

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 **54,000** students from **33** schools since 2003 have participated
- Over **1,400** 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

Over \$1.66 million in college scholarships and paid internships have been awarded to participating FREDDY® students



State Theatre[™]
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Denise L. Smith | VP, Development
610-258-7766 ext. 223 | dsmith@statetheatre.org

2020 Participating High Schools

Allentown Central Catholic - The Pajama Game
Bangor Area - Carrie the Musical
Belvidere - Disney's Beauty and the Beast
Bethlehem Catholic - Seussical
Catasauqua - Crazy for You
Dieruff - Cabaret
Easton Area - The Pajama Game
Emmaus - Hello, Dolly!
Freedom - Mary Poppins
Hackettstown - Seussical
Liberty - Peter Pan
Moravian Academy - State Fair
Nazareth Area - On the Town
North Warren Regional - Legally Blonde
Northampton Area - Cinderella (2013 Broadway Version)
Northern Lehigh - Urinetown
Northwestern Lehigh - All Shook Up
Notre Dame - Annie
Parkland - Tuck Everlasting
Phillipsburg - The Wizard of Oz
Salem Christian School - Anne of Green Gables the Musical
Salisbury - Into the Woods
Saucon Valley - Hello, Dolly!
Southern Lehigh - Newsies
Warren County Technical School - All Shook Up
Warren Hills Regional - Matilda the Musical
Whitehall - Cinderella (2013 Broadway Version)
William Allen - Bring It On
Wilson Area - Once Upon a Mattress



Photo Credits:
FREDDY® Awards Photographers David Dabour & Thomas Kosa
Tim Wynkoop, lehighvalleylive.com



The State Theatre Center for the Arts
Freddy[®]
Awards



2020

Community Impact Report

Reflections From Shelley Brown Executive Producer, FREDDY® Awards

As we began the year 2020 at the State Theatre, our usual FREDDY® preparations began. While our TV show in May is the glittering “tip of the iceberg,” our program begins months before. Our evaluators began to see school shows in February with an eye out for bad weather, which, until now, was our expected uncontrollable problem. Then came Covid-19. As the school closings began, we saw immediately that our traditional television broadcast was going to be impossible. Only 6 schools of our 29 this year were able to perform. We watched helplessly as the cancellations mounted, including suspension of our own programming. I don’t have to remind anyone of the devastation that impacted everyone as March and April progressed. With our theatre shut down, the schools closed, and the WFMZ’s studio operations hampered, we had no idea what we could possibly do in May. And our hearts broke especially for the school seniors, almost 500 of them, who would miss the fun and camaraderie that FREDDY® season brings.



I am happy to say that thanks to the spirit and creativity of WFMZ, our amazing sponsors and donors, and the State Theatre’s FREDDY® team, we were able to deliver a show that was a bright spot in a very hard time. Our musical coordinator, Frank Anonia, created a virtual opening number that gathered one senior from each of our 29 schools. This group never met or rehearsed together but delivered a wonderful performance to open the show. Thanks, also, to Barry Fisher, of WFMZ, who insisted that we fill three hours, and suggested a montage of 17 opening numbers...all the years of the FREDDYs. We also asked for seniors to send us virtual sentiments about musical theatre. The show wasn’t the spectacular it usually is, but what it reflected was the joy and spirit of our kids. And, to top things off, every sponsor and donor stayed with us. Grants that in a “normal” year are attached to specific FREDDYs were pooled and a check sent to each of the 29 schools. And college scholarships and internships were awarded to talented and deserving students as well.

I can think of little good to say about Covid-19, but I will say that we were able to see dramatically what we have always believed- that the program celebrates and bonds our students in an amazing way. And, that the program has created a unique and special community that has changed lives for the better.

We hope and pray that this will have been the only year disrupted by this virus. Our region needs to support the musical-theatre students that it has served so well, and we are proud of our role in that celebration. On to 2021!

2020 Scholarships, Internships and Community Awards

*We Thank These Community Partners For Enhancing
And Enriching The Educational Value Of The FREDDY® Awards!*

Total of almost \$150, 000 awarded this year.

Cedar Crest College | Civic Theatre Of Allentown
DeSales University | East Stroudsburg University
Muhlenberg College | Northampton Community College
Pennsylvania Youth Ballet/Ballet Guild Of The Lehigh Valley
West Virginia University

**Thanks to these Community Award businesses, all 29 schools
got an equal monetary award for their theater department.**

Air Products | First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union
lehighvalleylive.com + The Express-Times | Mowad Turf Specialists
R. Richard Knauss Foundation | Joel Shimer

Alumni Spotlight

Jonathan is a 2011 grad from Northampton High School.

“When I walked into rehearsal for the first time back in 2011, I didn’t exactly know what I was getting into. Fast forward almost 10 years, I have participated in Alumni numbers and helped as a seat filler as well. The friendships and relationships that I have developed over the years are wonderful resources that I use in my everyday life to help me grow professionally. I truly don’t believe I would be where I am today without The FREDDY® Awards. Now, having the opportunity to partner with The FREDDYs with a job that I absolutely love is priceless. Being able to support the immense amount of talent that the Lehigh Valley has to offer warms my heart. While we attempted to hold exclusive auditions this year for the FREDDY® Awards program, we are hopeful that we can bring those talents to our midways next summer at Dorney Park. Giving local performers the chance to perform in front of thousands of patrons every day, work with world class creative teams and the experience to add to their résumé are just a few ways in which we hope to grow this partnership for many years to come.”

**— Jonathan Fehnel, Area Manager, Entertainment,
Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom**



The State Theatre is an approved Educational Improvement Organization through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. Please consider directing EITC program credits to support the FREDDY® program!

We Thank Our Sponsors Who Help Make The FREDDY® Awards Possible!

Producing Sponsor: 69 WFMZ-TV

Signature Partner: Lehigh Valley Health Network,
Spotlight Sponsors: lehighvalleylive.com + The Express-Times,
The Morning Call

Marquee Sponsors: Adams Outdoor,
99.9 The Hawk & Fox Sports 1230 & 1320 AM, Viamedia

Education / Community Impact Sponsor: Air Products

Premier Sponsors: B104-iHeart Media, Capital BlueCross,
CAT Country 96, The John & Margaret Post Foundation, 100.7 WLEV,
Gala Sponsors: BB&T now Truist, Crayola, Easton Hospital, Embassy Bank,
Fulton Bank, Lafayette College, Lehigh Valley Community Foundation,
PPL, RCN, Victaulic

Associate Sponsors: The Anderson Family: Vernon & Ruth, Fidelity Bank,
Beall Fowler in Memory of Linny Fowler, Charles and Susan Kalan,
Kaplan’s Awnings, Lehigh Valley Press, Peoples Security Bank & Trust

Printing Sponsor: Minuteman Press Lehigh Valley

Support Sponsors: In Memory of Stella Bailey, B Braun Medical, Inc.,
Bethlehem Dairy Store, Cedar Crest College, The Century Fund,
Cohen, Feeley, Altemose & Rambo, Dave Dabour Photography,
Dorney Park & Wild Water Kingdom, enter.net,
First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union, Image Archive,
Thomas Kosa Photography, Lehigh Valley Mall, Frank Mitman Photography,
Mowad Turf Specialists, Omega Protective Services LLC,
ShopRite of Hunterdon County, Wegmans and Weis Markets
Preview Party Sponsors: Air Products, BB&T now Truist,
Brown-Daub Family of Dealerships, BSI Corporate Benefits,
Alvin H. Butz, Inc., Capital BlueCross, Crayola,
Insulation Corporation of America, Lehigh Valley Health Network,
Lehigh Valley Style, Pearly Baker’s Alehouse, RMG Insurance, Viamedia

Partners in the Arts

“This year, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) became a Signature Partner of the FREDDY® Awards, enhancing its commitment to schools and student performers in the greater Lehigh Valley. As the region’s leader in virtual care, the network was especially proud to help the FREDDYs go digital, honoring all student performers and celebrating the Class of 2020. Dr. Mausumi Syamal, a vocal specialist with LVPG Ear, Nose and Throat, served as the students’ partner in vocal health by providing them with customized videos featuring warm up techniques and tips. LVHN also sponsored each self-contributed Student Spotlight in the Freddy Awards virtual program. LVHN believes that musical theatre is an integral part of our vibrant community and will proudly continue its support in 2021.”

**— Erin Ludwig, Director,
Community Engagement Marketing & Public Affairs**

