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Alumni Spotlight

Alex Atiyeh, 2018 Parkland Graduate

Alex is now a student at the University of Delaware, majoring in Communications with a minor in Theatre Studies. He’s also interning at the State Theatre this summer. We asked Alex for some of his best memories, and what the program meant to him...

“My favorite FREDDY© memory was being able to perform on that incredible stage for people to see. For both the opening number and for my school’s performance, nothing beats being on that stage. You can’t get more magical than that.

I think the FREDDY© Awards has definitely helped individual schools improve their musical theatre programs. It really promotes their shows, and helps all the schools get bigger audiences during their show week. I also believe that the Freddy’s inspire kids to continue their passion for theatre and work hard at it. That’s how I felt every year at the awards ceremony.

The FREDDY© program taught me to never give up on what I love. Every year that I participated, I didn’t care if I won an award or if I was even nominated. All I cared about was being a part of something huge that impacted the whole community. It’s not about who wins what. It’s about bringing our community together and supporting the arts.”

2019 Scholarships, Internships and Community Awards

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JUST BORN Education/Community Impact Award

Awarded to the school that best connects the theme of its musical to areas of academic study and/or to a community based outreach project.

2019 Recipient: Phillipsburg High School

Phillipsburg’s production of Beauty and the Beast this year truly took on a life of its own, as the cast and crew came up with creative ways to engage many high school and elementary students as well as benefit seniors in their community.

French Immersion Project—

Significant lesson plans were developed for their French students to study the original French version of Beauty and the Beast, It was a creative educational process that included student summaries and oral presentations in French, vocabulary logs and Venn diagrams that compared the French version to the Disney version, and character dialogues in French.

Beauty and the Beast Fun Night—

An entirely student run event in conjunction with National Honor Society. High school students presented and led a sing along to the movie Beauty and the Beast, and organized Beauty and the Beast crafts, games and activities.

Phillipsburg Senior Center Spaghetti Dinner—

The theatre students dressed in their costumes and were singing waiters and waitresses and made this event the best it had ever been, serving over 160 seniors, and creating a delightful and memorable evening for all.

“The joint dinner was the largest, most successful on the usual scale. I have never before had a dinner in which the audience was so enthusiastic. The energy of all of the students celebrating theatre together keeps our staff and volunteers going all year!”

- Colleen Maddock, Director, Phillipsburg Area Senior Center

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MISSION AND FAST FACTS

The mission of the FREDDY© Awards is to recognize and reward exceptional achievements in the production and performance of musical theater programs in local high schools.

- Modeled after the Tony® Awards, the non-profit, EMMY® Award-winning program is open to all high schools in Northampton, Lehigh and Warren counties.
- There is no cost to any student to participate.
- Over 51,000 students from 33 schools since 2003 have participated.
- Over 1400 meals provided free of charge to participating students.
- 150+ community volunteers, including many FREDDY alumni.
- Ticket sales to musical theater performances at participating FREDDY© schools are up 60% since program’s inception.
- 2019 Program Expenses: $397,300.

Over $1.5 million in college scholarships and paid internships have been awarded to participating FREDDY© students.

2019 Participating High Schools

- Allentown Central Catholic - The Drowsy Chaperone
- Bangor Area - Mamma Mia!
- Belvidere - Into the Woods
- Bethlehem Catholic - Meet Me in St. Louis
- Catasauqua - Anything Goes
- Dieruff - Once on This Island
- Easton Area - Oklahoma!
- Emmaus - Les Misérables (School Edition)
- Freedom - Anything Goes
- Hackettstown - Tuck Everlasting
- Liberty - Disney’s Beauty and the Beast
- Lincoln Leadership Academy - A Little Princess
- Moravian Academy - The Boy Friend
- Nazareth Area - Curtains
- North Warren Regional - Mamma Mia!
- Northampton Area - Mary Poppins
- Northern Lehigh - Bye Bye Birdie
- Northwestern Lehigh - The Addams Family
- Notre Dame - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Parkland - Curtains
- Phillipsburg - Disney’s Beauty and the Beast
- Salem Christian School - Freaky Friday
- Salisbury - HONK!
- Saucon Valley - Curtains
- Southern Lehigh - Les Misérables (School Edition)
- Warren County Technical School - Jasper in Deadland
- Warren Hills Regional - The Addams Family
- Whitehall - Mamma Mia!
- William Allen - Sister Act
- Wilson Area - Big Fish

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The cast of Bangor Area High School, Mamma Mia!

The cast of Emmaus High School, Les Misérables (School Edition)

Photo Credits: FREDDY© Award Photographers David Dabour & Thomas Kosa
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2019 Community Impact Report