



**PRIME STAGE  
THEATRE**

*“Where Literature Comes to Life”*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Nominees announced for Prime Stage Theatre’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Drama Awards on Jan. 29**

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PITTSBURGH — Nominees were announced this week for Prime Stage Theatre’s **4<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Drama Awards** taking place Jan. 29, 2024 at New Hazlett Theater.

The Drama Awards honor excellence in non-musical plays by student actors, directors and production crew. Students from 12 area high schools were nominated in 16 categories. The complete list of the 2024 nominees is at <http://tinyurl.com/2dcr49v7>.

“What makes these awards unique,” says Drama Awards coordinator **John Dolphin**, “is that to be eligible, the students must be in a backstage leadership role or an onstage performance role. We encourage adult mentorship and assistance, but in the end, these productions are student-run.”

**Monteze Freeland**, co-artistic director of City Theatre, will serve as master of ceremonies. The evening’s special guest is WTAE Channel 4 news anchor **Mike Clark**, who will share his thoughts on the importance of the arts for young people.

During the evening, schools have the option to present a short scene from their nominated production. The event annually draws around 400 students, teachers and families.

The five schools nominated for Best Overall Production were Avonworth High School (*The Curious Savage*), Fox Chapel Area High School (*The Man Who Came To Dinner*), Hampton High School (*Puffs*), Shady Side Academy Senior School (*Macbeth*) and Thomas Jefferson High School (*Trap*).

“The High School Drama Awards is our way of looking to the future,” says **Dr. Wayne Brinda**, Prime Stage Theatre Producing Artistic Director. “By encouraging these young actors and production specialists in their early efforts, we’re building a strong foundation for Pittsburgh theatre in years to come.”

Since its founding in 1996, Prime Stage Theatre has presented over 100 plays that introduce student and family audiences to classic and contemporary works of world literature.

The theatre’s current 2023-24 Season of Courage and Discovery includes *The Miracle Worker*, *Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott*, *Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* and *Witness for the Prosecution*.

**Prime Stage Theatre** • P.O. Box 99446, Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
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More information about the 4th Annual High School Drama Awards is at <https://primestage.com/events/drama-awards/>

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**WHAT:** Prime Stage Theatre 4<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Drama Awards

**WHEN:** Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** New Hazlett Theater, 6 Allegheny Square East, Pittsburgh PA 15212

**MORE INFO:** <https://primestage.com/events/drama-awards/>

### **Award Categories**

- Best Actor
- Best Actress
- Best Supporting Actor
- Best Supporting Actress
- Best Student Director
- Best Student Stage Manager
- Best Student Scenic Design and/or Fabrication
- Best Student Lighting Design and/or Operation
- Best Student Prop Design and/or Fabrication
- Best Student Sound Design and/or Operation
- Best Student Costume Design and/or Fabrication
- Best Student Makeup Design and/or Application
- Best Student Use of Creative Special Effects
- Best Student Backstage Run Crew
- Best Student Program/Post Design and/or Fabrication
- Best Overall Production

### **Participating Schools**

- Avonworth High School
- Carlynton High School
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School
- North Allegheny Intermediate High School
- Thomas Jefferson High School
- Shady Side Academy Senior School
- Pine-Richland High School
- Deer Lakes High School
- Quaker Valley High School
- Penn Hills High School
- Hampton High School
- Fox Chapel High School

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Prime Stage performances and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Drama Awards are held at New Hazlett Theater, 6 Allegheny Square East, Pittsburgh PA 15212.

For more information about the Drama Awards — please contact Connie Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre General Manager at [cbrinda@primestage.com](mailto:cbrinda@primestage.com) or at (724) 773-0700.

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**\* UPCOMING PRIME STAGE THEATRE EVENTS in 2024 \***

Jan. 19-28. [\*Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott\*](#) tells the story of a 1950s civil rights crusader whose simple act of personal bravery changed the history of a nation.

Mar. 1-10. [\*And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank\*](#). The inspiring true life story of Eva Schloss and Ed Silverberg, childhood friends of Anne Frank, and their experience surviving the Holocaust during World War II. (Mar. 2: Opening Night Talk with Fr. John Nieman, a personal friend of Anne's father Otto Frank.)

May 3-12. [\*Witness for the Prosecution\*](#). Agatha Christie's classic courtroom drama of love betrayed and murder avenged.

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## **BEST ACTOR**

### **Lincoln Marshal**

Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*  
Fox Chapel Area High School

### **Nathan Connelly**

Wayne Hopkins in *Puffs*  
Hampton High School

### **Arjun Puri**

Boy/Peter in *Peter and the Star Catcher*  
North Allegheny Intermediate High School

### **Ethan Herr**

Stage Manager in *Our Town*  
Penn Hills High School

### **Nicolai Ezolt**

Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*  
Pine-Richland High School

## **BEST ACTRESS**

### **Sophia Rike**

Maggie Cutler in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*  
Fox Chapel Area High School

### **Echo Shomaeker**

Megan Jones in *Puffs*  
Hampton High School

### **Jay Zhu**

Macbeth in *Macbeth*  
Shady Side Academy Senior School

### **Cara Vereb**

Heche in *Trap*  
Thomas Jefferson High School

### **Emma Leghorn**

Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*  
Quaker Valley High School

## **BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**

### **Gavin Windows**

Brett in *Winter Break*  
Deer Lakes High School

### **Noah Miller**

Dr. Bradley in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*  
Fox Chapel Area High School

### **Leo Matthews**

Rogue Wave in *We Are The Sea*  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

### **Aaron Little**

Duncan, Porter & Seyton in *Macbeth*  
Shady Side Academy Senior School

### **Cole Trieste**

Efrain Salas in *Trap*  
Thomas Jefferson High School

## **BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**

### **Ady Burgoyne**

Mrs. Paddy in *The Curious Savage*  
Avonworth High School

### **Elise Schaeffer**

A.J. in *Winter Break*  
Deer Lakes High School

### **Marina Dunham**

Miss Preen in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*  
Fox Chapel Area High School

### **Ashley Kimmell**

Leanne, Helga / Frenchy in *Puffs*  
Hampton High School

### **Lucille Spang**

Angela in *Trap*  
Thomas Jefferson High School

## **BEST STUDENT DIRECTOR**

**Kiley Vande Geest & Andrew Kaehly**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

**Lauren Mutmansky & Aaron Reed**

*Trap*

Thomas Jefferson High School

**Eva Lowder**

*We Are The Sea*

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

**Michael Lattari**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Pine-Richland High School

**Luke Greb**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Quaker Valley High School

## **BEST STUDENT STAGE MANAGER**

**Kaylee Dunham**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Fox Chapel Area High School

**Margaret Sager**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

**Luke Greb**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Quaker Valley High School

**Jeffrey Brunner & Tommy Kann**

*Macbeth*

Shady Side Academy Senior School

**Alec Mahathey & Madeline Potts**

*Trap*

Thomas Jefferson High School

## **BEST STUDENT SCENIC DESIGN AND/OR FABRICATION**

### **Team**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Fox Chapel Area High School

### **Jacob Baker, Margaret Sager & Lily Stalewski**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

### **Reagan Ball, Grace Durzo & Charle Palmer**

*Peter and the Star Catcher*

North Allegheny Intermediate High School

### **Bridget Fogle & Isaac Jones**

*We Are The Sea*

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

### **Parker Roscoe**

*Macbeth*

Shady Side Academy Senior School

## **BEST STUDENT LIGHTING DESIGN AND/OR OPERATION**

### **Jacob Baker, Michael Petrucci & Garret Vasil**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

### **Claire Bandura & Samantha Lang**

*We Are The Sea*

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

### **Luke Greb & Braiden Hoffman**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Quaker Valley High School

### **Carson Davis**

*Macbeth*

Shady Side Academy Senior School

### **Brady Bandik**

*Trap*

Thomas Jefferson High School

## **BEST STUDENT PROP DESIGN AND/OR FABRICATION**

### **Sofia Liberto**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Fox Chapel Area High School

### **Samantha Nicely**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

### **Jordan Jones & Sean Mutschler**

*We Are The Sea*

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

### **Luke Greb**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Quaker Valley High School

### **Aaron Reed**

*Trap*

Thomas Jefferson High School

## **BEST STUDENT COSTUME DESIGN AND/OR FABRICATION**

### **Grace Schmigel**

*The Curious Savage*

Avonworth High School

### **Ta'Haera Griffin**

*She Kills Monsters*

Carlynton High School

### **Sophia Liberto**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Fox Chapel Area High School

### **Team**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

### **Team**

*We Are The Sea*

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School



## **BEST STUDENT MAKEUP DESIGN AND/OR APPLICATION**

### **Kennedy Segeleon & Inez Webb**

*She Kills Monsters*

Carlynton High School

### **Carolyn Caracciolo**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Fox Chapel Area High School

### **Shane Noone**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

### **Marena Miller**

*We Are The Sea*

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

### **Chloe Ball**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Quaker Valley High School

## **BEST STUDENT USE OF CREATIVE SPECIAL EFFECTS**

### **Anna Hall & Lucy Vetter**

*She Kills Monsters*

Carlynton High School

### **Jacob Baker**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

### **Chris Petraglia**

*Peter and the Star Catcher*

North Allegheny Intermediate High School

### **Brady Bandik**

*Trap*

Thomas Jefferson High School

## **BEST STUDENT SOUND DESIGN AND/OR OPERATION**

**Brandon Smidle, Gabe Bernal & Lyra Klinedinst**

*The Curious Savage*

Avonworth High School

**Melanie Roth & Claire Topper**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

**Nick Ewanco & Jack Turina**

*We Are The Sea*

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

**Lily Toma**

*Macbeth*

Shady Side Academy Senior School

**Lauren Mutmansky & Jeremy Thompson**

*Trap*

Thomas Jefferson High School

## **BEST STUDENT BACKSTAGE RUN CREW**

**Team**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Fox Chapel Area High School

**Team of: A. Wallace & Alice Anderson**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

**Team**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Quaker Valley High School

**Team of: Alexander Bi, Sam Davidheiser & Ada Lin**

*Macbeth*

Shady Side Academy Senior School

**Team of: Cole Schafer, Nicole Pesanka, Zak Baumgardner, Myles Stanicar, Chloe Englert & Lydia Holmes.**

*Trap*

Thomas Jefferson High School

## **BEST STUDENT PROGRAM/POSTER DESIGN AND/OR FABRICATION**

**Willow Racan, Brienne Sharo & Marianna Vergerio**

*Winter Break*

Deer Lakes High School

**Kaylee Dunham**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Fox Chapel Area High School

**Kiley Vande Geest**

*Puffs*

Hampton High School

**Kevin Leslie & Sophia Muoio**

*We Are The Sea*

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

**Celeste Stokan**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

Pine-Richland High School

## **BEST OVERALL PRODUCTION**

**Avonworth High School**

*The Curious Savage*

**Fox Chapel Area High School**

*The Man Who Came To Dinner*

**Hampton High School**

*Puffs*

**Shady Side Academy Senior School**

*Macbeth*

**Thomas Jefferson High School**

*Trap*