



To recognize and reward exceptional accomplishments in the production and performance of musical theatre in local high schools

2009 FREDDY® Participating Schools Announced

29 schools will participate, the highest number in FREDDY® history

The State Theatre Center for the Arts announces the 2009 FREDDY® Awards program, recognizing and rewarding exceptional accomplishments in the production and performance of musical theater in high schools in Lehigh and Northampton Counties, Pennsylvania, and Warren County, New Jersey.

The 2009 program will feature 29 schools, the highest number of participating schools since the FREDDYs were launched in 2003, including Dieruff High School, which will produce their first high school musical in 25 years.

The Telecast

The 2009 FREDDY® Awards program will culminate in a 3-hour television awards ceremony on Thursday, May 21 from the State Theatre. Produced in partnership with WFMZ Channel 69, the show will be broadcast live from 7 PM – 10 PM on WFMZ and on the web at www.wfmz.com.

Ed Hanna of WFMZ and Shelley Brown of the State Theatre will host the ceremony.

The FREDDY® Awards telecast has been recognized with a 2005 Mid-Atlantic EMMY® Award for Outstanding Performing Arts Program and received EMMY® nominations in 2006 & 2007. It has also received 4 Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Awards and a 2007 Associate Press Award for Public Affairs.

Scholarships/Internships

To date, both the DeSales University Scholarship and The Express-Times Internship that accompanies the Student Achievement Award have been confirmed for 2009.

The DeSales University Scholarship has been offered every year since 2003. The amount is \$5,000 per year, renewable for three years. Applications and information are available at www.freddyawards.org. Deadline is Friday, March 20, 2009.

The Express-Times, sponsor of the 2009 FREDDY® Awards, will once again offer a paid summer internship to the recipient of the 2009 Student Achievement Award, which is announced at the FREDDY® Awards Ceremony. Teachers in participating schools are invited to make recommendations for students who have given their time and talent towards their production in a backstage capacity, such as a stage manager, stage crew, scenic design, student/assistant directors and choreographers and have consistently demonstrated a positive work ethic.

Community Support

In addition to WFMZ's major commitment to televise the FREDDY® Awards for the 7th year in a row, the following companies and foundations have all committed support for 2009: The Morning Call, The Express-Times, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., ArtsQuest, Enter.net, KNBT, Lehigh Valley Magazine, Nassau Broadcasting, Viamedia, B104, The Century Fund, Crayola, The Holt Family Foundation, Lafayette Ambassador Bank, Lehigh Valley Mall, Lehigh Valley Marketplace, RCN, Pikewood Companies, Team Capital Bank, Wachovia, N. Pugilese, Inc., Parente Randolph, Deer Park, Starbucks Coffee, and Warren Hospital. Additional support is provided by B Braun, Boulevard Frame & Art, Originate Ventures, Saturn of Rt. 33 & Saturn of the Lehigh Valley and Wegmans. The Lucite FREDDY® Award will once again be sponsored by Select Sales of Bethlehem and ceremony signage is provided by Kaplan's Enterprises.

In support of the 2009 FREDDY® Awards, a grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development has been made possible by the following legislators of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Senator Lisa Boscola, Senator Patrick M. Brown, Senator Robert C. Wonderling, Representative Karen D. Beyer, Representative Craig A. Dally, Representative Robert L. Freeman, Representative Julie Harhart, Representative Jennifer L. Mann, Representative Douglas G. Reichley and Representative Steve Samuelson.

This project was also supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, through its regional arts funding partnership, Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA). State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. PPA is administered in this region by the Lehigh Valley Arts Council.

Get Involved

The State Theatre invites the Lehigh Valley and Warren County communities to become involved by becoming corporate sponsors, through media or promotional support, or by volunteering their time and expertise. Corporations, regardless of size, are encouraged to participate, and corporate sponsorships will be available on many levels. For sponsorship information, contact Denise Smith, State Theatre Director of Development, at 610-258-7766 x223 dsmith@statetheatre.org or visit the www.freddyawards.org or the FREDDY® Awards page at www.statetheatre.org.