

**Saint Thomas Academy, Visitation School and Hennepin Theatre Trust Announce
Spring 2009 *SpotLight Musical Theatre* Honors**

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., May 11, 2009 — **Saint Thomas Academy, Visitation School and Hennepin Theatre Trust** today announced the Spring 2009 honorees in the 2008-09 ***SpotLight Musical Theatre Program***, a Hennepin Theatre Trust program which supports high schools across the Twin Cities' metro area that present musical theatre—from classics including *Fiddler on the Roof* to a new school edition of *Sweeney Todd*. Thirty-one Minnesota high schools participate in the program that recognizes accomplishments by school and category.

VISTA Productions <<http://sites.google.com/site/vistatheatreproductions/>> (the schools' joint theatre group) presented *AIDA* for two weekends in April and May, and for its achievements is receiving the following honors:

- Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical
- Outstanding Performance by a Dance Ensemble
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role - C Heaney '09 (*Amneris*)
- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role - C Repp '09 (*Aida*)
- Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role – C. O'Daniel '10 (*Zoser*)
- Honorable Mention Performance in a Leading Role – J. Nye '09 (*Radames*)
- Honorable Mention Performance in a Supporting Role – R. Wood '10 (*Mareb*)
- Technical Achievement - L Cashman '09 and T. Stoeri '09 - Scenic Design
- Technical Achievement – T. Stoeri '09 - Technical Direction
- Technical Achievement – T. Stoeri '09 - Lighting Design

AIDA was produced and directed by Wendy Short-Hays and Elliott Hays.

VISTA Productions and its musical theatre students will also be honored at the *SpotLight Program's* culminating event, the *SpotLight Awards*, a gala evening that recognizes high school musical theatre accomplishments in much the same way that the Tony Awards® acknowledge Broadway excellence. This non-competitive celebration features student performances mixed with award presentations. This year's awards will be held at the **Orpheum Theatre at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, 2009. Tickets are available for \$12 at HennepinTheatreTrust.org.**

Hennepin Theatre Trust, owner of the historic State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres is a non-profit organization devoted to enriching the vibrant cultural atmosphere of the Twin Cities. The Trust, which presents performing arts events in downtown Minneapolis and offers related educational programs for the community, established the *SpotLight Musical Theatre Program* after recognizing that none existed in Minnesota to honor excellence in high school musical theatre. *SpotLight* is now in its fourth successful year encouraging and celebrating students who participate and excel in their high school musical.

Evaluators skilled in theatre education and/or musical theatre attend productions and nominate honorees in categories including outstanding performance in leading, supporting and featured

Educators who wish to participate in the 2009-10 *SpotLight Musical Theatre Program* should contact Ann Kim, Director of Education and Community Engagement at 612-373-5696 or Ann.Kim@hennepintheatretrust.org. The application deadline will be in early Fall 2010. Additional information is available at www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org/education.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com <<http://www.cadets.com>> .

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