

KPA BRADLEY AWARDS

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PERFORMING
ARTS

Call for Adjudicators: The KPA Bradley Awards

The Kentucky Performing Arts (KPA) Bradley Awards seeks qualified theatre professionals interested in supporting the growth of young artists by serving as adjudicators for the awards program.

What are The KPA Bradley Awards?

The KPA Bradley Awards are an official Regional Awards Program of The National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (NHSMTA®), otherwise known as The Jimmy Awards®. With a goal of celebrating young artists and elevating the importance of theatre arts education, The KPA Bradley Awards partners with high schools across Kentucky and Southern Indiana to adjudicate a musical production at each participating school, culminating in an awards ceremony at The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville, KY where awards in various categories will be provided to winning students, educators, and ensembles. Two students will be selected at the awards ceremony to represent the region at The Jimmy Awards in New York City, which includes a week of private coaching, master classes, and rehearsals with theatre professionals prior to participation in the national awards ceremony in a Broadway theater.

The KPA Bradley Awards are named in honor of Bradley Broecker, whose central role in bringing touring Broadway shows to Kentuckiana has made immeasurable impact on the region's vibrancy. The Bradley Awards are presented by KPA in partnership with the Louisville Theatrical Association.

The KPA Bradley Awards seeks to build community amongst our region's high school theatre programs, all of which are worthy of celebration for the value they bring to our youth and our communities.

[Click here](#) for additional information about The KPA Bradley Awards.

What is the role of adjudicators for The KPA Bradley Awards?

Adjudicators attend performances of musicals produced by high schools participating in The KPA Bradley Awards. Adjudicators are assigned which productions/schools they visit and each production is viewed by a total of three adjudicators. Adjudicators remain anonymous and do not have any direct interaction with students or school staff during the visit.

After viewing the performance, adjudicators provide written feedback celebrating the production's strengths, as well as describing opportunities for growth. Feedback is provided for the overall cast/crew, as well as for specific individual students in leading/supporting roles.

Utilizing rubrics, adjudicators also score each production in various categories. The scores ultimately determine which schools are selected as official nominees for each award category presented at The KPA Bradley Awards' ceremony in late spring 2026.

Adjudication for some award categories will be based off submitted nomination forms, as opposed to direct observation of a musical performance (for instance, teachers at participating schools can nominate students for the category of "Behind The Scenes Excellence" via a separate nomination form/process). Below is the list of anticipated award categories for The 2025-2026 KPA Bradley Awards:

Categories scored through the process of adjudicators attending musical performances:

- Outstanding Technical Execution
- Outstanding Dance Execution
- Outstanding Ensemble Performance
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role*
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role*
- Best Actor in a Leading Role*
- Best Actress in a Leading Role*
- Best Overall Musical Production

**Students are adjudicated in the category corresponding to their gender identification, not the gender of the role that they play. Students identifying as non-binary or gender-fluid may choose to either select the category in which they wish to be adjudicated (regardless of the gender of the role) or they may be adjudicated based on the gender of the role they play.*

Categories that will utilize nomination forms from schools/students; winners will be determined by review panel of adjudicators and does not require direct observation of the musical performance:

- Student Reporter Recognition
- Behind The Scenes Excellence
- Outstanding Student Designer
- Outstanding Community Engagement (i.e. fundraising for charity, raising awareness of an important issue, etc.)
- Outstanding Arts Mentor

What is expected of adjudicators?

Adjudicators will...

- Attend a required adjudicator orientation currently scheduled for September 30, 2025 and October 2, 2025.
- Attend/adjudicate at least three high school productions in The KPA Bradley Awards service area between October 30, 2025 and April 26, 2026. Adjudicators receive complimentary tickets to each performance they review.

- Have demonstrated professional experience and expertise in the field of musical theatre. This can include work based in performance, direction, choreography, production, and other theatrical elements.
- State any and all conflicts of interest with high schools upfront. Adjudicators will not be assigned to schools where they have any personal or professional conflicts of interest.
- Adjudicators must **not** be associated with any of the participating schools' musical productions (ex: Choreographer, Director, Vocal Coach, etc.)
- Be motivated to empower, educate, and celebrate young artists, arts educators, and school theatre programs through their work with The KPA Bradley Awards.
- Be able to provide written feedback and scoring that is comprehensive, constructive, and considerate of the context of a school's resources. This feedback is written after the performance night and may take one to two hours to write, compile, and submit.
- Maintain discretion and confidentiality. Written feedback is shared with schools by The KPA Bradley Awards administrative staff; adjudicators do not share feedback with schools directly, nor are they permitted to share their feedback/scores with each other or people outside of The KPA Bradley Awards administration.
- Live anywhere within reasonable driving distance to Kentucky/southern Indiana. Adjudicators are not required to live within the exact service area of The KPA Bradley Awards. The ideal adjudicator pool will include individuals who represent broad geographic and demographic diversity within our region.
- Receive two complimentary tickets to The KPA Bradley Awards' final ceremony in Louisville, KY in late spring 2026.

How are adjudicators compensated?

- Adjudicators receive a \$150 honorarium for each production they assess; this includes the time taken to provide written feedback and scores.
- Adjudicators traveling more than 60 miles round trip to view a performance will receive an additional travel stipend, commensurate with distance traveled. For reference, The KPA Bradley Awards will service the entire state of Kentucky and the following Indiana counties: Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, and Washington.
- On the rare occasion when an adjudicator travels significant distance to view a production, overnight accommodation will be provided by The KPA Bradley Awards.
- Adjudicators will receive \$150 for attending the mandatory virtual orientation via Zoom on either **September 30, 2025**, or **October 2, 2025**.
- Note that adjudicators are independent contractors with KPA.

How can I apply to be an adjudicator for The KPA Bradley Awards?

- Complete an application [at this link](#); the application consists of questions and a resume upload. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis starting in late July and throughout September. Currently, we estimate The KPA Bradley Awards will select up to about 15 adjudicators who represent a broad range of expertise levels, demographics, and geographic locations (for logistical ease of assigning adjudicators across the awards region).
- Applicants may be asked to participate in an interview.
- We anticipate all adjudicators will be selected by end of September 2025.

- All adjudicators must complete a background check; the expense of the background check is covered by KPA.

Questions?

Contact KPA Bradley Awards Manager, Dean Alan Muir at: dmuir@kentuckyperformingarts.org