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**Spotlight Education** engages Minnesota high school students in the performing arts, as the flagship education program of Hennepin Theatre Trust.

Lifelong learning, leadership and community are the core values of Spotlight Education and the talented students who participate in this year-long program.

Through Spotlight Education, students enrolled in their high school musical theatre programs receive professional training and guidance to enhance their artistic, technical and performing skills. This wide-ranging program has four key components:

* **Masterclasses** offer an array of training from local theatre professionals and Broadway performers.
* ***Critical Review*** teaches students all aspects of musical theatre so that they are able to write professional theatre and performance reviews.
* **Production assessments** connect high schools with theatre professionals and educators who offer feedback and guidance on the schools’ musical theatre productions.
* ***Spotlight Showcase***, the culmination of the year-long program, invites all participating high schools to take center stage and perform before live audiences in one of the Trust’s historic theatres. The 12th annual *Spotlight Showcase*, takes place June 11-12, 2018 at the historic State Theatre (805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis).

Spotlight Education also recognizes outstanding individual performances through the Spotlight Education Triple Threat Broadway Experience, presented by Sun Country Airlines, which honors students who excel in three areas — dancing, singing and acting — in addition to leadership in the community. The Triple Threat Broadway Experience is an all-expenses paid trip to New York City to meet with industry professionals, participate in workshops and attend Broadway shows.

Since its inception in 2005, Spotlight Education has served 50,000 students in more than 100 schools throughout the state. And some of yesterday’s students have become today’s stars:

* **Laura Osnes** (Eagan High School) most recently starred in Bandstand on Broadway. She also played the title role on Broadway in *Rodgers + Hammerstein’s* *Cinderella* and has dozens of additional theatre credits. She remains passionate about being the spokesperson for Spotlight Education.
* **Ryan McCartan** (Minnetonka High School) played the role of “Brad” in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* Fox TV remake that aired Last year. McCartan also won the 2011 National High School Musical Theater Award in New York.

For a complete list of participating schools and honors, please visit [HennepinTheatreTrust.org](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/spotlight-education)

*Spotlight Showcase* is made possible by Slumberland Furniture.

The Spotlight Education Triple Threat Broadway Experience is presented by Sun Country Airlines.

*Critical Review* is free to all participating Spotlight Education schools thanks to the generous underwriting of Fred and Ann Moore.

Follow Spotlight Education at:

Twitter: [@spotlightMN](https://twitter.com/spotlightMN)

Instagram: [#spotlight\_MN](https://www.instagram.com/spotlight_MN/)

Facebook: [Spotlight Education](https://www.facebook.com/SpotLightMusicalTheatreProgram)

**HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST** is a nonprofit organization that creates positive change through the arts by bringing together people, businesses and organizations in WeDo™, the West Downtown MPLS Cultural District. We serve the community through our historic theatres – the Orpheum, State and Pantages – and our unique arts, culture and education programs. Learn more at [HennepinTheatreTrust.org](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/).

**SUN COUNTRY AIRLINES** is a Minneapolis/St. Paul- based commercial airline known for low fares, friendly service and an easy, convenient Terminal 2 experience at MSP International Airport. As Minnesota’s Hometown Airline, Sun Country caters to the frequent and infrequent traveler with a flexible loyalty program, Ufly Rewards, and with service to popular destinations across the U.S., Central America and the Caribbean. Members of Sun Country’s Ufly Rewards program can earn and redeem points on all Sun Country travel including flights, vacation packages, First Class upgrades, preferred seat selection and much more. Learn more at [suncountry.com](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/).

**SLUMBERLAND FURNITURE** Founded in 1967 in Richfield, Minnesota, Slumberland began as a mattress specialty shop with products and prices designed to make people comfortable. Today, Slumberland Furniture offers living, dining and bedroom furniture from some of America’s top brands, in more than 125 stores across 12 states. Slumberland is committed to improving the life of each customer through community giving, a positive shopping experience, and affordable furniture options that make a house a home.

The *Spotlight Education* program is funded, in part, by the Minnesota State Arts Board through the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

