

### NEWS RELEASE

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**Arlington (May 23, 2016)** - On May 17, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre announced the High School Musical Theater nominations. Arlington High School received a total of ten nominations for outstanding awards for their spring musical, *Pippin*. The awards ceremony will be held on June 6 at McCaw Hall. This is an evening of anticipation where the cast and musicians will have another opportunity to perform one of the songs from *Pippin* prior to the award winners being announced.

Scott Moberly, Director, has been nominated for Outstanding Director. Moberly is excited to see his students honored and said, "Every production has a story and the story starts when you first pick up a script and it ends when you take the final bow. This story has an epilogue: The students are going to go down to McCaw Hall and will show a large segment of the population what we've all known – that our students are the best and are very talented. I love working with them every day!"

Jeff Swanson, choir teacher at Arlington High School, did an amazing job of directing a dedicated group of band students. These musicians were an integral part of the reason the musical was nominated for Outstanding Overall Musical.

Arlington High School has received more nominations for their musical than any other school in the state! The nominations received are:

- Outstanding Overall Musical
- Outstanding Direction
- Outstanding Choreography
- Outstanding Scene Design
- Outstanding Lighting Design
- Outstanding Costume Design

Outstanding Stage Crew  
Outstanding Lobby Design (Honorable Mention)  
Outstanding Actor Leading Role Josh Basher  
Outstanding Supporting Role Actor Rob Neeleman  
Outstanding Performance By A Chorus  
Outstanding Actress Andrea Ramirez (Honorable Mention)  
Outstanding Supporting Role Actress Channing Hudson (Honorable Mention)  
Outstanding Actress Featured Ensemble Role Emily Hawks (Honorable Mention)

When describing what this nomination means to him, Rob Neelman thoughtfully conveyed, "Winning this award is really humbling and it would be very cool to win because of how many people worked so hard in our cast and our crew. Every person had a part in this show and to win awards for what we've done would be pretty amazing."

Moberly boasts, "I can't say enough about Josh Basher and Rob Neeleman. The work Josh did in *The Crucible* and in *Pippin* this year was impressive." Josh will be going on to study music and drama at Western Washington University and it will be exciting to see him use his talent in college. For the first time in his life, Rob sang before an audience. As a percussionist, he hasn't had many opportunities to sing. Winning the nomination for Outstanding Supporting Role Actor is remarkable considering this is the first time he has sung in a musical.

"Winning this award would be really special to show that you don't have to attend a large or rich school district to compete in the theatre world. With hard work, dedication, perfecting your craft and staying after school, you can compete and do well no matter where you go to school," stated Josh Basher.

Originally, Scott Moberly was considering *Guys and Dolls* for the spring musical. In reviewing the staging needs, the decision was made to showcase *Pippin* where the set designers and stagecraft class created 42 15-inch brightly colored, patterned cubes. The 20 students involved in creating the cubes and staging worked hard along with Arlington High School art teacher, Emily Palmiter, who assisted with choosing colors and unifying the design. One of the many benefits of this type of staging was the collaboration of the stage crew with the performers. They all contributed to moving the set pieces and the members of the stage crew were in costume and under stage lights just as the performers were. The performers, in turn, assisted with moving staging around. The fact that they received nominations for Outstanding Scene Design, Lighting Design and Stage Crew with this creative design process speaks to the level of vision and commitment these students exhibited and the ability to execute their plan.

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