencer Williams, who is also a musical theatre educator at Pinewood School in Los Altos Hills and served as an adjudicator for the Papermill Playhouse's "Rising Star" program in New Jersey, which the Top Honor Awards are specifically modeled after.

Broadway San Jose is among nineteen other professional theater programs participating in NHS Musical Theatre Awards. The winners will be awarded scholarships to NYU's Tisch School for the Arts upon acceptance. The 2nd Annual NHS Musical Theatre Awards will take place at the Marquis Theatre in New York this June.

"To have the opportunity to compete for a 4-year scholarship at NYU and perform in the Marquis Theatre – a Broadway house – is an exceptional opportunity. We are extremely lucky that Matt Hill and Katherine Dela Cruz will be representing the Bay Area and the Top Honor Awards," added Williams.

Successfully launched last year, the NHS Musical Theatre Awards is a national celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theater. Nicknamed "The Jimmy Awards" after James Nederlander, Sr., this program recognizes individual artistry in vocal, dance, and acting performance, and also honors teachers and their schools' commitment to excellence in performing arts education.

ABOUT THE STAGE

Founded in 1983, San Jose Stage Company is recognized as The Bay Area's Premiere Off-Broadway Theatre, and known for its devotion to new and cutting-edge work and for its commitment to showcasing high-quality local talent. In 1986, San Jose Stage Company set precedence as the first arts organization to negotiate and receive support from the Redevelopment Agency and the City of San Jose when over \$500,000 was appropriated in support of the development of a new 200-seat theatre featuring a 3/4-thrust stage, which opened in 1990. Now in its 27th Season, SJSC continues to center its operations in this facility and has successfully produced over 130 productions and premiered 39 new works, including 9 world premieres and is acclaimed for maintaining high artistic standards, investing in local talent and supporting the region's community of working artists while taking artistic risks. In addition to its core programming, San Jose Stage Company offers five core education and outreach programs and has housed over 200 independent performance groups. San Jose Stage Company is a vital force in the community and has earned a reputation for artistic excellence by providing high-quality, edgy theatrical experiences that engage, educate and provoke audiences. San Jose Stage Company serves an audience base of 25,000 and is recognized as a leader in the arts for a theatre of its size.