

HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST

ORPHEUM ★ STATE ★ PANTAGES ★ NEW CENTURY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONTACT:

Dale B. Stark

612.455.9537

dale.stark@hennepintheatretrust.org



Bemidji High School and Hennepin Theatre Trust Announce Fall 2015 Spotlight Education Program Honors

MINNEAPOLIS—Bemidji High School and Hennepin Theatre Trust recognized the musical theatre accomplishments of Minnesota students and schools participating in the Trust's *Spotlight Education* program for the 2015 fall semester. Spotlight Education is the Trust's premier education initiative, which supports and honors Minnesota high school students and programs focused on musical theatre. Minnesota native and Broadway performer, and former Spotlight alumnae, **Laura Osnes**, is the 2015-2016 *Spotlight Education* spokesperson.

This past fall, 47 schools submitted their high school musical for production assessment by theatre professionals and educators on behalf of the Trust. These critiques provided detailed educational feedback for the students and directors in categories ranging from overall production to individual performances. Shows are not compared or ranked against each other, so categories may have multiple honorees. This year's 2015 fall honorees are listed below.

Bemidji High School presented **Shrek the Musical** in November, 2015 and is receiving the following honor(s) for its achievements:

Overall Production – Honorable Mention
Overall Performance – Honorable Mention
Technical Achievement – Outstanding
Ensemble Performance – Honorable Mention
Technical Crew – Outstanding
Student Orchestra – Outstanding
A/V Board Operator Team – Honorable Mention

Individual Awards -

Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role: Tanner Garrigan as Shrek
Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role: Mitchell Shaw as Farquaad
Honorable Mention in a Leading Role: Calvin Sheffield as Donke
Honorable Mention in a Supporting Role: Emily Bergeron as Dragon
Honorable Mention in a Supporting Role: Sage Hovet as Gingy/Sugar Plum Fairy
Outstanding in Technical Leadership: Sam Harmon
Outstanding in Technical Leadership: Nate Anderson

- MORE -



Hennepin Theatre Trust, non-profit owner of the historic Orpheum, State, Pantages and the newly developed New Century Theatres, is devoted to enriching the vibrant cultural atmosphere of the Twin Cities.

615 HENNEPIN AVENUE, SUITE 140 ★ MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403 ★ Phone 612.455.9500 ★ HennepinTheatreTrust.org

Spotlight Education Fall 2015 Recognition, p. 2

Honorable Mention in Technical Leadership: Michelle LaMoure
Evaluator Shout Out: Mallory Seykora as Little Fiona
Evaluator Shout Out: Britta Aas as Teen Fiona
Evaluator Shout Out: Carly Fuhrman as Fiona
Evaluator Shout Out: Brent Ekstrom, Assistant Stage Manager

Spotlight Education enriches students' lives through a performing arts education. The program provides valuable educational, performing and creative experiences for students. These activities help foster essential life skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving and self-expression. *Spotlight Education* is composed of four initiatives: production assessment, *Spotlight Showcase*, workshops and master classes, and *Critical Review*.

Spotlight Education schools and students will be recognized at the ***Spotlight Showcase*** over two evenings – **7 p.m. on Sunday, June 12 and Monday, June 13** – at the **State Theatre**. This professionally-produced event highlights the amazing talent of Minnesota high school musical theatre program students and educators who participate in the *Spotlight Education* program. Tickets for the *Showcase* go on sale in mid-February.