

About Honors

The purpose of honors is to celebrate what evaluators identify as notable achievements of the production they observed. Evaluators are asked to nominate individuals and elements that they believe are going above and beyond, and that they wish to celebrate. To justify their nominations, evaluators write at least one sentence stating why the nomination was given, what stood out or what was memorable.

Any element with student engagement or individual can be nominated for an honor, even if they were not listed to receive educational feedback. This is one reason the educational feedback packet is not intended to directly justify honors.

About Production Assessment

The Production Assessment is an educational tool intended to encourage, inspire and enhance Spotlight schools' theater programs and strengthen the skills of student artists — onstage and offstage.

Production Assessments are non-competitive.

Evaluators do not compare one high school production to another. Productions and individuals are not competing for a ranking or for limited spots for opportunities. Spotlight evaluators understand that students and programs are unique, and that they can't control the budget of a production, the resources available to them or the support received from their administrations and communities. Evaluators are trained to take in contextual and circumstantial information provided by the school in order to equitably evaluate each school production. Evaluators ask the key questions, "What are students doing with what they've been given and how can I help them grow?"

Spotlight Education understands and embraces that the experience of live theater is inherently subjective. While Spotlight evaluators are theater professionals who have been trained in our assessment process, they are 4-5 individuals with their own perspectives who encounter each production and program for only a few hours.

Honors & *Spotlight Showcase* 2026

Productions

If you receive an **Achievement in Theatre** honor, your production will be featured at *Spotlight Showcase*. See the breakdown below.

Achievement in Theatre + Showcase Participation

Overall Performance		Overall Technical Production		Achievement in Theatre	Showcase
Outstanding		Outstanding		Outstanding	Performance
Outstanding		Honorable Mention		Honorable Mention	Performance
Honorable Mention	+	Outstanding	=	Honorable Mention	Performance
Outstanding		-		Honorable Mention	Performance
-		Outstanding		Honorable Mention	Video Feature

Individual honorees

- **Musical Honorees:** Students that receive an Outstanding or Honorable Mention honor for their performance in a musical are invited to **perform in the Musical Honoree number -OR- act as a Showcase host.**
- **Honored Actors:** Students that receive an Outstanding or Honorable Mention honor for their performance in a play will be **featured as hosts of *Spotlight Showcase*.**
- **Honored Technicians:** Students that receive an Outstanding or Honorable Mention honor for their work as a technician for a play or musical are invited to **participate in a technical theater activation during *Spotlight Showcase*.** Examples include: building creative scenic elements, technical theater workshops, assisting the load-in or load-out of *Spotlight Showcase* at the State Theatre in downtown Minneapolis, etc.

Individual Honorees will be contacted directly by Spotlight in May to confirm participation in *Spotlight Showcase*.

2025-2026 HONORS ANNOUNCEMENT

LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

DISNEY'S NEWSIES

Achievement in Musical Theatre

Honorable Mention

Overall Technical Production

Outstanding

Overall Performance

Honorable Mention

Ensemble Performance

Honorable Mention

Ensemble Acting
Performance

Honorable Mention

Ensemble Vocal
Performance

Outstanding

Ensemble Dance
Performance

Honorable Mention

Run Crew

Honorable Mention

Overall Technical Team

Outstanding

Sound Crew

Honorable Mention

Individual Honors

Honorable Mention
in a Leading Role

Olivia Cairl as Katherine
Mason Damm as Jack Kelly
Giada Marana as Medda Larkin

Outstanding
in Technical Leadership

Jeremiah (Jerry) Chaney as
Board Operator
Lydia Callaway as Asst. Stage
Manager

Honorable Mention
in Technical Leadership

Lucas Moretensen as
Run Crew/Spotlight Operator

Shout-Outs

Liam Sorenson
Stephen Chaney
Asher Bayer

**DISNEY'S NEWSIES
LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
2025-2026**

Production Honors Comments

Overall Technical Production

The lighting, costumes and set pieces, including the revolving stage, set a believable context for the story to unfold.

The set painting and the turntable were super cool and really helped transport us to the world of the show!

This show has SO many moving pieces, including a big cast with lots of costumes, set changeovers, and a unique space to work in. Incredible work, all around!

Overall Performance

You all should be commended for an excellent performance. There was so much good energy and talent presented on stage. And the audience reactions to the number of showstoppers was proof of what you had accomplished. The work you put into this production was evident. This show was perfect for this group of actors and technicians-- your passion and commitment are what shined through from beginning to end, and I found myself tearing up several times during the production. A great production of a great show!

Ensemble Acting Performance

Overall, the acting was believable and effectively communicated the story.

There was clear work put into the characterization of each person onstage, and it stayed consistent throughout.

Ensemble Vocal Performance

The ensemble vocal performance was excellent!

The vocal performance of the full group was really the star of this show. I could have listened to the group numbers forever. Excellent work!

It is evident that you put a lot of hard work into the music of this show!

Ensemble Dance Performance

The dance numbers demonstrated the amount of time it must have taken to rehearse and the physical dancing was a showstopper.

The dances and formations were clean, energetic, and a joy to watch.

Overall Technical Team

I can see the ways that you support each other, and are engaged in producing high-quality work. Well done, all of you!

Sound Crew

Jerry is such a great asset to your team, and I look forward to seeing them grow in this role!

Run Crew

This show had a LOT of moving furniture and pieces, and I think the crew did such a nice job navigating a tricky backstage.

Individual Honors Comments

Student Name: Giada Marana

Giada offered comedy and an energy boost to this show.

Very strong performance overall! Your inner diva really shined in this role!

Student Name: Jeremiah (Jerry) Chaney

This was your first time mixing a show like this, and this isn't an easy show to start with. I was impressed with your attention to learning the process, and the continued work to refine and excel. Well done!

Student Name: Lucas Moretensen

Spotlighting can be so challenging, and I appreciate your critical eye in how to both make your job easier, as well as making sure your colleagues can be seen. Thank you for taking on the storytelling aspect of spotlighting. Nice job!

Student Name: Lydia Callaway

From the backstage paperwork, to your calm demeanor and your ability to keep folx calm backstage, I was incredibly impressed with your leadership and attention to detail. Fantastic work!

Student Name: Mason Damm

Mason carried a very difficult role with consistent intentionality on all the small things like accent and facial expression.

Your portrayal of Jack Kelly was a highlight of the show! You shined in this role. Your singing, acting, and dancing all helped tell this beloved story in an effective way.

Student Name: Olivia Cairl

Olivia gave a well-rounded performance and her singing was pitch perfect and in the pocket.

Great work in this role! The time and effort you put into your portrayal of Katherine was clear, and it made your character complex, and one I wanted to root for. Shoutout for the tap choreography as well!

You did a fantastic job in bringing your character to life! Keep up the good work!

Shout-Out Comments

Student Name: Liam Sorenson

The physicality of maintaining a limp was incredible. Liam is quite a good actor who really pulled off this role.

Student Name: Asher Bayer

A great contrast to the character of Jack and a very good dancer.

Student Name: Stephen Chaney

Stephen has a wonderful voice coupled with very good acting skills.