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## VISTA PRODUCTIONS RECEIVES EIGHT SPOTLIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS

**MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., May 24, 2010** – [Saint Thomas Academy](#) announced today that the [VISTA Productions](#)' spring musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, received eight SpotLight Musical Theatre Awards. The production, led by directors Wendy Short-Hays and Elliott Hays, and choir director Randi Rexroth, received an award for Outstanding Performance in Dance. Individual honors went to Saint Thomas Academy students:

- C. O'Daniel '10 as Tevye - Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role
- R. Wood '10 as Motel - Honorable Mention in a Supporting Role
- R. Wankel '10 as Fiddler - Honorable Mention in a Featured Role

Convent of the Visitation School students received the following awards:

- S. Twohy '10 as Yente - Honorable Mention in a Featured Role
- E. Heaney '11 - Technical Achievement
- L. Feitl '11 - Technical Achievement
- M. Lass '10 - Technical Achievement

[Hennepin Theatre Trust](#) announced the spring 2010 honorees from among 39 Minnesota high schools participating in its 2009-10 [SpotLight Musical Theatre Program](#). These SpotLight honors recognize students and schools for their accomplishments in performance, production and community engagement. The SpotLight program supports the work of Minnesota high schools that present musical theater— from classics including *Fiddler on the Roof* to the adaptation of Dickens' *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Hennepin Theatre Trust, the non-profit owner of the historic State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres, established the SpotLight Musical Theatre Program to honor excellence in high school musical theater. SpotLight is now in its fifth year, encouraging and celebrating students who participate and excel in their high school musicals. Minnesota high schools annually apply to participate.

“SpotLight offers a much-needed opportunity to support and recognize the amazing talent and dedication found in Minnesota high school performing arts programs,” said Tom Hoch, president/CEO of Hennepin Theatre Trust. “With SpotLight, the Trust seeks to recognize students and underscore the importance of including theater arts as part of a young person’s education. High school musical theater programs enhance skills such as critical thinking, self-expression and collaboration that may not be as fully realized in standard academics or competitive sports.”

The SpotLight Musical Theatre Awards, a gala event open to the public, will bring together teachers, students and parents from diverse backgrounds to honor the award recipients. This year’s event will be held Monday, June 14, at the Orpheum Theatre. For tickets and more information, visit the [SpotLight Musical Theatre Awards](#).

**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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