

Episcopal High grad adds to a growing list of theatrical awards



Stephanie Styles earns a Jimmy Award

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Stephanie Styles, a 2010 honors graduate of **Episcopal High School**, was recognized as one of the top three best leading female actors at the Jimmy Awards at Broadway's **Marquis Theatre** at the 2nd **Annual National High School Musical Theater Awards**.

The event was a national celebration of outstanding student achievement recognizing individual artistry in vocal, dance and acting performance by high school students. **Alexandria Payne** of **Tri-Cities High School** in Atlanta, GA, received the top female actor award for her role as Ti Moune in *Once On This Island*.

Nearly 1,000 high schools nationwide participated in the 2009-2010 program offered at 22 regional theatres across America. Styles won the 2010 Tommy Tune Award for Best Leading Actress in April at **Theatre Under the Stars Hobby Center** for her role as **Janet van de Graaff** in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, which allowed her to advance to the national competition.

In addition to performing a piece from her award winning performance in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Styles also performed a solo at the Marquis Theatre. She participated in interviews, private coaching, master classes and rehearsals at the **New York University Tisch School of the Arts**.

"This was an experience of a lifetime," said Styles. "It was exhausting and amazing at the same time. Performing on Broadway and meeting so many amazingly talented people has changed me forever."

The Jimmy Awards was just one of a list of achievements for Styles this year. She represented Texas at the National Shakespeare Competition in New York in April where she was a semi-finalist performing in **Lincoln Center**.

She graduated Episcopal High School Summa Cum Laude and delivered the commencement speech for her class. She also received the coveted Head of School Award from Headmaster **Ned Smith**.

Styles, who lives in **West University Place**, got her start in theatre at age 4. Her first impression of live theater was a lasting one.

"When I was four years old my parents took me to see a production of the *Phantom of the Opera* at Jones Hall. I loved it so much I asked to go again the next night. I brought the star of the show a Beanie Baby and he actually took me backstage and showed me everything. That night I asked my mommy to sign me up for theater classes."

Within weeks she was attending the **Humphrey School** at TUTS.

At 6, Styles was cast in her first main stage show, *Scrooge*, performed at TUTS. Since then she's performed at almost every **Houston theatre**.

At 12, she spent a year on the road in the National Broadway tour of *The Sound of Music* in the role of **Louisa von Trapp**. The following year she was a debut artist with the New York Opera in a principal role with *The Little Prince* at Lincoln Center.

"Besides Stephanie, no one else in our family is in acting," said Bridget Styles, Stephanie's mother. She has one brother, **John Henry**, a freshman at Episcopal.

Her four years at Episcopal High School were filled with multiple Tommy Tune nominations and theatre department best female actor awards.

"She is what we call a triple threat – actress, singer, and dancer," said **George Brock**, interim department chairman of dance and music at Episcopal. "She is a really unique individual, the most unique student I have ever worked with in regards to being strong across the board."

A team player

Besides her acting, singing and dancing talents, Brock says Styles has a wonderful graciousness and charm. She is always ready to support and help other students who maybe didn't receive a role in a school performance, helping them to understand that there is going to be other opportunities.

"She was always the first one to rehearsals and the last one to leave, always willing to get dirty, carry scenery or move props around," added Brock.

Styles is a student at the **University of Michigan School of Music**, Theatre and Dance.