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Note to editors: The list of winners by school is at the end of this release.

HIGH SCHOOL THEATER STUDENTS TAKE HOME CAPPIES AWARDS AT 14TH ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

FORT LAUDERDALE – High school theater students from 14 public and private schools throughout Broward and Palm Beach counties took home awards from the 14th Annual Cappies Awards Gala held on May 24 in the Au-Rene Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

American Heritage School in Plantation and West Boca High School tied for the most awards with six each. The most honored play was *Falling* produced at American Heritage School while there way a three-way tie for the most honored musical between *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Boca Raton Community High School), *Shrek* (Stoneman Douglas High School) and *Chicago* (West Boca High School).

Award winners are determined by votes from the students through a weighted peer review voting process. Nominations are made by student critics from participating schools who attend productions at rival schools and write reviews, which are then edited by theater educators and published on FloridaTheaterOnStage.com.

The students who were recognized as Senior Critic, Lead Actor in a Play, Lead Actress in a Play, Lead Actor in a Musical, Lead Actress in a Musical and Stage Management and Crew each received a \$500 scholarship.

Additionally, two scholarships were awarded to three Cappies nominees who submitted an application detailing their goals in pursuit of future education and a biographical essay describing their experiences in the program.

Two Melinda Clarke Spotlight scholarships which funds \$750 for college or future theatrical training were awarded to Taylor Barth and Carlo Feliciani. One Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Training scholarship that funds tuition, room and board for one session at Stagedoor Manor in Loch Sheldrake, NY was given to Hagan Oliveras.

Etai Benson and Randi Kleiner, the first ever recipients of the South Florida Cappies for Lead Actor and Actress in a Musical held in 2003, returned to host the Gala this year.

The awards ceremony was presented with support from the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which has hosted the event since the South Florida chapter of the Critics and Awards Program (Cappies for short) was founded in 2002 as a part of the national non-profit organization honoring high school theater programs.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. AutoNation, Bank of America, Greater Fort

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About The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is one of America's premier performing arts venues. Presenting more than 700 performances each year to more than 700,000 patrons, the Center showcases a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events, and offers one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, serving more than 150,000 students annually. The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop and secure the future of the Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit BrowardCenter.org.

The Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment Consortium is a cultural partnership between the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Florida Grand Opera, Fort Lauderdale History Center and the Historic Stranahan House Museum. It is supported by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

2015-2016 CAPIES AWARD WINNERS BY SCHOOL

American Heritage School – 6
Archbishop McCarthy High School – 2
Boca Raton Community High School – 5
Cooper City High School – 1
Cypress Bay High School – 5
Deerfield Beach High School – 1
Dillard Center for the Arts – 1
JP Taravella High School – 2
Pompano Beach High School – 1
Somerset Academy – 2
South Plantation High School – 1
Stoneman Douglas High School – 6
University School of NSU – 5
West Boca High School – 5

American Heritage School (*Falling*)

Best Play
Sound: Rachael Banach
Props: Emily Grossutti
Sets: Brian Haimes
Lead Actress in a Play: Delaney Lovejoy
Lead Actor in a Play: Diego de la Espriella

Archbishop McCarthy High School (*The Crucible*)

Featured Actress in a Play: Marisabel Correa
Supporting Actress in a Play: Bella Miulescu

Boca Raton Community High School (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*)

Best Musical

Special Effects and or Technology: Stewart, Ballarte, Piccin and Crew

Lighting: Adams, Posner, Chapman and Guin

Ensemble in a Musical: Brothers

Lead Actor in a musical: Trevor Wayne

Cooper City High School (*Legally Blonde*)

Supporting Actress in a Musical: Francesca Maurer

Cypress Bay High School (*Cats and criticism*)

Senior Critic: Nick Lopez

Costumes: Angelica Herrera, Jillian Moore, Adrian Machado and Crew

Choreography: Jordanne Cantrill

Featured Actress in a Musical: Jillian Moore

Female Dancer: Jordanne Cantrill

Deerfield Beach High School

Junior Critic: Maya Quinones

Dillard Center for the Arts (*The Wiz*)

Orchestra: DCA Jazz Orchestra

JP Taravella High School (*Hotel Paradiso*)

Featured Actor in a Play: Kevin Cruz-Capella

Supporting Actor in a Play: Hagan Oliveras

Pompano Beach High School (*Lost in Yonkers*)

Comic Actor in Play: Ryan Swart

Somerset Academy (*Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*)

Ensemble in a Play: 3rd Act Residents of Springfield

Comic Actress in a Play: Gianna Milici

South Plantation High School (*Singin In The Rain*)

Supporting Actor in a Musical: Jesse Castellanos

Stoneman Douglas High School (*Shrek and criticism*)

Critics' Team: Stoneman Douglas High School

Marketing and Publicity: Kayla Goldfarb and Company

Hair and Makeup: Michaela Bajic, Kelly Blauschild

Creativity: Lee Alhanti, Directing

Featured Actor in a Musical: John Barnitt

Comic Actress in a Musical: Bridget Foley

University School of NSU (*Spamalot* and criticism)

Freshmen Critic: Aysha Zackria

Sophomore Critic: Erin Cary

Female Vocalist: Michelle Langone

Comic Actor in a Musical: Avrumie Tornheim

Song: You Wont Succeed on Broadway

West Boca High School (*Chicago*)

Stage Management and Stage Crew: Mathew Kanterman, Nick Morelli, Kayla Stricker

Ensemble in a Musical: Male Dance Ensemble (Roxie's Boys)

Male Dancer: Samuel Cadieux

Male Vocalist: Ryan Lim

Lead Actress in a Musical: Alexia Assuncao

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