



News Release

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Wauwatosa West Trojan Players Win Tommy Awards

The Award-Winning Wauwatosa West Trojan Players have received several Tommy Awards for their spring production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The production was awarded Outstanding Leading Performance to Rayven Burdette for the role of Cowardly Lion and Cobi Tappa and Aidan Gabriel for their roles as Scarecrow and Tinman, respectively. Outstanding Supporting Performance awards were given to Sean VanZeeland for his performance of Emerald City Guard and Molly Hess for her role as Glinda. The Spirit Award was given to Yahn Trojan, Outstanding Musical Direction to West staff members Patrick Thompson and Guy Kammerer, Outstanding Stage Management to Michael Steinke, as well as Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Overall Design.

In addition, West's fall production of *Jekyll & Hyde* earlier this season also received honors. The production was awarded Outstanding Leading Performance to Rayven Burdette for the role of Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde, the Spirit Award to Mark Anthony, Outstanding Stage Management to Michael Steinke, as well as Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Overall Design.

The Wauwatosa West Trojan Players' production team includes Adam Steffan, director; Patrick Thompson, vocal director; Nancy Visintainer-Armstrong; Guy Kammerer, orchestra director; Dale Shively, technical director; Kurt Schnabel, lighting designer; Jeff Russell, sound designer; Joanne Cunningham, costume designer; Annaliese Thaney, make-up designer; Anthony Mackie, wig designer; Michael Steinke, student technical director/stage manager; Emily Chiesa and Abby Strand, student directors.

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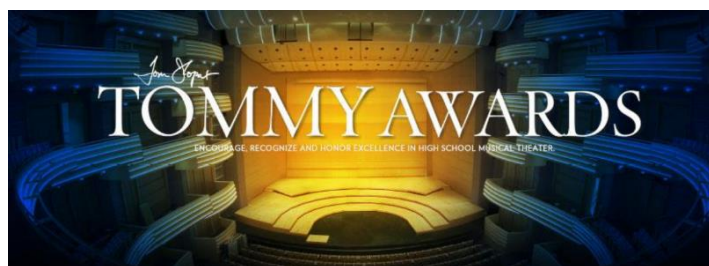
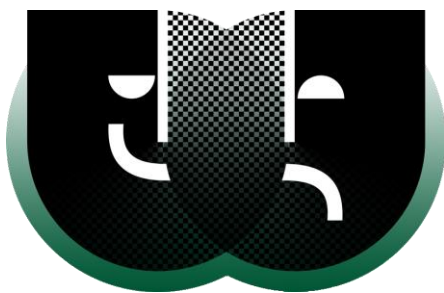
The Wauwatosa West Trojan Players have previously won three consecutive Tommy Awards for Outstanding Musical for their productions of *The Addams Family*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Last year, West senior Rayven Burdette was selected to represent The Tommy Awards and the state of Wisconsin at the 2015 National High School Musical Theatre Awards in New York City.

The Tommy Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 12 at 6:00 PM at Overture Hall in Madison and will feature performances by participating schools, including Wauwatosa West.

Named for local Broadway and television star Tom Wopat, the Tommy Awards encourage, recognize, and honor excellence in high school musical theater. Educators, industry professionals, and theater experts review productions at more than 60 high schools, provide valuable feedback and advice, and honor schools' and individuals' achievements with category-based awards. Schools and individuals receive awards at a ceremony, and two outstanding performers advance to The National High School Musical Theatre Awards competition in New York City.

For more information, call Theatre Director Adam Steffan at (414) 773-3243 or visit

www.trojanplayers.com, www.facebook.com/trojanplayers, or on Instagram: [tosawest_trojanplayers](https://www.instagram.com/tosawest_trojanplayers)



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