



IAN GRAY
2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
ACTING

AYAC

**ARIZONA YOUNG
ARTISTS' COMPETITION**

FEBRUARY 22, 2025

ACTING | DANCE | VOICE

HERBERGERTHEATER.ORG
602.252.8497 X106



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ARIZONA YOUNG ARTISTS' COMPETITION

Welcome to the 25th Annual Arizona Young Artists' Competition, proudly presented by the Herberger Theater Center! We are delighted to come together for the 25th time for this dynamic showcase, celebrating the exceptional talent of young artists in our community. The passion and artistry of these singers, actors, and dancers are truly inspiring, and we are excited to share their performances with you this evening.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose steadfast support highlights the importance of nurturing young artists. Special thanks to Billie Jo Herberger, APS, Cable One, Debra & Jim Larson, the National Society of Arts & Letters – Arizona Chapter, Mike Parrish, Desert Diamond Casino West Valley, and Becky Gonzalez. Their contributions play a vital role in shaping not only the future of live performance but also the cultural fabric of our community.

We also sincerely appreciate the Herberger Theater Center's Board of Directors for their ongoing support of this program and all of our Community Engagement initiatives. This event would not be possible without the dedication of so many individuals, and we are grateful to everyone involved. A special acknowledgment goes to Cescily Wiener, Director of Community Engagement, Amber Robins, Community Engagement Associate, Judy Rollings, one of the competition's founders, and Mark Fearey, whose guidance has been instrumental in bringing this year's competition to life.

At its heart, the Arizona Young Artists' Competition is about fostering and celebrating the next generation of performers. Your presence and encouragement tonight are an essential part of that mission. So, let's get started!

Mark Mettes, CVE
President & CEO
Herberger Theater Center

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ARIZONA YOUNG ARTISTS' COMPETITION

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF JUDGES

Mark Mettes

President & CEO, Herberger Theater Center

CLASSICAL VOICE FINALISTS

Accompanist - Mark Fearey

Gracie Smith

Phoenix Country Day School

Lila Weber

ASU Prep Digital

Mina Ghazi

Mesa Community College

Cammie Roberts

Arizona State University

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR FINALISTS](#)

ACTING FINALISTS

Kayla Trevino

Shadow Mountain High School

Indra Hamm

Glendale Community College

Riley Cottrell

Homeschool

Sophie Swingler

Paradise Valley High School

MUSICAL THEATRE VOICE FINALISTS

Accompanist - Mark Fearey

Gianna Arrighi

Arizona State University

Cammie Roberts

Arizona State University

William Lovell

Mesa Community College

Sydney Hassler

Chaparral High School

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR FINALISTS](#)

DANCE FINALISTS

Juliana Aispuro

**Chaparral High School &
The Collective Phoenix**

Carlin Ciocchetti

Youth American Ballet Company

Karson Koller

**Arizona School For the Arts &
The Collective Phoenix**

Kasy Blackmon

**Arizona School For the Arts &
The Collective Phoenix**

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR FINALISTS](#)

VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS DURING INTERMISSION!

**Winners from each category will be awarded a
\$100 cash prize!**

Voting begins at the start of intermission. Hand
your ballots directly to an usher.

INTERMISSION

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Mark Mettes, CVE, President & CEO

People's Choice Classical Voice Award

People's Choice Acting Award

People's Choice Musical Theatre Award

People's Choice Dance Award

The Marvin Cohen Classical Voice Award

Presentation: Debra & Jim Larson

The Herberger Theater Center Acting Award

Presentation: Jason Symchak, APS

The Herberger Theater Center Musical Theatre Voice Award

Presentation: Cathy Huan, NSAL

The Frances Smith Cohen Dance Award

Presentation: Billie Jo Herberger

ADJUDICATORS

CLASSICAL VOICE

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION:

Katarzyna Honsberger
Nathan Northrup
Jennifer Sheldon

FINAL COMPETITION:

Joseph Specter

ACTING

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION:

Susan Back
Lesley Tutnick-Machbitz
Stefan Linder

FINAL COMPETITION:

Karen Burns

MUSICAL THEATRE VOICE

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION:

Marcus Denton
Amy Jo Halliday
Shana Rebilas Bousard

FINAL COMPETITION:

Kelli James

DANCE

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION:

Todd Bailey
Katie Hughes
Brayan Perez

FINAL COMPETITION:

Lisa Gray Young

[CLICK TO READ MORE
ABOUT OUR JUDGES](#)

EMCEE

Mark Mettes, CVE, is the President & CEO of the Herberger Theater Center where he has been employed for over 34 years, beginning his career backstage as a Technical Supervisor. Mark was Vice President for more than 10 years before moving into the President & CEO role in 2016. Mark has achieved the designation of Certified Venue Executive since 2014.

Mark served as the Chair of the International Association of Venue Managers after serving four years in Board leadership roles and three years on the Board representing the Performing Arts Sector. Mark is happily married and is the proud father of four children and six grandchildren. He is active in the local community including serving five terms as the President of the Board of Directors for Reid Traditional School's Valley Academy Charter School.

PRODUCTION CREW

**DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION SERVICES
AND FACILITIES**
TAMI UPDEGRAFF

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
TIFFANY OWEN

STAGE MANAGER
KAYDEN OPENSHAW

LIGHT DESIGN
DANIEL DAVISSON

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR
ESTELLA GLENN

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR
ETHAN WESTCOTT

AUDIO TECHNICIAN
KYLE PFISTER

RAIL OPERATOR
LEO MARTINEZ

STAGE HANDS
COLT THOMAS
JULIO-CESAR SAUCEDA

VIDEOGRAPHERS
AUBRIANNA STOUGH
AMANDA SLATE

PHOTOGRAPHER
RICK MEINECKE

The Herberger Theater Center is Arizona's center stage, engaging the community through diverse arts experiences that ignite emotion, stimulate conversation and inspire connections to the arts.

HerbergerTheater.org

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ARIZONA YOUNG ARTISTS' COMPETITION

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Cescily Wiener, Director of Community Engagement

Judy Rollings, Acting Director

Mark Fearey, Voice Director

Amber Robins, Dance Director



**READ MORE ABOUT
OUR COORDINATORS**

IN LOVING MEMORY...



RICHARD BOWERS

Dick served as President of the Herberger Theater Center from 2001-2016. He fostered an environment of collaboration and believed that arts organizations could achieve much more by working together than they could ever achieve alone.

He often said that “Art saves cities,” and he lived that sentiment out every day as he guided our organization. He was instrumental in the creation of the Herberger Theater Art Gallery, which will forever be part of his legacy.

Dick created an all-encompassing arts space at the Herberger Theater, a place where arts continue to come together for the benefit of all in our community.



FRANCES SMITH COHEN

Fran was one of the founders of the Arizona Young Artists’ Competition. Her love and passion for dance made our arts community a better place and inspired so many young performers to follow their dreams. **This evening we remember Fran and honor her legacy with the Frances Smith Cohen Dance award.**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



**BILLIE JO
HERBERGER**

Cable One®



NSAL ARIZONA
National Society of Arts & Letters
Supporting young talent in the performing, visual, and literary arts

DEBRA & JIM LARSON

MIKE PARRISH



BECKY GONZALEZ

SCHOLARSHIP C.A.L.L.E. DE ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIP



C.A.L.L.E DE AZ y el Herberger Theater están brindando becas para apoyar a los estudiantes que puedan demostrar un impacto o compromiso con la comunidad Latina que cursan estudios superiores en Arizona y al mismo tiempo promover los valores de la diversidad cultural y el respeto dentro de nuestra comunidad. La fecha límite para postular es el 28 de febrero. Las becas se otorgarán en el Festival de Mariachi y Folklórico el 8 de marzo.

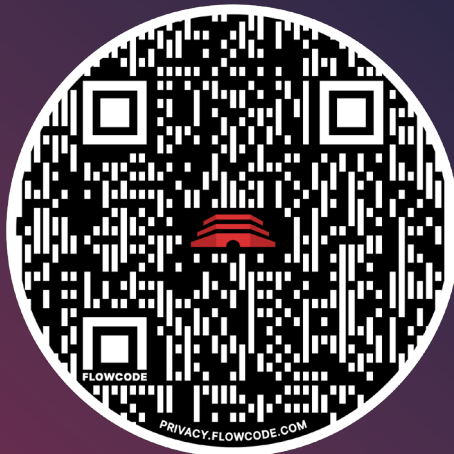
C.A.L.L.E DE AZ and the Herberger Theater are providing scholarships to support students who can demonstrate an impact on or commitment to the Latino community pursuing higher education in Arizona while promoting the values of cultural diversity and respect within our community. Deadline to apply is February 28. Scholarships will be awarded at the Mariachi & Folklórico Festival on March 8.

For more information, click here or visit <https://herbergertheater.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-C.A.L.L.E.-SCHOLARSHIP-FORM-2-PAGES.docx>



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Please scan QR code or click here and take a few minutes to complete the survey. It will help us better understand what we are doing well and in what areas we can improve. Responses to this survey are anonymous.



Thank you for your participation!

Completed surveys will be entered into a monthly raffle for two complimentary tickets to a show at the Herberger Theater.