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YOUNG TALENT BIG DREAMS FINALS HAPPENING ON SATURDAY, MAY 14!

Judges for County’s Largest Youth Talent Competition Represent Miami’s Cultural and Performing Arts Arenas

CORAL GABLES, FL – May 12, 2022 – Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre, together with presenting sponsor, The Children’s Trust, will culminate the 12th annual season of Young Talent Big Dreams, the most widespread local youth talent contest in Miami-Dade County history, with final competitions for student performers ages 8-17. Finals take place at Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre on Saturday, May 14, at 7 p.m. The finals are also open to the public, and tickets are available for $5 at the Actors’ Playhouse box office, 305.444.9293, and www.actorsplayhouse.org.

The competition features a total of six individual categories including pop/rock/rap vocals, musical theatre/jazz standards/classical vocals, dance, musical instrument, original spoken word and original vocal and/or instrumental composition. Categories for groups of six or fewer members include dance, musical instrument/bands and vocal groups. Hundreds of contestants attended the six auditions held over the past three months at venues in distinct neighborhoods throughout the county. Participation was free but limited to residents of Miami-Dade County. In each category, participants compete for prizes that range from cash awards and performance opportunities to performing arts scholarships sponsored by SouthState Bank, Coral Gables Community Foundation, and the Coral Gables Rotary Club.

The grand prize winner will receive $500 in cash provided by Actors’ Playhouse, and four tickets to Universal Orlando along with a hotel stay for two nights courtesy of WSVN 7News.

Finals take place before a live audience. Each act was allotted up to one minute during their audition performance and will be given two minutes for the final-round performance. Contestants in each performance
category from each audition location competed in the semifinals, and up to five acts in each individual category and up to three acts in each group category advanced to the finals. A winner in each category and an overall winner will ultimately be selected.

*Young Talent Big Dreams* is modeled after reality TV talent shows that offer similar opportunities to contestants through a series of auditions, performances and professional mentoring. Judges include a host of local celebrities and professionals from Miami’s performing arts community; this year’s finals judges are **David Arisco**, artistic director, Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre; **Howard Cohen**, features writer, the *Miami Herald*; **Natalie Lewis-Schere**, co-founder and executive director, PATH; and **Herman Payne**, Miami City Ballet Resident Faculty & Adjunct Professor at the New World School of the Arts, University of Florida and Miami-Dade Colleges.

For more information, visit [www.actorsplayhouse.org](http://www.actorsplayhouse.org). To learn more about The Children’s Trust, please visit [www.TheChildrensTrust.org](http://www.TheChildrensTrust.org).

*On-camera and in-person interviews available pre- and post-show with Actors’ Playhouse, The Children’s Trust, judges, and contestants and their parents.*

**About Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre**
Actors’ Playhouse is an award-winning nonprofit regional professional theatre company celebrating 34 years of artistic excellence. Located in the historic Miracle Theatre on Miracle Mile in downtown Coral Gables, Actors’ Playhouse is a Florida Presenting Cultural Organization and one of 13 major cultural institutions in Miami-Dade County. The company produces five Mainstage and four professional Children’s Theatre productions annually, a year-round Theatre Conservatory and Summer Camp Program, educational arts outreach programs, and the Young Talent Big Dreams countywide youth talent contest in partnership with The Children’s Trust. To learn more about Actors’ Playhouse, visit [www.ActorsPlayhouse.org](http://www.ActorsPlayhouse.org).

**About The Children’s Trust**
The Children’s Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their future. For more information visit [www.TheChildrensTrust.org](http://www.TheChildrensTrust.org).