

## Theater Department wins Tommy Award for Outstanding Musical:

This Sunday, Whitefish Bay High School's production of *Les Miserables* is hopping on a bus directly after graduation and heading to Madison to perform at the Tommy Awards. The Tommy Awards were created by Tom Wopat, a Wisconsin native and star of the popular 70's sitcom, *The Dukes of Hazard*. Annually, the Tommy Awards honor excellence in high school musical theater from around the state of Wisconsin. Evaluators travel to over 80 schools to provide feedback, and based on the production, nominate them for a series of awards. At the end of the year, each school hopes and dreams that their production will win the most sought after award: An Outstanding Musical Award.

This year, *Les Miserables: School Edition*, Whitefish Bay High School's winter musical production, received the most prestigious Tommy Award a high school can earn in the state of Wisconsin, the Outstanding Musical Award. \* The Outstanding Musical award recognizes all areas of the production as exceptional: direction, production, vocal direction, orchestral direction, choreography, technical direction, scenic design, lighting design, costumes design, sound design, and stage management. Schools that earn this award represent the finest musical theater programs in the state. Since entering into the Tommy Awards last year, this is the first time Whitefish Bay High School has been honored with this award.

Once a school has earned this honor, the entire production team gets to work: the directors craft a "highlights medley." Then, the cast comes back together again, and they review the music and learn new blocking and choreography. Next, they practice and perfect, practice and perfect. Finally, as a reward for their excellence, dedication, passion, and hard work, they travel to the Overture Center in Madison to perform their medley in front of thousands of people both in person and online.



Whitefish Bay High School Cast  
Photograph Taken By: George Katsekes

Whitefish Bay High School Theater has worked hard throughout the 2016-2017 school year to provide enriching theater experiences for our students and all those they touch.

If you would like to support this amazing cast, crew, and pit by watching the Tommy Awards, but you are unable to travel to Madison, the program will be streaming live at: <http://wpt.org/watch/liveevent> starting at 6:00 Sunday.

Congratulations to all involved!

\* When a production receives the Outstanding Musical Award, the entire production team is recognized for their contributions:

Amber Kind-Keppel	Director & Producer
Anne Van Deusen	Vocal Director
Jim Van Deusen	Orchestra Direction
Wendy Traeger	Orchestra Direction
Kenn Miller	Technical Direction & Scenic Design
Chris Armstrong	Scenic Artist & Crew Head
Tina Wozniak	Choreography
Alison Whitney	Costume Design
Sue Crosby	Costume Design
John R. Dolphin	Lighting Design
Bob Radke	Sound Design
Sydney Smith	Stage Manager