

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Note: Photos available at <http://mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/media>

**McCallum Theatre Education's Open Call Talent Project
Announces 2020 Finalists
Tickets on Sale March 2nd!**

Palm Desert, CA – McCallum Theatre Education is excited to announce the **2020 OPEN CALL TALENT PROJECT! Dedicated to presenting local, non-professional artists, Open Call has gone on to become** one of the most popular events in the valley. This annual sell-out show is an audience favorite and fun for the entire family.

Open Call will feature over 70 community members ages 8-89 – vocalists, dancers and instrumentalists – who are bringing their talent, heart and soul to the McCallum stage.

A complete list of finalists can be viewed at

<https://www.mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/education/open-call>. More information on the Open Call finalists will be released soon. “This is an important project for McCallum and our goal is to produce an engaging show that highlights the value of the performing arts at any age and inspires a greater sense of community valley-wide. To invite local aspiring artists to collaborate and perform on McCallum’s stage and share their work with the larger community is deeply rewarding, and we’re thankful for the support we enjoy from our generous sponsors and audience members.” says Open Call producer and McCallum’s Vice President of Education, Kajsa Thuresson-Frary.

Thursday and Friday evening and Saturday matinee audience members have the opportunity to vote for their favorite act. The winners will be announced at Saturday evening's final performance. Cash prizes will be awarded to the grand prize (\$2500), 2nd place (\$750) and audience choice (\$750) award winners. All Open Call finalists will receive a cash stipend.

There are four performances open to the public. For the 7PM performances on Thursday, April 16 and Friday, April 17 and the 2PM performance on Saturday, April 18 tickets are **\$17, \$27, \$37** with a special ticket price of **\$12** for children 12 and under. For the final performance at 7PM on Saturday, April 18 tickets are **\$22, \$35, \$67**. **Tickets go on sale March 2nd** and can be purchased at the theatre box office, 73000 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, by calling (760) 340-ARTS or online at www.mccallumtheatre.com.

There are also deeply meaningful opportunities to participate in Open Call as a sponsor and support all McCallum’s arts education programs. Sponsor benefits include Open Call tickets, public recognition and an on-stage reception with finalists. For more information regarding sponsorships contact Nicole Moon, Manager of Events at (760) 346-6505 extension 126.

A “one of a kind” production that will make you want to return again and again. The diverse talent is amazing and the finale is astonishing. The sense of community emanating from the performers is palpable and must indeed be a life altering experience for them. Brava/bravo!!!

Linda and Steve Cadenelli, Open Call Audience Member

This project was one of the most professionally produced of the entire season. The performers, production and overall experience was heartwarming and left me with a tear in my eye as I left the theatre. So much effort resulted in so much joy. It truly leaves you with a sense of community.

Richard Herwig, Open Call Audience Member

Open Call is a wonderful experience for all participating performers, from the youngest student to the oldest senior. Everyone in the group wants to bring joy to the audience, to be proud of the hard work they've put in to get there, and get better at their craft. Whether you are a young student trying to make your parents proud, a college student headed for Broadway, or a senior just enjoying retirement this is one of the highest honors in the Desert.

Earl Mitchell, Open Call Finalist

“Open Call was a thrill and the most amazing experience of my life! I am grateful for the opportunity and the new friends that uplifted me on the journey. As an introvert, I learned that making friends and connecting with people is very important. The whole production was spot on. The credit doesn't go to the winner, but to everyone who competed and helped in the process.

Saigo Iniguez, 2019 Grand Prize Winner

*The McCallum Theatre Box Office, its phone center and website, are the **only** authorized outlets for tickets to performances presented at the Theatre. Tickets purchased from any other sources, such as brokers or secondary market websites, are purchased at consumer's own risk and cannot be guaranteed as valid.*

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