



## **2026 Orpheum High School Musical Theatre Awards** **Award Recipients**

### **The Jalen Award (Spirit of the HSMTAs) – sponsored by Pickler Wealth Advisors & Beth and David Pickler**

**Evan Johnson** – The Academies of West Memphis

### **Outstanding Small Ensemble – sponsored by The Chauhan Family**

**The Sardines** - Arlington High School - *The SpongeBob Musical*

### **Outstanding Large Ensemble – sponsored by Gould's Academy**

New Albany High School - *Tuck Everlasting*

### **Outstanding Chorus – sponsored by Susan Fetz, Becky Siano & Sherry Williams**

New Albany High School - *Tuck Everlasting*

### **Outstanding Student Orchestra – sponsored by Ted Donaldson**

Houston High School - *The Addams Family*

### **Outstanding Dance Execution – sponsored by Sherry and Don Williams**

New Albany High School - *Tuck Everlasting*

### **Outstanding Choreography – sponsored by Daniel Stuart Nelson**

Evangelical Christian School - *Matilda*

### **Outstanding Playbill – sponsored by Christina Torres and Alex Barton**

New Albany High School - *Tuck Everlasting*

### **Outstanding Poster – sponsored by directFX**

St. Benedict at Auburndale - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

### **Outstanding Front of House – sponsored by Friends of the Orpheum (FOTO)**

Milan High School - *Matilda*

### **Outstanding Artistic Element – sponsored In Memory of Julia Mason**

**The Rain** - Northpoint Christian School - *Singin' in the Rain*

### **Outstanding Hair and Makeup – sponsored by Blo Blow Dry Bar Germantown**

Cabot High School - *White Christmas*

**Outstanding Costumes – sponsored by Kathryn and Jim Gilliland, Jr.**

Houston High School - *The Addams Family*

**Outstanding Lighting – sponsored by The Pattons in honor of Sherry Williams**

Evangelical Christian School - *Matilda*

**Outstanding Sound Design and Execution – sponsored by Lisa and Dr. Mike Cockrell -  
Cockrell Family Medical Center**

St. Benedict at Auburndale - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

**Outstanding Set – sponsored by Veronica and Brett Batterson**

Lakeland Preparatory School - *Anything Goes*

**Outstanding Technical Achievement- sponsored by Michelle Epps**

Lakeland Preparatory School - *Anything Goes*

**Outstanding Student Creative Achievement- sponsored by Jerry & Ann Barton**

Xavier Ware Jr. – Arlington High School – *The SpongeBob Musical*

**Outstanding Student Technical Achievement – sponsored by Glassman, Wyatt, Tuttle, and Cox**

AJ Loritts – Evangelical Christian School – *Matilda*

**Outstanding Student Stage Management Achievement – sponsored by Jennifer McGrath**

Becca Graubart – Houston High School – *The Addams Family*

**The Bravo Award – sponsored by Amy, Alex, and Jack Knight**

Libby DePriest as *Matilda* - Evangelical Christian School - *Matilda*

Ella Beth Wilson as *Young Cosette* - Hernando High School - *Les Miserables School Edition*

Liam Lackey as *Young Will* – Wynne High School - *Big Fish: School Edition*

Parker Burns as *Crutchie* - DeSoto Christian Academy - *Newsies*

**The Spotlight Award for Outstanding Transition Design and Execution**

Houston High School – *The Addams Family*

**The Inspiring Teacher Award – sponsored by The Theatre Conservatory at The Memphis  
Jewish Community Center**

Lalania Vaughn – Tipton – Rosemark Academy

**Outstanding Music Direction – sponsored by Memphis Dental Corporation**

Waverly Watkins - St. Benedict at Auburndale - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

**Outstanding Featured Dancer – sponsored by Debbie and Homer Branan**

Addison Northcott - Collierville High School - *Water for Elephants (High School Edition)*

**Outstanding Featured Actor – sponsored by Gaskill Strategies in honor of Sam Gaskill**

Alexander Li as *Sheldon J. Plankton* - Arlington High School - *The SpongeBob Musical*

**Outstanding Featured Actress – sponsored by Robin and Billy Orgel**

Eden Stecchi as *Medda Larkin* - DeSoto Christian Academy - *Newsies*

**Outstanding Supporting Actor – sponsored by Rachel and Scott Bendure**

**Jordan Farley as Camel** - Collierville High School - *Water for Elephants (High School Edition)*

**Outstanding Supporting Actress – sponsored by Crystal and Martin Hand**

**Josie Li as Pearl Krabs** - Arlington High School - *The SpongeBob Musical*

**Outstanding Lead Actor - sponsored by Lisa and John Bobango**

**Hayden Hooper as Jacob** - Collierville High School - *Water for Elephants (High School Edition)*

**Outstanding Lead Actress - sponsored by Cheryl and Bill Stegbauer**

**Maggie Dinstuhl as Marlena** - Collierville High School - *Water for Elephants (High School Edition)*

**Outstanding Direction by a Teacher - sponsored by Lura Elliott Turner in memory of her favorite music teacher, her mother Helen Elliott**

**Stacey Peeney** - St. Benedict at Auburndale - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

**Outstanding Overall Production - sponsored by Rob DePriore**

New Albany High School - *Tuck Everlasting*