



## **MTC WINS 'EXCELLENCE IN ACTING' AWARD AT SECOND STRAIGHT NATIONAL JR. THEATER FESTIVAL**

**ATLANTA, GA** (January 18, 2015) – The non-profit **Moorestown Theater Company (MTC)** received a Freddie G 'Excellence In Acting' Award for its full cast at the **2015 Junior Theater Festival (JTF)**, the world's largest musical theater festival for children, which took place January 16 - 18 at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta, GA. (The Freddie G Awards are named after Music Theatre International CEO / Tony Award Winner **Freddie Gershon**.) This marked the second straight festival at which **MTC** received this coveted award!

**MTC's** 21 students, ages seven to 17, were cheered on by a group of 33 staff and family members as they performed a 15-minute version of **Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.** in front of two adjudicators: Tony-nominated composer **Justin Paul** (who with partner **Benj Pasek** composed **Road Dahl's James and the Giant Peach** and **A Christmas Story**, which Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre will produce this fall) and iTheatrics VP of publishing, resident choreographer, and former Broadway performer **Steven G. Kennedy**.

"**Moorestown Theater Company** performed with thrilling energy. I was completely moved," said Paul. Added Kennedy, "**Moorestown Theater Company** rocks it, on stage and off."

Produced by NYC's Junior Theater Group in partnership with **iTheatrics**, the **JTF** is the world's largest festival celebrating young people and the "transformative power of musical theater". This year's festival had 4,500 students, teachers, and family members from 26 states and the District of Columbia, as well as companies from South Korea and Australia. There were a record-high 101 theater companies/schools participating at **JTF '15**. The Junior Theater Festival was founded in 2003 and became an annual event in 2010. **MTC**, which received one acting award in 2013, and three acting awards in 2014, also received one individual acting award this year, in addition to the cast acting award, bringing its total to six acting awards at the last three festivals.

**MTC's** second Freddie G Award at this year's festival went to **Jordan Budney** (Age 11 from Cherry Hill, NJ) in the form of a 'Broadway Junior Slam Acting' Award. (The 'Broadway Junior Slam' is a theatrical challenge in which students and teachers who don't know each other must stage and perform a song from a musical in one hour.) **MTC** Producing Artistic Director and **Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.** Director **Mark Morgan** accepted the 'Excellence In Acting' Award for the entire cast for its 15-minute performance.

"Just attending the Junior Theater Festival is a wonderful experience for our students, even if we don't win any awards", Morgan said. "But to win two awards, including an 'Excellence In Acting' Award for a second year in a row, is amazing, and it shows the caliber of actors that perform with **Moorestown Theater Company!**"

**MTC** was the only group of the eight in its 'pod' to condense their entire show down to 15 minutes (as opposed to just performing various songs from a show), which Morgan said was done to highlight as many cast members as possible (instead of just a few lead performers).

These other **MTC** performers were also recognized for their efforts by the Festival Adjudicators:

**Broadway Jr. All-Stars** (two were selected per Cast): **Aren Duffy** (Age 12, Marlton, NJ, 'Geppetto') and **Juliet Morgan** (Age 12, Moorestown, 'Sue, a Fairy-In-Training'). These two All-Stars from each company were split into two groups that each had to learn and perform a song from a musical after just 60 minutes of rehearsal during the closing Awards Ceremony on the Festival's final day for all 4,500 festival attendees.

– **MORE** –

### **"Where Families Have Fun Performing Musical Theater Together"**

Mail: 704 Kings Hwy. • Moorestown, NJ 08057 • Telephone / Fax: 856/778-8357 • Cell: 609/922-2506  
E-Mail: [moorestowntheatercompany@comcast.net](mailto:moorestowntheatercompany@comcast.net) • Web: [www.moorestowntheatercompany.org](http://www.moorestowntheatercompany.org)

Proud Member Of American Association Of Community Theatre (AACT), New Jersey Theater League (NJTL), South Jersey Cultural Alliance (SJCA), Arts & Business Partnership (A&BP), Burlington County Chamber Of Commerce (BCCOC) & Moorestown Business Association (MBA).

Funding is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant to the Burlington County Board Of Chosen Freeholders.

**Broadway Jr. Choreography DVD Auditionees** (two to four selected from each Cast): **Isabelle Chevalier** (Age 13, Moorestown, 'Marionette #1'), **Taylor Sternberg** (Age 17, Mount Laurel, 'Stromboli'), **Nicholas Williams** (Age 13, Moorestown, 'Marionette #2'), and **Ethan Zeligson** (Age 13, Marlton, 'Professore Buonragazzo'); Chevalier and Zeligson were invited to a 'Call-Back' in NYC this summer for future Broadway Junior shoots to record "how-to" choreography videos for soon-to-be released Broadway Junior musicals.

**Broadway Junior Slam Nominees** (up to eight nominated by each Directing Team): **Jordan Budney** (Age 11, Cherry Hill, 'Viola, a Fairy-In-Training'), **Aren Duffy** (12, Marlton, 'Geppetto'), **Gavin Lynch** (14, Mount Laurel, 'Ringleader'), **Clare McGreevy** (16, Moorestown, 'Blue Fairy'), **Juliet Morgan** (12, Moorestown, 'Sue, a Fairy-In-Training'), **Rocco Rocolo** (12, Moorestown, 'Pinocchio'), and **Julia Scott** (13, Moorestown, 'Ensemble') were submitted by the **MTC** Staff, with **Budney** and **Rocolo** chosen by the **JTF** Staff.

The **Moorestown Theater Company**, which has started its 13<sup>th</sup> Season this year, is an award-winning, year-round, non-profit community theater. The 21 **MTC** students who traveled to JTF '15 were:

- Jordan Budney** ('Viola, a Fairy-In-Training'), Rosa Middle School, Grade 6, Age 11, Cherry Hill
- Isabelle Chevalier** ('Marionette #1'), Westfield Friends School, Grade 7, Age 13, Moorestown
- Erika Dorsett** ('Sporco, a Delinquent'), Fleetwood Elementary School, Grade 2, Age 7, Mount Laurel
- <sup>3</sup> **Aren Duffy** ('Geppetto'), De Masi Middle School, Grade 6, Age 12, Marlton
- <sup>2</sup> **Indi Ebo** ('Signora Giovanni'), Lumberton Middle School, Grade 8, Age 13, Lumberton
- Collin Guerry** ('Brutto, a Delinquent'), Hillside Elementary School, Grade 4, Age 9, Mount Laurel
- Brielle Johnson** (Ensemble), Bobby's Run Elementary School, Grade 4, Age 9, Lumberton
- Seychelle Kulik** (Ensemble), Moorestown High School, Grade 10, Age 15, Moorestown
- <sup>2</sup> **Gavin Lynch** ('Ringleader'), Our Lady Of Good Counsel School, Grade 7, Age 14, Mount Laurel
- Clare McGreevy** ('Blue Fairy'), Moorestown High School, Grade 10, Age 15, Moorestown
- <sup>3</sup> **Juliet Morgan** ('Sue, a Fairy-In-Training'), Upper Elementary School, Grade 6, Age 12, Moorestown
- <sup>2</sup> **Sydney Parker** (Ensemble), Bobby's Run Elementary School, Grade 6, Age 11, Lumberton
- <sup>2</sup> **Nico Rucolo** (Ensemble), Moorestown Upper Elementary School, Grade 6, Age 12, Moorestown
- <sup>2</sup> **Rocco Rucolo** ('Pinocchio'), Moorestown Upper Elementary School, Grade 6, Age 12, Moorestown
- Julia Scott** (Ensemble), Wm. Allen Middle School, Grade 8, Age 13, Moorestown
- Taylor Sternberg** ('Stromboli'), Lenape High School, Grade 12, Age 17, Mount Laurel
- <sup>2</sup> **Jenna Vanston** ('Rosa, a Fairy-In-Training'), Moorestown Friends School, Grade 6, Age 11, Moorestown
- <sup>3</sup> **Rehana Wells** ('Arancia, a Fairy-In-Training'), Upper Elementary School, Grade 6, Age 11, Moorestown
- <sup>3</sup> **Nicholas Williams** ('Marionette #2'), William Allen Middle School, Grade 7, Age 13, Moorestown
- <sup>2</sup> **Emma Witkowski** (Ensemble), William Allen Middle School, Grade 7, Age 13, Moorestown
- <sup>2</sup> **Ethan Zeligson** ('Professore Buonragazzo'), De Masi Middle School, Grade 8, Age 13, Marlton

<sup>3</sup> = 3<sup>rd</sup> Year **MTC** / JTF Participant (4) • <sup>2</sup> = 2<sup>nd</sup> Year **MTC** / JTF Participant (8)

The members of the Production Staff for **MTC's** JTF Trip were: **Mark Morgan** (Director, from Moorestown), **Carol Ann Murray** (Vocal Director, Moorestown), **Beverly Bennett** (Music Director, Mount Laurel), **Julia Scott** (Choreographer, Moorestown), **Kaitlin Tumulty** (Assistant Choreographer, Moorestown), **Annette De Rosa** (Administrative Director, Moorestown), and **Chris Resavy** (Stage Manager, Lumberton).

About **MTC**: This non-profit 501(c)(3) performing arts organization, which was incorporated in 2003, presents these annual 'Season' of shows: **'Winter Stage'** (March children's musical); **'Counsel Stage'** (April musical for Our Lady of Good Counsel School students); **'First Stage'** (May pre-teen musical); **'Main Stage'** (July all-ages musical); **'Summer Stage'** (four children's musicals); **'Extrava-Gala'** (October fund-raising dinner dance and auction); **'Quaker Stage'** (October musical for Westfield Friends School students); **'Second Stage'** (November adult musical); and **'Fall Stage'** (December children's musical). **MTC** also offers Spring and Fall Studio Classes in Acting, Dancing, and Singing, with a Spring Recital, as well as private voice and dance lessons, and individual audition coaching sessions. **MTC** is looking for its 'own' building to house all of these activities. For more information, please visit **MoorestownTheaterCompany.org**, or call **856 / 778-8357**.

— **MORE** —

## "Where Families Have Fun Performing Musical Theater Together"

Mail: 704 Kings Hwy. • Moorestown, NJ 08057 • Telephone / Fax: 856/778-8357 • Cell: 609/922-2506  
E-Mail: [moorestowntheatercompany@comcast.net](mailto:moorestowntheatercompany@comcast.net) • Web: [www.moorestowntheatercompany.org](http://www.moorestowntheatercompany.org)

Proud Member Of American Association Of Community Theatre (AACT), New Jersey Theater League (NJTL), South Jersey Cultural Alliance (SJCA), Arts & Business Partnership (A&BP), Burlington County Chamber Of Commerce (BCCOC) & Moorestown Business Association (MBA).

Funding is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant to the Burlington County Board Of Chosen Freeholders.

**About Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.:** With music and lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz** (*Wicked, Pippin, Godspell*) and a book by **David Stern**, this musical is based on the classic tale of an aging toymaker and his puppet. Complete with the 'Blue Fairy', 'Stromboli', and other fun characters, the story follows Pinocchio's journey from awkward wooden puppet to real, live boy and the transformation of 'Geppetto' from demanding creator to real, live father. This family musical also has the well-known songs from the 1940 animated movie "I've Got No Strings" and "When You Wish Upon A Star" (by **Ned Washington** and **Leigh Harline**).

## MTC Jr. Theater Festival '15 Photo Captions

Photo Caption #1: The **Moorestown Theater Company** Staff, Cast, and Traveling Party for **Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.** that traveled to the iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Jan. 16-18, 2015). Photo Credit: **MTC**

Photo Caption #2: **Moorestown Theater Company** Producing Artistic Director and **Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.** Director **Mark Morgan** receiving the Cast's "Excellent In Acting" Award at the iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Jan. 16-18, 2015), with NY1's OnStage Reporter **Frank DiLella** and Playbill Editor **Blake Ross**. Photo Credit: James Barker Photography

Photo Caption #3: The 2015 "Excellence In Acting" Award that the **Moorestown Theater Company's** Cast of **Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.** received at the iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Jan. 16-18, 2015). Photo Credit: **MTC**

Photo Caption #4: The two "Excellence In Acting" Awards (2014 and 2015) that the **Moorestown Theater Company** received at the past two iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festivals in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (January 2014 and January 2015). Photo Credit: **MTC**

Photo Caption #5: **Moorestown Theater Company** Producing Artistic Director **Mark Morgan** holding the two "Excellence In Acting" Awards that **MTC** has received at the past two iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festivals in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (January 2014 and January 2015). Photo Credit: **MTC**

Photo Caption #6: **Moorestown Theater Company** Cast Member **Jordan Budney** ("Viola, a Fairy-In-Training", Age 11 from Cherry Hill, NJ) receiving her "Broadway Junior Slam" Acting Award at the iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Jan. 16-18, 2015). Pictured with Budney are Director of the Licensing and Hire Department at Hal Leonard Australia **Stuart Hendricks**, and Music Theatre International President **Drew Cohen**. Photo Credit: James Barker Photography

Photo Caption #7: **Moorestown Theater Company** Cast Members **Aren Duffy** ("Geppetto" in **Disney's My Son Geppetto, Jr.**, Age 12 from Marlton, NJ) and **Juliet Morgan** ("Sue, a Fairy-In-Training", Age 12 from Moorestown, NJ) were selected as "Broadway Jr. All-Stars" at the iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Jan. 16-18, 2015); they are pictured with **MTC** Producing Artistic Director and **Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.** Director **Mark Morgan**. Photo Credit: **MTC**

Photo Caption #8: **Moorestown Theater Company** Broadway Jr. Choreography DVD Auditionees **Taylor Sternberg** ('Stromboli', Age 17 from Mount Laurel, NJ), **Isabelle Chevalier** ('Marionette #1', Age 13, Moorestown), **Nicholas Williams** ('Marionette #2', Age 13, Moorestown), **Rocco Ruccolo** ('Pinocchio', Age 12, Moorestown), holding their 'Golden Tickets' which they used as their entrance to the Choreography DVD Auditions, with **Disney's My Son Pinocchio, Jr.** Choreographer **Julia McHale** at the iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Jan. 16-18, 2015). Photo Credit: **MTC**

Photo Caption #9: **Moorestown Theater Company** 'Broadway Junior Slam' Participants **Jordan Budney** ('Viola, a Fairy-In-Training', Age 11 from Cherry Hill, NJ) and **Rocco Ruccolo** ('Pinocchio', Age 12, Moorestown) at the iTheatrics Jr. Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend (Jan. 16-18, 2015). Photo Credit: **MTC**

All JTF '15 photos & captions appear on the JTF page at **MoorestownTheaterCompany.org**. — **MTC** —

## "Where Families Have Fun Performing Musical Theater Together"

Mail: 704 Kings Hwy. • Moorestown, NJ 08057 • Telephone / Fax: 856/778-8357 • Cell: 609/922-2506  
E-Mail: [moorestowntheatercompany@comcast.net](mailto:moorestowntheatercompany@comcast.net) • Web: [www.moorestowntheatercompany.org](http://www.moorestowntheatercompany.org)

Proud Member Of American Association Of Community Theatre (AACT), New Jersey Theater League (NJTL), South Jersey Cultural Alliance (SJCA), Arts & Business Partnership (A&BP), Burlington County Chamber Of Commerce (BCCOC) & Moorestown Business Association (MBA).

Funding is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant to the Burlington County Board Of Chosen Freeholders.