



**PAPER MILL  
PLAYHOUSE**

**EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

# RISING STAR AWARDS

## RULES & GUIDELINES

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**FORMS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.PAPERMILL.ORG](http://WWW.PAPERMILL.ORG)**

- 2012 RISING STAR AWARDS E-APPLICATION
- 2012 RISING STAR AWARDS RULES & GUIDELINES [PDF]
- 2012 EDUCATIONAL IMPACT AWARD E-APPLICATION
- 2012 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS E-APPLICATION
- 2012 RISING STAR "THEATRE FOR EVERYONE" INCLUSION & ACCESS AWARD E-APPLICATION
- 2012 PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE \$ 1000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS E-APPLICATION
- 2012 SCARAMOUCHE \$ 1000 TECHNICAL THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE RISING STAR AWARDS E-APPLICATION
- 2012 RISING STAR AWARDS SUPPORT MATERIAL PACKING SLIP
- 2012 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS [PDF]

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AT-A-GLANCE**

- ✓ Plan to produce a legally licensed musical between 1/19/12 and 4/15/12.
- ✓ Only school sanctioned productions may be entered.
- ✓ Application must be authorized and submitted by the faculty or school administration.
- ✓ Be among the first 100 schools to submit a complete application by Wednesday, 1/11/12 at 5:00pm.
- ✓ Include application fee of \$65 or \$75. (See page 6 for more information about application fees.)
- ✓ Confirmation that your application has been accepted will be emailed the week of 1/16/12.
- ✓ Hold up to 8 tickets on reserve for Evaluators attending your show.
- ✓ Send Paper Mill Playhouse a program/playbill as soon as possible following the close of your show.
- ✓ Submit *mandatory* support material.

## WHAT ARE THE PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE RISING STAR AWARDS?

Modeled after Broadway's Tony Awards, the *Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards* were created in 1996 to encourage and reward exceptional accomplishments in the production of New Jersey high school musicals. The Rising Star Awards are a statewide high school recognition program, and with Paper Mill Playhouse's assistance has been replicated in several regions nationwide.

Recognition of outstanding achievement by students and educators will be made in the areas of performance, direction, choreography, technical production, production management and overall production excellence. The Rising Star Award Corps of Evaluators; comprised of theatre professionals, performing artists and designers, and theatre arts educators; fan out across New Jersey between January and April to see shows at all 100 entered schools and make nominations in nineteen various performance and production categories. Four evaluators will attend each school's production. **Final Nominations** will be announced on May 7, 2012, and on June 5, 2012, the Tony Awards-style **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Rising Star Awards Gala Ceremony** will be presented on the Paper Mill Playhouse stage, where nominees perform and award recipients are announced. Recipients are presented with a personally engraved crystal award from Rising Star Awards sponsor, Tiffany & Co.

The Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards program is comprised of two rounds of competition. **The Production Round** runs from January to April when Evaluators attend school productions and make recommendations of performances or production elements which they feel should move into the second round of the competition, the Nomination Round. **The Nomination Round** begins after all shows have been initially adjudicated. The Nomination Committee, made up primarily of Paper Mill Playhouse Staff, considers the recommendations made by the Evaluators and analyzes the support material submitted by participants to determine the slate of Final Nominees. All participating schools receive feedback from the Evaluators including their comments, scores and nomination recommendations, if any were made. Schools receiving a Final Nomination are invited to attend the Awards Ceremony. (See page 4 for details on the Nomination Round.)

In addition to performance and production awards, special awards may also be given in the categories of **Student Achievement, Educational Impact** and **Inclusion & Access in the Arts**. Nominations for the Student Achievement, Educational Impact and Inclusion & Access Awards come directly from participating teachers and not from attending Evaluators. The *Student Achievement Award* recognizes individual student or group contributions to the greater production effort. The *Educational Impact Award* congratulates those schools that develop projects which specifically link their musical to the NJ State Department of Education Core Curriculum Content Standards. The *Rising Star "Theatre for Everyone" Inclusion & Access Award* recognizes excellence in the promotion and practice of creative inclusion of students and adults with disabilities as performers, designers, musicians and production staff. Additionally, this award also seeks to recognize and reward a school that takes steps to ensure their performances are accessible to audiences with disabilities. (See page 13 for more details on these awards).

The Rising Star Awards also provide a variety of **Scholarship Opportunities** for participating high school seniors. Paper Mill Playhouse offers three \$1,000 cash awards to outstanding individual students participating in entered Rising Star Award productions, and who plan to continue studying theatre in college. A fourth cash scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded in memoriam of Douglas Michael Krueger. A fifth cash scholarship of \$1,000 is sponsored by Scaramouche Costumes LLC and will recognize a graduating senior going on to study technical theatre in college. (See page 14 for more details on scholarship opportunities.)

Lastly, students receiving final nominations in the leading actor and leading actress categories automatically receive a full scholarship to Paper Mill Playhouse's competitive **Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory**, a professional training program, which along with advanced classes in singing, acting and dance, offers the nominees an opportunity to perform on the stage at Paper Mill Playhouse in the annual "New Voices Concert." In addition, supporting actor and actress nominees will receive a 50% scholarship to the program (See page 14 for more details on the Conservatory.)

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE AND WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Any New Jersey public, private, parochial or charter school may enter by being among the first 100 schools to submit a complete application digitally signed by the adult director or school administrator (no student or parent submissions will be accepted), by the deadline of **5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 11, 2012**. To participate, the school's musical must take place between **Thursday, January 19, 2012 and Sunday, April 15, 2012**.

Productions entered must fall into one of the following categories and must be billed accordingly in the program:

- a published musical, operetta or revue that is presented with the approval or permission of the original creators or their representatives (*either currently held by a licensing house or having entered public domain*).
- an original piece which features an original script, music and/or lyrics and which is covered under a valid copyright that is presented with the approval or permission of the original creators or their representatives.
- an original compilation of material from other sources that is presented with the approval or permission of all of the original creators or their representatives.

Also, each entered school must pay an application fee by the application deadline, provide accurate driving directions to the performance, and provide up to eight (8) complimentary tickets throughout the run of the show for attending evaluators.

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2012

- While Leading Actor and Leading Actress nominees will receive a full scholarship to Paper Mill's **Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory** program, Supporting Actor and Actress nominees will receive a 50% scholarship. More information about the summer program can be found online at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org) or on page 15.

## RECENT PROGRAM CHANGES

- The Rising Star "Theatre for Everyone" Inclusion & Access Award is a partnership of Paper Mill Playhouse, VSA New Jersey and The Cultural Access Network of New Jersey, a project of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. A cash award of \$1,000 will be given to a school to recognize excellence in the promotion and practice of creative inclusion of students and adults with disabilities as performers, designers, musicians and production staff. Additionally, this award also seeks to recognize and reward a school that takes steps to ensure their performances are accessible to audiences with disabilities. (See page 13 for more information.)
- The 2012 Rising Star Awards e-application now includes an invoice for a school's use when submitting the application fee. The invoice can be filled out and submitted with payment within ten (10) days of emailing the application.
- The 2012 Performance Response Form, which evaluators fill out after viewing a show, has been streamlined. All categories will continue to be scored and awarded individually; however, certain categories will be bundled to reflect their collaborative nature. All student performances will still be individually critiqued. Groupings are as follows:
  - ☆ Creative Direction (section 2) – individually scored, grouped comments
    - Direction by a Teacher or Outside Director
    - Choreography/Musical Staging
  - ☆ Music (section 3) – individually scored, grouped comments
    - Music Direction
    - Orchestra
  - ☆ Production (section 4) – individually scored, grouped comments
    - Hair & Make-Up Achievement
    - Costuming Achievement
    - Lighting Achievement
    - Scenic Achievement

- For the category of “Performer in a Featured Role,” evaluators are asked to “pick one” from the “Role Breakdown by Show” list to evaluate. Should a Featured Performer come into contention with two of the four evaluators choosing a particular character over another, we will reach out to the other two that chose a different character, to fill in the gaps and complete the necessary progression for a performer to be eligible for a nomination.
- Additionally, the criteria in the 2012 Performance Response Form have been updated.
- The application fee is \$65 if you apply on or before December 31, 2011 and \$75 if you apply on or after January 1, 2012. *(See page 6 for more information.)*
- There must be at least five eligible candidates identified for any category to launch. *(See page 4 for more information.)*
- In order for a show to be considered as a nominee in the category of Outstanding Overall Production, the show must receive a minimum of two Final Nominations in the Production categories and four Final Nominations in the Artistic categories, one of which must be for Direction. *(See page 5 for more information.)*
- Schools may still submit multiple Student Achievement applications, but Paper Mill will choose no more than 3 applications per school to receive a Final Nomination in this category. Of those 3, there is a maximum of 2 individual student nominations and one crew or group nomination per school. *(See page 13 for more information.)*
- School must provide specific support material as detailed below and all material should fit in a 10 by 13 inch envelope. This requirement is mandatory. *(See pages 11-12 for more information.)*
  - ~ At least 2 copies of your show program/playbill.
  - ~ At least 10 digital photos of your completed lobby display if applicable.
  - ~ At least 10 digital photos of all technical elements (hair and make-up, lighting, costuming and scenic elements.)
  - ~ All photos should be production shots and must be labeled by category. Digital photos must be placed into separate titled file folders on a CD-R, DVD or USB flash drive. You may use a picture more than once if it best represents two different categories (i.e. set and lights or leading actress and hair and make-up.)
  - ~ At least 2 photos of any performers in each category *(leading actress, leading actor, supporting actress, supporting actor, performer in a featured role, featured ensemble member, ensemble group, chorus.)*
  - ~ A full length DVD of the show segmented into chapters by production number and compatible with the Microsoft Windows Operating System is preferable. Also acceptable are DVDs that contain footage of a dress rehearsal or are edited highlights with footage of select production numbers and/or scenes.

## ROUNDS OF COMPETITION

The Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards is comprised of two rounds of competition. ***The Production Round*** runs from January to April and consists of Evaluators attending school productions and making recommendations of performances or production elements which they feel should move into the second round of the competition, the Nomination Round. ***The Nomination Round*** begins after all shows have been initially adjudicated. The Nomination Committee, made up of primarily Paper Mill Playhouse Staff, considers the recommendations made by the Evaluators and analyzes the support material submitted by participants to determine the slate of Final Nominees.

### PRODUCTION ROUND

Evaluators attend productions between **Thursday, January 19, 2012 and Sunday, April 15, 2012** and submit recommendations for nominations based on the performances and production elements they see.

#### Criteria and Tools used in the PRODUCTION ROUND

- *Evaluator assessment of the performance attended*
- *Information on the production contained in the Rising Star Application received from each school*
- *Production and Performance Standards of Excellence that provide Evaluators with evaluation criteria and benchmarks in each award category*
- *Evaluator pre-season training sessions that provide models and effective practices for assessing and critiquing productions (sessions are mandatory for all Evaluators)*
- *Evaluator Handbook outlining conduct and commitment required of all Evaluators*

### NOMINATION ROUND

At the conclusion of the Production Round, the Nomination Committee, made up primarily of Paper Mill Playhouse Staff, convenes for a two week period during which time each category's Evaluator recommendations are independently reviewed. The Nomination Committee considers all eligible candidates with a fresh perspective and thoroughly reviews the Evaluator feedback, scoring and mandatory support material. There must be at least five eligible candidates identified for any category to launch. At the conclusion of the two-week Nomination Round, a slate of Final Nominations will be announced. The list will be emailed to each school and announced on the Paper Mill Playhouse website on **May 7, 2012**.

#### Criteria and Tools used in the NOMINATION ROUND

- *Mandatory Support Material (DVD and photos) submitted by the school*
- *Scores assigned to the Evaluators' recommendations*
- *Number of recommendations received (need at least a majority consensus of Evaluator Panel)*
- *Narratives submitted by the Evaluators regarding those recommendations*
- *Experience and accumulated musical theatre knowledge of the Nomination Committee, which will acknowledge the disparity of production requirements between shows and recognize the level of difficulty in mounting certain works*

**PLEASE NOTE: EVALUATOR RECOMMENDATIONS DO NOT GUARANTEE A FINAL NOMINATION.**

The Nomination Committee brings a variety of factors into consideration in reaching their decisions. In some cases, this may lead to the committee overriding the recommendations of the Evaluators, but this will only be done when deemed necessary. ***All decisions of the Nomination Committee are final.***

## CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE “OUTSTANDING OVERALL PRODUCTION” NOMINEES

Final Nominees for “Outstanding Overall Production” are determined by the Nomination Committee using the following indicators:

- *The Production Scores which are assigned by Evaluators based on the 13 general questions answered for all productions.*
- *A thorough review of the Mandatory Support Material (DVD and photos) submitted by the school.*
- *The number of nominations received in other Rising Star categories. The show must receive a minimum of two Final Nominations in the Production categories and four Final Nominations in the Artistic categories, one of which must be for Direction.*
- *Narratives submitted by the Evaluators.*
- *Experience and accumulated musical theatre knowledge of the Nomination Committee, which will acknowledge the disparity of production requirements between shows and recognize the level of difficulty in mounting certain works.*

Among the eligible candidates, the Nomination Committee will be assessing the following achievements:

- *Continuity and appropriateness in all production elements according to the demands and specifications of the script.*
- *Outstanding execution of production elements and performances.*
- *Balance between the physical production and the performances.*
- *Demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment from the cast.*

## APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINE

Schools wishing to participate in the 2012 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards must complete an e-application and produce a licensed musical between the dates of **Thursday, January 19 and Sunday, April 15, 2012**. The e-application is a Microsoft Word fill-in form that enables the applicant to type information directly into the form and allows unlimited space for responses. The e-application is available for download from Paper Mill's website at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org) on December 1, 2011 or via email upon request sent to [CRubino@papermill.org](mailto:CRubino@papermill.org). The completed application must be emailed to both [CRubino@papermill.org](mailto:CRubino@papermill.org) and [RisingStarAwards@gmail.com](mailto:RisingStarAwards@gmail.com) to ensure proper receipt of the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Manual applications are no longer available for use. We will not exceed 25 schools producing on any weekend during the Production Round. Once we have reached 25 schools in single weekend, that weekend will be closed and no further applications will be accepted for those dates, EVEN IF THERE IS STILL ROOM ON THE MAIN 100 SCHOOL ROSTER. Schools presenting on multiple weekends will be assigned to a specific weekend to be evaluated.

**All complete e-applications must be emailed to the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. The first 100 applications RECEIVED by the Paper Mill Education Department by the stated deadline will be accepted, keeping in mind the 25 school per weekend cap.**

**\*\* Please note that even if we receive the completed e-application on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, we may have already reached our 100 application maximum. We will email a confirmation if your application is accepted. \*\***

In addition to emailing the e-application, all applicants must mail to Paper Mill Playhouse the printed invoice with the appropriate application fee, unless paying by credit card. The mailed invoice and application fee must arrive in our office within ten days of the email submission. If the program is filled to its capacity of 100 schools, additional applications will not be considered. All received applications will get an emailed confirmation. If schools do not receive an email receipt confirmation within 24 hours they should assume there was trouble transmitting the attachment and should call our office immediately at (973) 315-1672. Do not assume that we have received any documents that we have not specifically confirmed.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If your school's agreement with a licensing house is still pending you may enter *"To Be Announced"* for the *Name of Musical and Dates and Times of Performances*. All other questions must be completed.

If not paying by credit card, the mailing must include:

- ✓ • The included invoice indicating the appropriate application fee.
- AND
- \$65 application fee if the e-application is emailed and received in our office on or before December 31, 2011.
- OR
- ✓ • \$75 application fee if the application is emailed and received in our office on or after January 1, 2012.

The application fee helps defray the cost of travel expenses for Evaluators. Checks or money orders should be made payable to **Paper Mill Playhouse**. **School Purchase Order Forms will be accepted as an indication of payment but must be received by Paper Mill Playhouse within ten (10) business days** of receipt of the e-application.

**Email the E-Application to**  
Carrie Rubino, Education Program  
Manager:  
[CRubino@PaperMill.org](mailto:CRubino@PaperMill.org)  
**AND**  
[RisingStarAwards@gmail.com](mailto:RisingStarAwards@gmail.com)

**Mail the invoice with application fee to:**  
2012 Rising Star Awards  
Paper Mill Playhouse  
22 Brookside Drive  
Millburn, NJ 07041

## EVALUATION PROCESS

Paper Mill Playhouse will send four (4) Evaluators to see the productions at each entered school between **Thursday, January 19 and Sunday, April 15, 2012**. The Evaluators will submit a written response form on each production and, if warranted, will make recommendations for nominations in specific categories. ***A list of categories appears on page 18 of this booklet.*** Our current corps of 70 evaluators is comprised of theatre educators as well as representatives from New Jersey professional and community theatres, presenting halls and arts education organizations. Evaluators hold degrees in music, theatre, dance or a related area; have extensive work experience in one of those disciplines on a professional or academic basis; or are professional artists or educators with a wide knowledge of American Musical Theatre. They have an understanding of and/or experience in mounting high school musicals and are avid theatre-goers. All Rising Star Evaluators attend a mandatory Orientation and Training Session in January 2012. Evaluator performance and compliance is closely monitored by the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department, and the effectiveness of their responses is assessed each year. Evaluators who do not meet Rising Star criteria are not invited to return.

Evaluators use a ***Performance Response Form*** to assess your production. They are asked to recommend elements of the production for nominations meeting specific criteria for excellence in each performance and production category. Evaluators will provide comments on the high points of a production as well as identify areas for improvement. A blank copy of the 2012 Performance Response Form with the recommendation criteria will be emailed to you during the week of January 16, 2012 along with a list of participating schools. Evaluator reports will be sent to each school as a compiled PDF after they have been processed by the Education Department.

The Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards is comprised of two rounds of competition. ***The Production Round*** runs from January to April and consists of Evaluators attending school productions and making recommendations on performances or production elements which they feel should move into the second round of the competition, the Nomination Round. ***The Nomination Round*** begins after all shows have been initially adjudicated.

To be considered for a nomination during the Nomination Round, a school must receive recommendations from a majority of the Evaluators in attendance in a given category during the Production Round. Those schools/performers with a majority consensus of assigned Evaluators will be considered for the Final Nomination slate after a thorough review of Evaluator comments, category scores and the mandatory support material submitted by the schools themselves.

Once the Final Nominations are determined by the Nomination Committee, the full Evaluator panel convenes in mid-May to discuss the Nominees and to anonymously vote for award recipients. A separate committee comprised of Paper Mill Playhouse staff and other industry and education professionals review scholarship applications and all other auxiliary awards applications. All nominees will be invited to attend the ***17<sup>th</sup> Annual Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards*** where the award recipients are announced and nominees in certain categories perform selections from their shows.

## CASTING

- ☆ A list of eligible characters for each Rising Star performance category, otherwise known as a “Role Breakdown,” will be sent to schools. For example “Maria” is the Lead Actress in WEST SIDE STORY, while the character “Anita” is the Supporting Actress. Final determination of placement of characters will ultimately be decided by Paper Mill Playhouse. If a school changes a character’s part in a way that differs from the script, Paper Mill may reassign the role to a different category. A list of the 2012 “Role Breakdown” will be emailed to participating schools the week of January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- ☆ Schools that double or triple cast their show, must choose one cast, their “**Designated Cast**,” to be entered in the Rising Star Awards and provide us with the Designated Cast’s performance date(s). Please note that if the Designated Cast is featured for one performance only, all four assigned Evaluators will be in attendance for the same performance, a practice we try to avoid. For scheduling purposes, the Designated Cast should perform in at least two public performances. This would enable more flexibility for Evaluators, who will be seeing 2-3 shows per weekend throughout the spring.
- ☆ **Each school must determine who will perform in their “Designated Cast” and it is not Paper Mill Playhouse’s intention to imply that principle roles should be played by upperclassmen.** Whichever cast the director determines best represents the efforts of that school should be selected as the Designated Cast. Once submitted, a school may not change the dates of their Designated Cast performances. The players may change during the rehearsal process, but the performance dates may not. The selection of a Designated Cast was instituted in 2004 to ensure that all nominees have equal representation at the end-of-season Final Evaluators Meeting, when Evaluators vote for the recipients in each category.
- ☆ If a school chooses to cast adult or child performers (*defined for Rising Star purposes as someone who has graduated from high school, or home-schooled individuals age 18 and over or someone who is younger than students in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade*) in their production, they are doing so with the understanding that they may be disqualified from nomination consideration in the categories affected by that casting, up to and including the Outstanding Overall Production category. In most situations a high school’s chosen cast is comprised entirely from students enrolled at that high school or in the case of some children’s roles, from the lower grades of that school district. In some cases, such as with single gender parochial or private schools, a high school will invite students from other schools to join the cast. Students who are home-schooled often participate in Rising Stars in this way. In very limited cases, a high school will cast an adult, perhaps an alumnus of the school or a faculty member, for reasons as varied as low audition turnout or school tradition.

[EXAMPLES: Invited non-student performances that have occurred over the years are: Officer Krupke and Lt. Schrank in WEST SIDE STORY (*often played by principals or faculty*), Miss Hannigan in ANNIE (*often played by faculty*), and the featured ballet dancer in CAROUSEL (*danced by a relative of the musical director*). In these cases, for example, the adult actors appearing in WEST SIDE STORY and CAROUSEL would be disqualified in the “Outstanding Featured Ensemble Member” category (*but other STUDENT featured performers in the same productions WOULD be eligible in that category*). However, the school producing ANNIE would have the adult portraying Miss Hannigan disqualified from the “Outstanding Supporting Actress” category (*again, all other STUDENT supporting actresses in the same production WOULD be eligible in that category*), and the entire production would be disqualified from the “Outstanding Overall Production” category since Miss Hannigan is a principle role and the quality of that portrayal contributes to the overall effectiveness of the production. The Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department will make disqualification determinations on a case by case basis as they arise, and all decisions of the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department will be final.]

## TICKETING & EVALUATOR ATTENDANCE

- ☆ Each production will be attended by four (4) Evaluators representing Paper Mill Playhouse. The Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department will reserve a maximum of eight (8) complimentary tickets (2 per Evaluator) to entered productions on behalf of each Evaluator and their guest. If a guest cancels and will not accompany the Evaluator to the production, that Evaluator will inform the box office that one seat may be released upon picking up his/her reserved ticket. Tickets shall not be unreasonably requested by Paper Mill Playhouse or unreasonably denied by participating schools. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, an Evaluator fails to attend an assigned performance, the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department will attempt to re-assign that Evaluator to another of the school's performances, if any remain. If no performances remain the Education Department will double the highest score and all recommendations received by that school from the remaining three Evaluators assigned to that production. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, more than two or more Evaluators fail to attend an assigned performance, rendering a fair assessment of the production impossible, the school will regrettably be withdrawn from the competition and the application fee will be refunded in full.
- ☆ The Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department **strongly** recommends that teachers allow the Evaluators to attend performances anonymously so that they can fairly evaluate the production without lobbying from cast members' families and friends. Eight (8) tickets to each performance should be held by the school until they receive specific reservation instructions at least one week prior to each participating school's performance dates, or sooner if scheduling permits. Tickets will be reserved under a name other than Paper Mill Playhouse that will be known only to the school's ticket coordinator, Evaluators and Paper Mill Playhouse Education staff. Evaluators will pick up the reserved tickets immediately prior to their assigned performance. **Please do not mail tickets to Paper Mill Playhouse.**
- ☆ Evaluators will be sent to regular public performances and only assigned to rehearsals or student matinees if no other scheduling option exists.
- ☆ The Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department makes every effort to send a full complement of Evaluators to each school. **Schools that believe that Evaluators have not picked up tickets or attended performances should leave a message for Carrie Rubino in the Education Department at [973-315-1672](tel:973-315-1672) as soon as possible so that subsequent arrangements may be made.** The voice mail on this number will be regularly checked on weekends during the period of the Rising Star productions. Similarly, Evaluators are instructed to contact Paper Mill Playhouse in case they cannot make a particular performance so that replacement Evaluators may be sent. On weekends and at other times, it may not be possible to reach the schools and make actual reservations for these replacement Evaluators. In this case, the Evaluator will purchase tickets at the door and the Education Department will refund the price of the ticket to the Evaluator.
- ☆ Every attempt will be made to re-schedule Evaluators in the event of inclement weather or cancelled performances.
- ☆ As individual Evaluator assignments are made, every attempt will be made to ensure non-partiality on the part of the Evaluators. Evaluators having a relationship, either professional or personal, with individuals at a particular school will not be assigned to evaluate that school's production. Paper Mill Playhouse also makes every effort to send Evaluators skilled in various areas of theatre production to each school (i.e. a director, a designer, a choreographer, etc.) and to rotate the pool so that the same Evaluators do not attend shows at the same school in consecutive years (*unless an Evaluator is stepping in as an emergency substitute at the last minute*).
- ☆ We recommend that teachers not tell their students when the Evaluators are coming so that the Evaluators will see a typical performance as an average member of the audience. Roping off or placing reserved signs on seats that read "Paper Mill Playhouse Evaluators" is strongly discouraged.

## EVALUATOR FEEDBACK

- ☆ Paper Mill Playhouse strives to email Evaluator comments and recommendations as soon as possible following your show. Reports are emailed on a rolling basis. Please note some factors when considering the timeliness of your school's report:
  - Evaluators have ten days to submit their Performance Response Forms following a show.
  - Comments cannot be sent until all Evaluators in attendance have submitted their reports.
  - Over 80% of participating schools hold their musical in March. Because of the sheer volume of schools producing during that month, schools producing in March should expect a delay of at least one month in receiving their Evaluator Performance Response Forms.

## EXCLUSIONS

- ☆ High Schools participating in other Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department initiatives are eligible to participate in the Rising Star Awards. However, these schools are not eligible for nomination in a category where a specific Paper Mill Playhouse residency, workshop, or activity lends assistance or provides guidance in the area of that category. For example – a school receiving a dance or choreography residency, where the content of the residency specifically addresses the choreography of their musical production, would not be eligible for nomination in the category of Outstanding Achievement in Choreography.
- ☆ Schools participating in the Rising Star Awards who rent costumes, props or set pieces from Paper Mill Playhouse will not be eligible in the categories of Outstanding Costume or Scenic Achievement, if rental items constitute more than 50 percent of their production's design elements.
- ☆ Only schools using orchestras that are comprised of a minimum of 75% student musicians will be eligible in the category of Outstanding Achievement by an Orchestra, with no more than 25% hired professionals or non-student players. Student musicians must be currently enrolled in a high school. School alumni or college age musicians are not considered student musicians for the purposes of determining eligibility in the Outstanding Achievement by an Orchestra Category. Determination of eligibility in this category will be based on information provided in the school's application form and program listings, and will be at the discretion of the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department. Schools that use only CD accompaniment will be ineligible in the Orchestra, Music Direction and Outstanding Overall Production categories.
- ☆ If a school chooses to cast adult or child performers (*defined for Rising Star purposes as someone who has graduated from high school, or home-schooled individuals age 18 and over or someone who is younger than students in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade*) in their production, they are doing so with the understanding that they may be disqualified from nomination consideration in the categories affected by that casting, up to and including the Outstanding Overall Production category. (*See page 8 for details on casting.*)
- ☆ Design and/or creation of props created for a school's production are taken into consideration as an achievement in either the scenic or costume category, accordingly.
- ☆ If a student receives a final nomination in a production category, but is also nominated by a teacher or director for a Student Achievement Award for the same contribution, the full category nomination will take precedence and the student will become ineligible for the Student Achievement Award for that same contribution. However, that same student is still eligible for a Student Achievement Award for a wholly different contribution to the school's production should this scenario present itself.
- ☆ School productions directed by employees of Paper Mill Playhouse are not eligible to compete in the Rising Star Awards. Paper Mill employees who serve as choreographers, musical directors or designers (or who work in other prominent positions on the creative or technical staff of a participating production) are also not eligible for nomination in the area of their work on the production.

## SUPPORT MATERIAL GUIDELINES

Other than presenting their musical, a school's primary responsibility when participating in the Rising Star Awards is to assemble and submit the required support material by the stated deadline of **Friday, April 20, 2012 at 5:00 pm**. *The importance of this cannot be understated!* It is suggested that all participants have a plan to provide Paper Mill Playhouse with adequate support material. The most successful productions will often assign a team or "crew" whose job it is to document the rehearsal process and performances for the purposes of presenting their show to the Nomination Committee of the Rising Star Awards. All schools must submit support material to be considered for a Final Nomination in any category or Auxiliary Award. This material is used to augment and support Evaluator comments and observations and to demonstrate the quality and character of your production throughout the nominating and voting process. Whereas in past seasons the submission of support material was an encouraged option, it is now a mandatory requirement. Schools that fail to submit support material are in effect withdrawing themselves from the competition prematurely and, despite any recommendations they or their students may have received by Evaluators, will not be given further consideration by the Nomination Committee.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Due to limited office and storage space, the Paper Mill Education Department is no longer able to accept large display boards, oversized photo albums, three-dimensional props or scenic elements, or any other over-sized representations of participating productions. All Support Material should fit into one 10 by 13 inch envelope.*

### SUPPORT MATERIAL INCLUDES:

#### MANDATORY digital production photos on CD, DVD or USB flash drive.

##### 10 photos minimum of the following:

- ☆ Finished Lobby Display (if applicable)
- ☆ Finished Hair and Make-Up
- ☆ Finished Costumes
- ☆ Finished Lighting
- ☆ Finished Scenic Elements

##### 2 photos minimum of the following:

- ☆ Each Leading Actress
- ☆ Each Leading Actor
- ☆ Each Supporting Actress
- ☆ Each Supporting Actor
- ☆ Each Performer in a Featured Role
- ☆ Each Featured Ensemble Member
- ☆ Each Ensemble Group
- ☆ Chorus

#### MANDATORY video in a segmented DVD

**\*\*The submission of DVDs comes with certain conditions:**

1. DVDs submitted should be segmented into chapters and must be compatible with the Microsoft Windows Operating System or a DVD player.

**\*\* Our preference is to receive the full length DVD of the show segmented into chapters by production number. Also acceptable are DVDs that:**

1. contain footage of a dress rehearsal, or
2. are edited highlights with footage of select production numbers and/or scenes

#### MANDATORY programs/playbills (at least 2 copies) for consideration in the Graphic Design category.

***Please keep the following in mind when deciding what support material to send to Paper Mill:***

- Enclose the ***support material packing slip*** with your items to ensure their safe return. This form may be downloaded from [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org).
- Each item submitted must be labeled with the school's name and the name of the show.
- Since some support material is returned following the June awards ceremony, please include a summer shipping address if it is different from your school address.
- Digital photos submitted must be placed into separate titled file folders. You may use a picture more than once if it best represents two different categories (i.e. set and lights or leading actress and hair and make-up.)
- Schools anticipating a nomination in a technical category should send photos that highlight individual technical elements (i.e. sets, costumes or lights) without performers standing in front of them, as well as sending photos of an actual performance that demonstrates the technical element as it was used in the show.
- Schools anticipating a nomination in the category of Outstanding Achievement in Lobby Display should send a minimum of ten photos of the completed display and/or a video tour of the lobby (no longer than five minutes in length). Photos of the work process used to create the display are acceptable, but photos of the finished lobby must be included as well.
- Schools anticipating a nomination in the category of Outstanding Achievement by an Orchestra should send an audio sample of the show's overture, entr'acte, incidental music or a segment of a production or dance number that does not feature solo or choral singing and does not include spoken dialogue.
- Schools or students applying for auxiliary awards (Student Achievement Award, Educational Impact Award, Scaramouche Technical Theatre Scholarship or The Rising Star "Theatre for Everyone" Inclusion & Access Award) are encouraged to send support material with their applications. (See page 13 for details on Auxiliary Awards.)

**Support material must be received in the office of  
the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department  
by  
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012 at 5:00 PM**

## AUXILIARY AWARDS

In addition to the Rising Star Awards performance and production categories, special awards may be made in the following areas:

The **Educational Impact Award** was introduced in 1998 in an effort to recognize the broad educational benefit derived from students participating in high school musicals. The Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department selects the school or schools to receive this award, however, an award will only be given in this category if worthy candidates demonstrating specific connections to NJ State Core Curriculum Content Standards are presented. Curriculum connections must be tangible with a well documented outcome. Support material (*i.e. student essays or examples of coursework related to the musical, photographs, DVD video, etc.*) is **required** and should be clearly labeled as "Educational Impact Support Material" since it will be separated from the other support material your school submits. Schools wishing to be considered for this award must complete the separate **2012 Educational Impact Award Application Form** and return it to the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department by **5:00 PM on Friday, April 20, 2012**. The recipient of the Educational Impact Award will receive a \$500 prize. The application for this award may be downloaded at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org).

The **Student Achievement Award** invites teachers to make recommendations for student members of your production team who have given their time and talent in a backstage or non-acting capacity (*i.e. stage manager, stage crew, light board operator, costumes, student/assistant directors, student/assistant choreographers, dance captains, etc.*). Teachers may nominate as many of their students as they deem worthy of this award but Paper Mill will choose no more than 3 applications per school to receive a Final Nomination in this category. Of those 3, there is a maximum of 2 individual student nominations and one crew or group nomination per school. Students who take on production responsibilities in addition to appearing in the show are also eligible for this award. Teachers are asked to submit the separate enclosed Student Achievement Award Application Form along with a one (1) page typed essay/letter per student nominated, outlining the student's contributions to the production. Support material (*i.e. set renderings, costume sketches, light plots, stage manager's book, choreography rehearsal video, etc.*) is **required** and should be clearly labeled as such since they will be separated from the other support materials your school submits. Schools wishing to submit students for this award must complete the separate **2012 Student Achievement Award Application Form** with the essay and return it to Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department by **5:00 PM on Friday, April 20, 2012**. The application for this award may be downloaded at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org).

The **Rising Star "Theatre for Everyone" Inclusion & Access Award** recognizes excellence in the promotion and practice of creative inclusion of students and adults with disabilities as performers, designers, musicians and production staff. Additionally, this award also seeks to recognize and reward a school that takes steps to ensure their performances are accessible to audiences with disabilities. An award of \$1,000 will be given to a single deserving school selected by a panel of Evaluators from Paper Mill Playhouse, VSA New Jersey and the Cultural Access Network of New Jersey. Schools wishing to submit students or adults for this award must complete the separate **2012 Rising Star "Theatre for Everyone" Inclusion & Access Award Application Form** and return it to Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department by **5:00 PM on Friday, April 20, 2012**. The application for this award may be downloaded at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org).

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Paper Mill Playhouse awards three \$1000 cash scholarships to outstanding individual seniors participating in entered Rising Star Award productions who plan to continue studying theatre in college. A fourth cash scholarship is named in memoriam of Douglas Michael Krueger and provided by the Douglas Michael Krueger Arts Foundation. A fifth cash scholarship of \$1,000 is sponsored by Scaramouche Costumes, LLC and will recognize a graduating senior going on to study technical theatre in college. The deadline to apply for scholarships is **5:00 PM on Friday, April 20, 2012**. Applications for the **2012 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Scholarships and Scaramouche Technical Theatre Scholarship for the Rising Star Awards** are available at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org).

## FINAL NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT & SUMMER CONSERVATORY SCHOLARSHIP PRIZES

A list of the Final Nominations for the 2012 Rising Star Awards will be emailed to participants on **Monday, May 7, 2012**, and will be posted the same day on Paper Mill Playhouse's website at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org).

All students receiving a final nomination in the categories of Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role, Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role are offered a full scholarship to attend the Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory held on the campus of Kean University in Union, NJ. Conservatory students participate in singing, acting, and dance classes and attend guest artist workshops conducted by actors, directors, designers, and casting agents. Each student also receives a private voice lesson once each week. Students that receive a final nomination in the categories of Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role and Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role will receive a 50% scholarship to the program. The final week of the Conservatory is devoted to rehearsals for an annual "New Voices Concert" that showcases the students on the Paper Mill Playhouse stage. Next summer's program will be held from July 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and all classes and rehearsals are under the supervision of Paper Mill Playhouse's professional Artistic and Education Department staffs.

## AWARDS CEREMONY AND TICKETING

The Awards Ceremony will be held at Paper Mill Playhouse on **Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 7:30 PM**. The ceremony will feature performances of production numbers from the top nominated musicals and selections performed by students nominated in outstanding lead actor and lead actress categories. Tickets for the awards ceremony will be sold through each of the nominated schools. **Tickets to the Awards Ceremony will be allocated to schools receiving Final Nominations based on the overall number of nominations received.** Ticketing is very limited and unfortunately we cannot provide tickets for everyone who would like to attend. **TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.** Individuals recognized with an award will be invited on stage and permitted to make an acceptance speech not exceeding two minutes in length. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, Student Achievement Award winners will not be able to make acceptance speeches, but instead will be acknowledged on stage. Transportation to and from Paper Mill Playhouse for the Awards Ceremony will be the responsibility of each individual school.

Schools nominated in the Outstanding Overall Production Category will be asked to present one (1) musical number from their production at the Awards Ceremony in June. Final selection of the number will be made by the nominated school and the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department. No scenic elements will be allowed for the performance, but costumes and hand props that can be transported to Paper Mill Playhouse by the students will be permitted. Due to limited dressing room space, students will be asked to wear their costumes throughout the ceremony. The number of tickets received by a school nominated for Outstanding Overall Production ranges year to year but is generally 70 tickets. It is requested that schools not using their full allotment of tickets for the ceremony contact the Education Department in a timely manner so that seats may be released and made available to other schools.

As additional seats become available, allocation of those seats to schools requesting more than their original allotment will not be unreasonably withheld. Because of limited orchestra seating, Paper Mill Playhouse does not guarantee that your entire party will be seated together.

Individuals nominated in the categories of Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role and Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role will be asked to perform in a medley arranged by Paper Mill Playhouse at the Awards Ceremony. Rehearsal time will be scheduled on the day of the Awards Ceremony.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### RISING STAR AWARDS PROGRAM LISTINGS

The Paper Mill Education Department is dependent upon your school's playbill/program for accurate information regarding the students and faculty involved. Please list information as clearly as possible; include the full name and credits for each of the following production positions:

- Director(s)
- Choreographer(s)
- Scenic Designer(s)
- Graphic Designer(s)
- Music Director(s) (instrumental, vocal & conductor)
- Lighting Designer(s)
- Costume Designer(s)
- Hair & Makeup Designer(s)
- Lobby Display Designer(s)

Please indicate clearly with an asterisk (\*) or other symbol, any production elements designed by a STUDENT or team of students.

The following promotional copy is provided for inclusion in your production's program with the intention of lending an endorsement to your school's production and highlighting the participation of your school and your students in the Rising Star Awards. However, inclusion of this ad is not mandatory, and the absence of the copy from your program will not prevent your production from being evaluated or recommended for nominations in any way.

\_\_\_\_\_

(school's name)

**production of**

\_\_\_\_\_

(production title)

**is proud to participate in the**  
**2012 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards**  
**a statewide program recognizing and awarding excellence in the production of**  
**high school musicals**

## **RISING STAR AWARDS TICKET EXCHANGE**

Paper Mill is pleased to facilitate a ticket exchange between participating schools. The ticket exchange encourages students and educators to see other productions and lend support to the endeavors of their peers. If you would like to participate in the ticket exchange, check the box provided in the application form. A list of all the schools entered, along with the dates to their show and a contact number, will be emailed the week of January 16<sup>th</sup>, so tickets can be exchanged accordingly.

## **RISING STAR AWARDS STOCK EXCHANGE**

Paper Mill Playhouse is pleased to facilitate an endeavor called the "The Stock Exchange" This program lets participants know which schools may have inventory such as costumes, set pieces or props from past productions that may be either lent or rented for a nominal fee to other schools. Schools willing to participate should check off the box on the last page of the application form and those schools will be indicated on the master list of 2012 Participating Schools that will be emailed the week of January 16<sup>th</sup>. That list will also have contact information of the participants so that they may be contacted directly for an accounting of their available inventory. All fees or barter must be negotiated directly between the involved schools, and Paper Mill Playhouse will not set rental fee guidelines or parameters. Paper Mill Playhouse is not responsible for any part of the agreements struck between parties and will serve merely as an information resource.

## SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT 2012 DATES AND DEADLINES

- ★ January 11 ..... 2012 Rising Star Awards Applications Due (*Applications must be received by 5:00 pm*)
- ★ Week of January 16... List of 2012 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards participants emailed to schools
- ★ January 19 through
  - April 15 ..... **PRODUCTION ROUND: 2012 Rising Star Awards participating schools present musicals**  
 (Paper Mill Playhouse will e-mail the Evaluator’s reservation request at least one week before your performances begin. Please hold 4-8 tickets per performance until the reservation is confirmed.)
- ★ April 20 ..... **All Auxiliary Awards Applications and Support Material Due by 5:00 pm:**
  - Student Achievement Awards (Application and Support Material)
  - Educational Impact Award (Application and Support Material)
  - Rising Star “Theatre for Everyone” Inclusion & Access Award (Application and Support Material)
  - Paper Mill Playhouse Scholarship Awards (Application)
  - Scaramouche Technical Theatre Scholarship for the Rising Star Awards (Application and Support Material)
- ★ April 20 ..... **Deadline for Submission of Rising Star Awards Support Material for the category awards**  
*(Support Material must be received by 5:00 pm)*
- ★ April 23 through
  - May 4 ..... **NOMINATION ROUND: Nomination Committee meets to determine Final Nominations**
- ★ May 7 ..... List of Final Nominations emailed to participating schools and posted on [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org)
- ★ May 7 ..... All Scholarship recipients are notified
- ★ May 16 ..... Tickets go on sale to nominated schools for the 2012 Rising Star Awards Ceremony
- ★ May 19 ..... Final Evaluator Meeting -- *award recipients are determined*
- ★ May 30 ..... Last day for nominated schools to claim tickets for the 2012 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards
- ★ June 5 ..... 2012 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards Ceremony
- ★ June 15 ..... All support material to be returned along with any outstanding Evaluator Performance Response Forms for each school

## AWARDS PRESENTED

All decisions of the Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department and Rising Star Evaluators are final.

**Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical**

★

**Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role**

★

**Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role**

★

**Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role**

★

**Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role**

★

**Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role**

★

**Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Member**

★

**Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group**

★

**Outstanding Performance by a Chorus**

★

**Outstanding Performance by an Orchestra**

★

**Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction**

★

**Outstanding Achievement in Choreography**

★

**Outstanding Achievement by a Teacher or Outside Director**

★

**Outstanding Scenic Achievement**

★

**Outstanding Lighting Achievement**

★

**Outstanding Costuming Achievement**

★

**Outstanding Hair & Make-up Achievement**

★

**Outstanding Graphic Design Achievement**

*(programs, posters, etc.; nominees determined by Paper Mill Playhouse Education & Marketing Departments based on support material submitted by all schools)*

★

**Outstanding Lobby Display Achievement**

★

**Student Achievement Awards**

*(i.e. stage manager, stage crew, light board operator, costumes, student/assistant directors, student/assistant choreographers, dance captains, etc.; winners determined by Paper Mill Playhouse RSA Student Achievement Committee)*

★

**Educational Impact Award**

*(winner(s) determined by Paper Mill Playhouse Education Department)*

★

**Rising Star "Theatre for Everyone" Inclusion & Access Award**

*(winner(s) determined by Rising Star "Theatre for Everyone" Inclusion & Access Award Committee)*

★

**Paper Mill Playhouse Scholarship Awards**

*(winners determined by Scholarship Awards Committee)*

★

**Scaramouche Technical Theatre Scholarship for the Rising Star Awards**

*(winner determined by Scholarship Award Committee)*