

CATEGORY AND NAMES	PRODUCTION AND SOCIETY	CITATIONS	WINNER
MOST INTERESTING GROUPING			
Irene Morris, Jan Westgarth & Margaret Skilton as the Witches	Macbeth for WDS	These three ladies worked very well together, particularly when speaking as a threesome – not an easy thing to achieve. They also looked the parts with wonderfully crazy hair, grey faces and even what appeared to be luminous nail varnish	
Bryony Growden, Emma and Katharine Crew as Edith, Kate and Isabel	Pirates of Penzance for PBGS	Edith as played by Bryony Crowden was the epitome of an Essex girl in her union jack dress, very nicely played. Emma and Katherine Crew played Kate and Isabel with such abandon, after seeing how sweet and charming they have been in previous productions, they were a revelation, and really took on the Essex girl persona with gusto. Very well done.	WINNER
Aileen Maher, Freya Spratley and Allanah Rogers as Lacie, Macie and Gracie	Rapunzel for Griffin Players	These three young ladies looked lovely, played their parts and sang well, a very good trio who interacted nicely with each other and the rest of the cast	
Adam Feighoney as Joey, Patrick Rufey as Pablo & Oliver Sutton-Izzard as TJ	Sister Act for SAMTC	I liked the diversity of Curtis's three heavies – Adam, Patrick and Oliver gave us good portrayals, I enjoyed their musical numbers as they brought a lot of humour to them	
BEST PROJECTION AND CHARACTERISATION - JUNIORS			
Harry Miller as Jack	High School Musical 2 for HHTC's Youth Group	I particularly liked Harry's interpretation, there was a bit of pizzazz about it, and he really put a lot of enthusiasm into what he did – the presentation of the talent show was particularly good. Harry also bought into the choreography, I felt he was trying to get the others to step up a little	

Natacha Basset as Sharpay	High School Musical 2 for HHTC's Youth Group	A most assured and confident performance from Natacha, her experience in previous roles really showed, and I loved what she did. For someone so tiny she really owned the stage	
Jayda Moyse	Godspell for Phoenix Players	Jayda performed Day By Day beautifully, she has a lovely expressive face and a strong, very musical voice, making this a memorable number	WINNER
Alice Hayden as Fairy Flora	Rapunzel for Griffin Players	Fairy Flora gave Alice a chance to be both elegant and charming, which she achieved in spades, I really like the slightly feisty feel to her interpretation - very well-achieved	
Isabelle Brown	I'm in a Fairy Tale Get Me Out of Here for TADS Teens	Isabelle showed a good understanding of the words in her song, which was quite poignant, she accompanied herself and I was impressed with her performance	
Ella Fountain as Scar	The Lion King for Parkfields School	Ella had loads of attitude and edginess, to complement the slyness of the animal, she also had a strong voice well-suited to the music, and was very expressive	
Charlotte Lovelock	The Baroness	Charlotte gave us a solid performance, showing her distaste towards the downtrodden Baron and Cinderella, and her indulgence towards her 'lovely' daughters, very well-played	WINNER
BEST MD			
Beth Thomas	Avenue Q for HHTC	Beth Thomas had obviously worked her magic on the cast and band, to make this an excellent musical experience as well as a fun production	WINNER
Graham Thomson	Pirates of Penzance for PBGS	Graham Thomson always gets the optimum out of his cast, and I loved the sound of his small but excellent band, just right for the cast and venue	
James Driver	Rock of Ages for Griffin Players	James got the best out of his singers and his band was excellent; in conjunction with Graham Elliott's sound the band cleverly underplayed the lib when required, did not overpower during the	

		poignant ballads and upped the tempo and noise for the heavier rock numbers	
Joanna Smale	Sister Act for DAOS	Musically good, Joanna Smale had made the most of the musical numbers, with the cast obviously enjoying the various harmonies, which came across well. The band sounded good, and the sound balance between stage and pit was good	
Susana Tierney	Spamalot for SAMTC	There are some lovely numbers in this show, which were executed with finesse by both principals and ensemble, including some great harmonies. I was impressed by the musical accomplishment generally. The overture was fun and got us in the mood for a good production	WINNER
Ellie Turton	Brush Up your Shakespeare for St Andrew's Players	Ellie had obviously worked hard with the cast, as there were some lovely harmonies, particularly in the full chorus numbers. Her band accomplished some brilliant accompaniments particularly in the finale of Act 1. The sound balance was also good throughout	
BEST DUO - MUSICALS			
Terry Cavender & Adam Thompson as Lawrence & Freddy	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels for HLOS	Terry Cavender gave an impeccable performance as Lawrence, the relationships between him and the rest of the cast were very good. Terry took over the part 5 weeks before the show but the sheer volume of words, music and dancing must have been daunting, and I take my hat off to Terry for doing it in the first place, and also for making it look so easy! Adam played the young pretender, with plenty of energy and youthful abandon – perhaps a little too much at times, but on the whole it worked for me, and he was a good foil to the more serious conman that was Lawrence! Well sung and acted.	WINNER

Tammy Calvert & Hannah Mitchelmore as the Narrators	Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat for Square Drama	Tammy and Hannah sang extremely well, and their voices blended nicely – they also interacted well with the cast, encouraging them to give us loads of energy. Their dresses were very striking too	
Ellie Turton & Reece Lowen as Mary & Jem	Jamaica Inn for St Andrew's Players	I loved the relationship between Mary and Jem, touching but realistic. Ellie has a depth of feeling and expression, supported by a lovely voice, portraying a more worldly wise country girl, with Reece singing with emotion, whilst retaining the simplicity of a country boy A certain innocence and charm from both performers sat well with the darker characters	WINNER
Jo Yirrell & David Mills	Brush Up Your Shakespeare for St Andrew's Players	Sonnet 20, beautifully read by Jo and sung by David was a moment of calm and beauty	
BEST DIRECTOR			
Jonathan Field	Two for WDS	I liked the way the Director had created the movement of the different couples and characters, there seemed to be a flow that kept all the threads together	
Richard Alexander	Rock of Ages for Griffin Players	Richard moved his characters around the slightly cramped stage with ease and the pace never faltered. Richard had his cast and crew well prepared, they all looked comfortable and knew exactly what they were doing	WINNER
Sam Gaines	Spamalot for SAMTC	Sam directed well, and I thought that his cast was well-chosen. I liked some of the small quirky things integrated into the action, that created amusement	WINNER
Richard Fraser	Pirates of Penzance for PBGS	There was a lot of tongue in cheek humour, which uplifted what could have been a slightly tired show and a twinkle in the eyes of the perpetrators! – Hat's off to Richard Fraser for his insight in giving Pirates a new lease of life, whilst keeping the essentials in place	

Linda Dyne	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels for HLOS	The production was well thought out and directed by Linda Dyne, and the fact that the company had a change of leading man only 5 weeks before show week, is testament to the hard work and care of the Director and cast	
BEST DUO or GROUPING - JUNIORS			
Talya Agasee & Ania Opoczynsya as Blossom and Peaches	High School Musical 2 for HHTC's Youth Group	Sharpay's two sidekicks were very well played, I think some of her confidence rubbed off on them, and they put in very creditable performances, a good grouping	WINNER
Megan Newns & Summer Harkin as the Ugly Sisters	Cinderella for Stage 1	Megan and Summer were super Ugly Sisters, plenty of comedy and slyness, with a real understanding of the nasty characters they portrayed	
The Children's Choir	Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat for Square Drama	The children's choir sang really well, and I liked them being brought on stage by the Narrators for Close Every Door. There were some lovely smiley faces there, and as a group they performed and behaved really well throughout	
Emily Thornton-Greet & Anja O'Shea as Timon & Pumbaa	The Lion King for Parkfields School	I loved the pairing of Emily and Anja, they worked so well together, and were really into their characterisations, lots of expression and good projection - very well done	
BEST MALE - PLAYS			
Jonathan Field as Gordon	Neville's Island for WDS	Jonathan created an antagonistic and angry man – the type that always thinks his opinion is the only one. I ended up really wanting someone to take him down a peg or two for his unthinking ranting. A good characterisation	
Robert Naylor-Staples	Two - WDS	Robert surprised me, in that I didn't know he had so many accents and characters to call on – extremely well-accomplished. Robert's "Boy"	WINNER

playing many different roles		was funny and appealing, and I particularly liked Moth. I was very impressed.	
Steve Leadbetter as Macbeth	Macbeth for WDS	Steve made us feel empathy with him, even as he struggled to balance his ambition to be the monarch against the treachery of having to kill King Duncan to achieve this. As the play progressed we then grew to dislike him, a good portrayal and I particularly liked his scenes when the ghost of Banquo appeared	
Simon Ellis as Hugh Evans	Merry Wives of Windsor for Breakaway	Simon was excellent – I understood every word he said, his delivery was sharp with good audience communication	
BEST CHOREOGRAPHY			
Jo Herd	Into the Bush for Griffin Players	Choreography from Jo Herd was very good – it was sharp and interesting, and obviously well-rehearsed	
Claire Keates	St Albans Gang Show 2017	Claire Keates and her choreography team used the strengths of the cast to bring some new moves that suited both the music and the cast, creating an energy that was maintained from start to finish	
Lynette Driver	Rock of Ages for Griffin Players	Lynette’s choreography was subtle in places and very raunchy in others, a fine mixture of styles and grouping throughout	
Matt Fowler	Sister Act for SAMTC	I loved Matt Fowler’s choreography. Always slightly quirky it really suited the upbeat feel of the production	WINNER
BEST DUO – PLAYS			
Mario Violentano & Hilary Violentano as Mr & Mrs Pearce	Between Mouthfuls for Redbourn Players	Pompous and self-important was how Mario played Mr Pearce! He did not suffer fools gladly, in fact, he didn't appear to suffer anyone gladly! Irritated probably by most things but most of all his long-suffering wife, I felt he gave a good portrayal of the character. Hilary showed how the character may once have been patient and tolerant of her husband's behaviour; perhaps earlier in their marriage;	WINNER

		but now she bit back and didn't take very kindly to his nonsense! I liked the dynamic between the couple - good chemistry.	
David Lodge & Andrew Faber	Stones in His Pockets for HHTC	These two men created a wealth of different characters, whilst always maintaining their lead characters of Jake Quinn and Charlie Conlan. Fifteen characters in all, shared between the two men was a big ask, but they succeeded in making them all very real	WINNER
John O'Leary & Alex Brewer	Stones in His Pockets for Griffin Players	The different individuals, both male and female, portrayed by John and Alex each had their own very marked characterisation. They interacted well, and showed the changes in the relationship of the two main characters Jake and Charlie	
Abigail Giles & Liz Mills as Mistress Page & Mistress Ford	Merry Wives of Windsor for Breakaway	Abigail and Liz were a super duo, who employed their devious plans well, with some hilarity on their part, which was very entertaining. I thought they interacted really well	
BEST ENSEMBLE - MUSICAL			
Rock of Ages - Ellie Turton, Jo Herd, Juliet Llewellyn-West, Forrest Jones, Alice Hayden, Allannah Rogers and Louis Chapman	Griffin Players Reviewed by Richard Lovelock	Richard Alexander got the best out of his Ensemble. Ellie Turton, Jo Herd, Juliet Llewellyn-West and Forrest Jones all pitched in confidently with minor roles: Alice Hayden, Allannah Rogers and Louis Chapman completed the line up. Rarely has Richard ever seen a show where the ensemble have been so engaged, active and enthusiastic. No deadpan faces on this stage, they all gave it everything and added so much to the overall show by doing so	WINNER
Sister Act – named Nuns – Barbara Morton, Kirsty Day, Lucy O'Hare, Angela Goss, Susan Young and Heather Rouse	DAOS	The Mother Superior is a lovely role that Barbara Morton gave her usual expression and care to. such meaning, the calmness of a nun, with the inner turmoil of having to cope with the outrageous Deloris. I thought the music suited her voice particularly well. Kirsty Day was a lovely novice Sister Mary Robert – her song was beautiful, showing	

		<p>her doubt over her calling, very expressive and poignant. I also loved her transition from an introverted to a joyful young person, very well done. Sister Mary Patrick the most energetic and lively of the Nuns, was delightfully played by Lucy O'Hare – a big ask for her to choreograph and play a principal role, but Lucy gave her part a great deal of enthusiasm, and I loved her interpretation. The slightly more mature Nuns played by Angela Goss, Susan Young and Heather Rouse, had some lovely humorous moments, intermingled with concern that completed the dimensions of a diverse group of people, I really liked their portrayals.</p>	
<p>Sister Act – named Nuns Charlotte Gregory, Andrea Campusano, Mary Watkinson and Lizzie Tatton</p>	<p>Sister Act for SAMTC</p>	<p>I loved Charlotte Gregory's interpretation of the Mother Superior, as well as beautiful singing, there was sensitivity, feistiness and you could see the gradual liking and perhaps almost respect for Deloris – a lovely really rounded character. Andrea Campusano as Sister Mary Patrick has a lovely face, which was accentuated so nicely by her wimple. Her buoyant and bubbly personality shone through, and was nicely contrasted by Mary Watkinson's acerbic and prickly Sister Mary Lazarus – both these ladies also sang their parts really well with plenty of expression. I liked Lizzie Tatton as Sister Mary Robert and found her singing of The Life I Never Led very touching. Her initial diffidence was an essential part of the character, which then morphed into her growing confidence in herself.</p>	
BEST CHARACTER ACTORS			
<p>Rachael Horsler as The Voice of the Mirror</p>	<p>Snow White for TADS</p>	<p>Rachael played the Mirror with great gusto – I liked the way the script made her into a more normal person with plenty of edge, and not just a spirit with a voice</p>	

Mariam Gaballa-Gill as Carabosse	Sleeping Beauty for HHTC	Mariam looked very evil, and acted it so well, with great projection which gave emphasis to the malevolence of the character. She performed her numbers well, whilst keeping the wickedness going!	WINNER
Sarah Benjamin as the Old Woman	After Midnight Before Dawn for TADS	Sarah kept her characterisation going so well, her continual droning of the Lord's Prayer, and her confusion was very palpable, a super interpretation	
John Kensett as Falstaff	Merry Wives of Windsor for Breakaway	John gave us a slightly bemused Falstaff, the transition to women's clothes and his overall portrayal was very good as always	
BEST COMEDY PERFORMANCE			
Robin Edwards as Prince Charming	Into the Bush for Griffins	in what I understand was his first role on stage, Robin was a revelation, he'd got the attitude and the street talk down to a 'T', a very clever ploy from the writers, which he carried out beautifully	WINNER
Adam Briffett as Trekkie Monster	Avenue Q for HHTC	Trekkie Monster is such an iconic puppet and part, that I was intrigued as to how Adam Briffett would cope with the lewdness and definitive voice, I loved what he did with the part, it was great, and the voice just right	
Tim Hayden	Brush Up Your Shakespeare for St Andrew's Players	Tim gave us a great rendition of Richard III in the vein of Peter Sellers and the Beatles – very funny	
Tracey Chatterley as Wicked Queen	Snow White – Virgin on the Run for TADS	For her first panto outing Tracey really gave it her all, and appeared to love to be hated! Great costume as well. I particularly enjoyed her dying scene – it was very nicely handled and fun	WINNER
Graeme Shaw as Dr Caius	Merry Wives of Windsor for Breakaway	Graeme was extremely funny as Dr Caius, I really enjoyed his accent and the mis-saying of words – great fun	
BEST FEMALE – MUSICAL			

Jackie Pulford as Muzzy	Thoroughly Modern Millie for HLOS	Jackie came up trumps – she was a wonderful Society lady, who really looked the part, and sang her numbers beautifully, with loads of energy. I was very impressed	WINNER
Kat Knight as Kate Monster	Avenue Q for HHTC	Kate Monster was beautifully played by Kat – she is so expressive, and this seemed to translate right the way through to what should have been an inanimate puppet. I loved her rendition of a Fine Line, very poignant and telling	WINNER
Katie Alys Barton as Sherrie	Rock of Ages for Griffin Players	Katie sang beautifully as the stardom-seeking Sherrie - she looked the part and lead by example, seeming as comfortable in the rock numbers as she was in the ballads	
Sarah Shipley as Muriel	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels for HLOS	I loved Sarah’s portrayal of Muriel – she delivered her songs with accuracy, expression and a lovely vocal tone, whilst achieving an almost naive feeling to the woman who was basically being taken to the cleaners!!	
Kirsty Day as Sister Mary Robert	Sister Act for DAOS	Kirsty was a lovely novice Sister Mary Robert – her song was beautiful, showing her doubt over her calling, very expressive and poignant. I also loved her transition from an introverted to a joyful young person, very well done	WINNER
Clare Cordell as The Lady of the Lake	Spamalot for SAMTC	Some great numbers that Clare performed with great expression and understanding, a super voice, that was well-suited to the music, an excellent all round performance. I liked her reference to a NODA award!! – and can only say she’ll have to wait and see!!	
Roxy Parkins as Deloris Van Cartier		Deloris the night club singer is a great part, and Roxycertainly made the most of the super songs, I loved her performance. She is on stage for practically the whole musical, so very hard work, but Roxy gave a very strong performance musically very sound	

BEST ENSEMBLE - PLAYS			
The Cast of Mojo – Richard Chatterley, Andrew Naish, Joe Hawkins, Jack Glendenning, Steven Pryer & Harry Rodgers	MOJO for TADS	Mojo will not have been everyone’s cup of tea, because of the subject matter and the language, but I thought it was extremely well directed and acted, held my attention throughout, and made me feel I really understood the characters and the situation being played out before me. Very well done to everyone involved	WINNER
The Cast of After Midnight Before Dawn – Gemma Palmer, Sarah Benjamin, Susie Conder, Jess Lacey, Evie Wright & Jenna Kay	After Midnight Before Dawn for TADS	The play was well cast, with no weak links. Each character held true all the way through. A thought-provoking play, not to everyone’s liking, but well-directed. I liked the containment of the action that made it more real	
BEST MALE – MUSICAL			
David Mills as Frances Davey	Jamaica Inn for St Andrew’s Players	David created a seemingly straight forward Vicar, until he revealed his satanic side. I thought David played his part well, and his undoubted singing talent lent itself well to the numbers. In his way, as nasty as Joss, although much more evil and underhanded	
David Crew as the Major General and Baron Zeta	Pirates of Penzance and the merry Widow for PBGS	David always brings a certain gravitas to everything he does, but accompanied by his beautiful voice, he also brought into the element of being father to the bevy of uncontrollable daughters. His Major General number was spot on, and his solo in the finale was lovely. As the Baron, David gave us a beautifully sung, well-interpreted performance, whilst really looking the part	
Justin Jeffries as Eddie	Sister Act for SAMTC	Justin suited the part of the geek Eddie, he showed the insecurities of the man, and also a self-deprecating humour, plus his undoubted	WINNER

		adoration of Deloris, nicely pitched. I thought he also sang extremely well	
BEST FEMALE - PLAYS			
Sarah Brindley as Lady Macbeth	Macbeth for WDS	Sarah gave us a range of character, from an initial charm to a scary, bewitching harridan and her final sleepwalking scene was excellently played	
Julie Field playing many different roles	Two - WDS	Julie Field was ideal for this play, she has so many characters in her repertoire to pull out and refine to accommodate the variances within the script, bringing us numerous different characters, seemingly adopted (literally sometimes) at the drop of a hat. I was very impressed	WINNER
Anne Hollis as Mistress Quickly	Merry Wives of Windsor for Breakaway	Anne made her words very meaningful, whilst maintaining a slightly more restrained approach, which was a good contrast	
SPECIAL AWARD – FOR BEST UP AND COMING DIRECTOR			
Harry Rodgers	Mojo for TADS	This young man showed great maturity in his directorial debut in both his approach to directing a very difficult and niche play, and his attention to detail in both the technical setting and dramatic intent of his actors. I was extremely impressed. Harry gave us a well-rounded, hard hitting, but often amusing production, which was very well-attended for a play of this type. I am hoping to see many more productions from this young man. I must also commend TADS for	

		allowing Harry free rein, a very brave decision which reaped its own rewards.	
SPECIAL AWARD – FOR AN EXCITING NEW MUSICAL			
Richard Cowling	Jamaica Inn for St Andrew's Players	We were privileged to be witness to the World Premiere of a new musical, based on Daphne Du Maurier's iconic novel Jamaica Inn, written by Richard Cowling, and performed in the atmospheric venue of St Andrew's Church, which lent itself very well to the overall feel of the piece. That said the musical structure was very interesting and the at times discordant harmonies and unusual intervals of notes, allied to good performances, made this a remarkable piece of theatre. I thought the music was challenging for both cast and orchestra - a new and exciting project	
Presentation of Regional Best Youth Performer for 2016 to Lucy Farrar			