



For Immediate Release  
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### **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

the invaluable experience students will gain, each will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the end of program performance for family members and friends, and two complimentary tickets to the final dress rehearsal of SDMT's *Catch Me If You Can* performance.

**SDMT Academy:** <https://www.sdmtd.org/academy/>

**SDMT Academy Rising Stars Registration:** <https://www.sdmtd.org/academy/rising-stars/>

**SDMT ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT:** SDMT Academy seeks to enrich and educate the San Diego theatrical community who have a passion for musical theatre. Our Academy provides a safe and encouraging environment to embrace diversity and acceptance for all. We're committed to empower performers of all ages with the skills and training that will give them the poise and confidence to have productive, self-sustaining futures in the arts and beyond.

**ABOUT SDMT -** Founded in 2006, San Diego Musical Theatre is dedicated to passionately instructing, producing and providing musical theatre that ignites the human spirit.

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