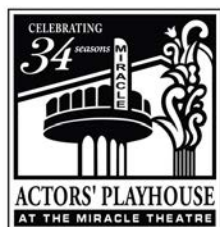


YOUNG TALENT BIG DREAMS YTBD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Brooke Noble

bnoble@actorsplayhouse.org

305.763.3459 Mobile

ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE AT THE MIRACLE THEATRE AND THE CHILDREN'S TRUST ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS OF 2022 YOUNG TALENT BIG DREAMS COMPETITION

CORAL GABLES, FL – May 26, 2022 – Actors' Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre, together with presenting sponsor The Children's Trust, are proud to announce the 2022 winners of *Young Talent Big Dreams*, the most widespread, local **FREE** youth talent competition in Miami-Dade County. A marathon of semifinal competitions for student performers ages 8-17 culminated in the finals held this past Saturday, May 14, at the Miracle Theatre. Prizes ranged from cash awards, master classes with industry professionals and performance opportunities to performing arts scholarships sponsored by SouthState Bank, Coral Gables Community Foundation and the Coral Gables Rotary Club. **The grand prize winners also received \$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.**

Hundreds of hopeful contestants attended six preliminary auditions held over the past three months in distinct geographic neighborhoods, including the Miracle Theatre in Coral Gables, Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer in Kendale Lakes and the City of Miami Little Haiti Cultural Complex in Little Haiti. Participation was free and limited to residents of Miami-Dade County. The competition featured a total of six individual categories: pop/rock/rap vocals, musical theatre/jazz standards/classical vocals, dance, musical instrument, original spoken word and original vocal and/or instrumental composition. Group categories (six or fewer members) included musical instrument/bands and vocal groups.

Semifinals and finals were held before live audiences; up to five acts in each individual category and up to three acts in each group category advanced to the finals, where judges selected a winner in each category as well as a grand prize honoree.

“Actors’ Playhouse is honored to present our Young Talent Big Dreams talent contest which builds an opportunity for young people in the performing arts and all life skills,” says Barbara S. Stein, executive producing director of Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre. “We are very grateful for the ongoing support and partnership of presenting sponsor The Children’s Trust for believing in this project for the betterment of our community.”

"My family and I were captivated by the level of talent at the finals for this year's Young Talent Big Dreams competition," said James Haj president and CEO of The Children's Trust. "Every year we find more and more talent. That speaks to the amazing abilities of our children and youth, and what they can accomplish if they are given opportunities."

Young Talent Big Dreams follows the popular TV talent show model; judges have included a host of industry professionals from the performing arts community. Judging the May 14 finals were 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: Preserving Archiving & Teaching Hiphop; Herman Payne, Miami City Ballet Resident Faculty and Adjunct Professor at the New World School of the Arts, University of Florida and Miami-Dade Colleges; and Shamele Jenkins, Artistic Director of Lip, Tongue & Ear Poetry Productions and Executive Director/CEO of the Miami-Dade County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association.

2022 YOUNG TALENT BIG DREAMS CONTEST WINNERS:

Group Vocals and Overall Grand Prize Winner

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious of SAH Conservatory of Dramatic Arts

Melanie Colmenares, 12, Dr. Toni Bilbao Preparatory Academy; Daniela Montes, 12, Dr. Toni Bilbao Preparatory Academy; Julyana Moreno, 17, Ronald W. Reagan Doral Senior High School; Andres Pirela, 13, John I. Smith K-8 Center; Alejandro Querales, 14, Palmetto Middle School; and Miguel Veracierto, 12, Doral Academy Charter Middle School

Individual Dance Winner

Diliany Solano, 15, New World School of the Arts

Individual Original Composition Winner

Irene Lee, 17, Miami Palmetto Senior High School

Individual Vocal – Broadway/Jazz/Classical Winner

Natalie Quintana, 17, Miami Springs Senior High School

Individual Vocal – Pop/Rock/Rap Winner

Kaitlynn Abbott, 14, Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer

Individual Original Spoken Word Winner

Terrain Small, 17, Miami Norland Senior High School

Individual Musical Instrument Winner

Joshua Safont, 12, Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer

Group Musical Instrument/Bands Winner

Amici

Jessica Olivera, 17, School for Advanced Studies and Maria Luisa Sanchez Agelvis, 16, Miami Arts Studio
6-12 @ Zelda Glazer






For more information, visit www.actorsplayhouse.org. To learn more about The Children's Trust, please visit www.TheChildrensTrust.org.

On-camera and in-person interviews available 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.

About The Children's Trust

The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to fund strategic investments that improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County. For more information visit www.TheChildrensTrust.org and follow us on social media.     

#

#

#