



SAN
DIEGO
MUSICAL
THEATRE

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Kristi Weaver
kristi@sdmt.org / 760-500-4040

**SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE
Announces New Academy Structure and Rising Stars Class**

San Diego Musical Theatre (SDMT) is pleased to announce the relaunch of their Academy to now offer a three-step program for aspiring musical theatre artists. The first opportunity is an exploration of basic performing skills in our Musical Theatre Explorers for ages 5-7 years. Second, students continue developing their skills in a new classroom and performance program, Rising Stars for ages 8-15. Finally, students' experience culminates in the Academy's fully realized Pre-Professional Productions for ages 15-20, where they will have the opportunity to showcase the skills they have developed through the programs and perform a popular Broadway Musical as part of SDMT's season line-up. In addition to their new three tiered offering, SDMT Academy will continue to offer classes for all ages featuring dance, voice, acting and technical experiences to hone creative skill sets on and off the stage.

"We are really excited about our brand-new Rising Stars performance program that combines extensive industry professional instruction, as well as a performance on a professional stage that can only be found at SDMT," said Robert J. Townsend, SDMT's new Director of Education. "Rising Stars includes a Team Tech program where technical students can acquire skills in lighting, sound and stage management to ultimately work side-by-side with professionals to run the featured performance"

"Rising Stars provides students the opportunity to work with talented Teaching Artists like Paul David Bryant and Richard Morrison in our upcoming High School Musical Jr.," said Shirley Johnston, SDMT's new Academy Manager. "The years of experience they have between them is a wealth of priceless knowledge that is sure to enlighten and enrich their lives."

Registration is open now for the first Rising Stars program featuring *High School Musical Jr.* scheduled to begin January 10 thru March 19, 2022. In addition to over 80 hours of professional instruction with an hourly rate equivalent to a Starbucks pumpkin spiced latte and scone, as well as