

Notes to the criteria

- Each production must submit a completed Show Entry Form to info@napta.org.nz two weeks before opening night. Forms can be found at show.napta.org.nz
- There must be a minimum of two shows eligible for nominations within a category before that category can be judged.
- The judges may decide that if any category is not up to the required standard then no award will be given.
- **Exclusions**

The Show Entry Form must indicate if any categories are to be excluded from the judging process.

 - **Opt-out:** if a production would like to be excluded from any categories for any reason
 - **Ineligible:** any categories that employ professionals to carry out a specific task, such as an actor, stage or lighting technician etc as defined below. Or, through the use of a set, props or costumes from another production.
 - **Professionals**

A professional is deemed to be any individual or company whose primary income is sourced from performing such activity or is contracted to the production for said service, and who is paid directly out of the show budget in return for their services. In this instance they are not eligible for a NAPTA award.

An individual working in an unrelated field who is compensated for personal costs e.g. travel, meals, parking costs or time off work to complete show duties is not deemed a professional, and thus is eligible to qualify for a NAPTA award.
- **Large Shows**

Firstly, to be eligible for judging, the show must be produced by a NAPTA affiliated Society. Secondly, it must be reasonably deemed, for all intents and purposes, to be an amateur production.
- **Best Actor/Actress Awards**
 - More than one person can be nominated from the same show in a single category.
 - Please ensure all roles are correctly identified as lead/supporting/cameo on the Show Entry Form and that this is submitted two weeks before opening night.
- **Youth Productions**
 - A youth show must have no more than 3 adults on stage to qualify for the category.
 - These productions are only eligible for the Best Youth Production and Best Youth Actress/Actor awards.
 - To be eligible for Best Youth Actress/Actor – must be under 18 on opening night and in a youth category show.
- **Best Musical / Play Award**
 - In order to be eligible for a Best Musical / Play award nomination, a show must have no more than 8 category exclusions.

Best Makeup/Hair

- The overall look of period and place is achieved through the hair styles and make-up
- Hair and make-up for the entire cast is co-ordinated
- Any wigs worn look authentic and natural
- Hair styles allow for ease of movement
- Hair styles remain intact throughout production
- Aging throughout a production appears natural and believable
- Innovative and Interesting
- Make-up does not detract from the production

Best Props Design

- Props should help tell the story, set the scene and mood and support the actors' performances
- Props are appropriate and authentic to time and place
- Props contribute to the total stage picture
- Actors work easily and comfortably with their props

Best Sound Design

- The soundscape should fit the style and mood of the production
- Levels are correct and well balanced with the actors voices and the orchestra/band
- Cues are well timed and executed
- Choice of any sound effects and mood music etc. enhance the overall production
- No hum, crackle or buzz audible

Best Lighting Design

- Lighting helps to tell the story by focusing the audience's attention on key elements, performance and or scenes
- Lights should enhance the scenic design
- Lights should convey basic time of day and should indicate night/day inside/outside
- Lights should change in an unobtrusive manner i.e. smooth transitions
- There are no delays in execution of cues e.g. blackouts and follow spots
- Lights are completely focused on the playing area with no spill into non-essential areas
- Colour patterns, gobos and textures are used to enhance scenes
- Specials and area lighting are used for dramatic intensity or theatrical effect
- Please note that any use of LED screens or projected artwork is judged under Best Set Design

Best Costume Design

- The overall look of time and place is achieved through costuming
- Cast is appropriately costumed for their role in the production
- Costumes for entire cast are co-ordinated
- All characters are accessorised
- The colour palette adds to the overall production
- All costumes are the right size
- Clothes are well finished with detail and trim i.e. no missing buttons - no un-sewn hems
- Costumes allow for ease of movement and stay intact throughout production

Best Set Design

Includes Stage Design, Décor and Construction

- Scenery contributes and helps define the theme of the production
- Set has a finished look – no raw edges or unpainted surfaces with attention to detail in the painting with trims, patterns and decorative painting enhancing each scene
- This definition of set also includes any use of LED screens or projected artwork
- Attention to detail is evident throughout design
- Visual elements co-ordinate from scene to scene
- Every scene reflects time and place as required in script
- Scene shifts are integrated into the overall feel of the show
- Set pieces are usable by the performers e.g. staircases
- Entrances and exits allow for a variety of stage movement
- Set is proportional to the to the stage space with multiple levels providing additional playing spaces and variety

Best Vocal Work by a Musical Company

What level of competence has the vocal coach demonstrated in the following areas?

- Focuses on vocal performances within musical shows
- Charming the audience with the performance of solo and company songs generally enhancing the overall production
- Communicating, via song, a character to the audience
- The cast are able to perform musical numbers with strength, confidence, energy and enthusiasm as well as with empathy
- Good diction
- Everyone in tune and in time
- Harmonies are clear and well balanced
- Vocal control from soloists and company

Best Supporting Ensemble

The supporting ensemble includes minor leads and the chorus

- Focuses on the acting performances within the production
- Everyone involved in the production is suited to their role and plays a significant part in the overall quality of the production through dialogue, music and dance
- Interaction and cohesion between principles and company
- Energy and enthusiasm displayed by all
- Characterisation – no matter how small the part

Cameo Award

Memorable smaller role

- Can be anyone, male or female, who has taken a role, outside the designation of supporting or lead, in one or two scenes and made it memorable to the judges
- The person has shown a complete understanding of the character with the ability to communicate that character to the audience i.e. believable with a command of role
- The character must fall outside the designation of a 'lead' role as decided by the producers / society executive
- Must captivate the audience with the performance enhancing the overall production i.e. stage presence
- Interacts well with other characters in their particular scenes

Best Actress / Actor in a Youth Production

The performer demonstrates outstanding technique in the following areas

- **Singing** (if applicable) – Pitch, rhythm, intonation, resonance, projection.
- **Acting** – Articulation, Believability, relationships with other characters, consistency, motivation, articulation, maintenance of dialect (if applicable)
- **Energy & Presence** – Animation, stage presence, confidence, professionalism
- The performer should have star quality. They should create a memorable performance and character for the audience that enhances the show overall.

Best Supporting Actress in a Play

Best Supporting Actor in a Play

Best Supporting Actress in a Musical

Best Supporting Actor in a Musical

Best Leading Actress in a Play

Best Leading Actor in a Play

Best Leading Actress in a Musical

Best Leading Actor in a Musical

- **Characterisation**
 - A complete understanding of the character with the ability to communicate that character to the audience i.e. believable with a command of role
- **Speaking Voice**
 - Clear speech with good projection – pace, expression and inflection
- **Singing Voice**
 - Strong, clear, in tune and in time
- **Accent**
 - Accent is good and maintained throughout
- **Movement and Motivation**
 - Moves with precision and animation – gestures flow from characterisation
- **Overall Performance**
 - Must captivate the audience with the performance enhancing the overall production i.e. stage presence
 - Interacts well with other characters

Best Choreography

What level of competence has the choreographer demonstrated in the following areas?

- The dance and movement enhance the overall production
- The choreography is a memorable part of the show
- The dance moves reflect the time period of the production
- Stage coverage e.g. using levels and stairs
- Interpretative and innovative dance moves
- To set a number to suit the ability of the cast
- To project energy and enthusiasm, through movement, to the audience
- To tell a story through movement and dance

Best Musical Direction

What level of competence has the musical director demonstrated in the following areas?

- Combination and composition of the backing music/orchestra/band for the production
- Interpretation of musical orchestrations
- Combination of music and vocal work to ensure a well-balanced performance
- Delivery of the music i.e. quality tone and technical skill
- Control of music dynamics i.e. soft and loud
- Sympathetic portrayal of musical numbers to suit time, place and period

Best Direction of a Play / Musical

What level of competence has the director demonstrated in the following areas?

- Cast are suited to their roles and fully engage and emotionally involve the audience in the story
- Interpretation of and adherence to the script regarding elements of time period and location
- Unique vision that propels the storyline
- Combination of all elements i.e. dialogue, music and dance woven together in harmony
- Use of stage space
- Use of stage technique
- Creativity
- Innovation
- Smooth transitions between scenes
- Ability to stage musical numbers when required

Best Youth Production / Play / Musical

Looking for the X Factor!

- 1-2 Poor – No cohesion
- 3-4 Adequate/Competent – Some cohesion
- 5-6 Watchable/Well done – All elements meet the needs of show
- 7-8 Strong/Entertaining – All elements enhance the show
- 9-10 Outstanding/Exemplary – All elements work together in perfect harmony