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SEARCH FOR NEW MUSICALS

Winners Announced for 2025

(Los Angeles, November 15, 2025)

Winners of the prestigious international Search for New Musicals for 2025 were announced today at New Musicals Inc. in Los Angeles.

First Prize goes to **Buzzed!** a musical podcast with book, music, and lyrics by Michael Turnblom and BK Wells.

Second Prize goes to **Purplestiltskin** with book and lyrics by Alex Meleras.

Third Prize goes to **Love is Afoot!** with book by Michael LaFata and Perry Sachs, lyrics by Perry Sachs, and music by Kevin Guillaume and Perry Sachs.

The Search for New Musicals accepts entrants from around the globe; winners receive awards worth up to \$25,000 in workshop productions, concert readings, feedback, and developmental support.

"We are thrilled to sponsor the Search," says Elise Dewsberry, Artistic Director of NMI. "We love seeing what writers are creating; and of course our mission is to nurture the folks who are writing musicals, so announcing the winners of the Search is one of my favorite things to do all year!"

Buzzed! a podcast musical - Janice Starling is queen bee and CEO of a 1960s beauty and cosmetics empire. But age is catching up to her, and it's affecting the bottom line. She enlists an eccentric German scientist to help in her quest for eternal youth, but what looks promising at first, soon starts to fly off the rails. Exactly how far will Janice go to stay on top? **Buzzed**, a podcast musical by Michael Turnblom and BK Wells, is presented in seven episodes in old radio show format, inspired by the sci-fi cult classic *The Wasp Woman* (1959). With a swarm of all-new, toe-tapping '60s-style songs, come listen to what all the buzz is about.

Purplestiltskin is a musical based in part on the Rumpelstiltskin fairy tale. With the monarchy of Rockton on its last legs, Olivia Mueller - who can allegedly make gold from straws - is involuntarily thrust into the queendom after a series of foreboding deals with a mysterious imp man, demanding the right to her first born child. Even though a social revolution goes on to immediately eradicate her position, Olivia still has to repay her "debts", which, just like her time in the palace, haunt her long after the world that created them has disappeared.

Love Is Afoot! is an absurd, dark, big-band musical romantic comedy set in the 1940s, following our hero, Joe, a hopeless dreamer on his quest for acceptance and his "sole-mate." Joe falls for Rose Marie, a kindred spirit whose own "thing" for feet bonds them—until societal pressures and class differences pull them apart. With a lush, toe-tapping big-band score that swings from sultry ballads to jubilant ensemble numbers, the show captures the heart and humor of the era as Joe and Rose Marie, guided by a magical Italian shoe cobbler, learn the importance of staying true to themselves and embracing love in all its forms.

Buzzed! will receive support from NMI for a full recording of the 7-part podcast series. Purplestiltskin will receive an NMI Staff Table Reading and Feedback session. Love Is Afoot! will receive a Detailed Analysis from an NMI dramaturge.

NMI is committed to an ongoing search to find and nurture promising new musical theatre. If you've written a musical, and you would like some honest, constructive, detailed feedback on how to make your musical better, you can submit your musical to NMI for dramaturgical feedback at levels from evaluation to analysis to table reading to workshop to concert reading.

Past winners of the Search have included: *The Water* by Jeff Hylton, Tim Werenko, and Georgia Stitt (2008); *Greenbrier Ghost* by Susan Murray and Clay Zambo (2009); *Gilbert & Sullivan on Wall Street* by Charles Veley and Arthur Sullivan (2010); *Emerald* by Chris Burgess and Denise Wright (2011); *Mad Bomber* by Charles Monagan and Richard deRosa (2012); *It Happened in Roswell* by Terrence Atkins and Jeffery Lyle Segal (2013); *Off the Wall* by Sarah Rebell and Danny Abosch (2014), *Invisible* by David Hollingsworth and David Orris (2015), *Spellbound: A F@d-Up Fairy Tale* by Ben Boecker (2016), *Bravo* by Cristian Guerrero, Steven Schmidt, and Andrew Moorhead (2017), *The Bully Problem* by Michael Gordon Shapiro (2018); *Entertaining Murder* by Chris Burgess (2019); *Benefit of Hindsight* with book by Wayne Self, lyrics by Wayne Self and Scott Wilkinson, and music by Scott Wilkinson (2020); *It's Always Off-Season at the Chalet Flamingo* by Julia Sonya Koyfman and Dusty Sanders (2021); *Supportive White Parents* by Joy Regullano, Sam Johnides, and Tony Gonzalez (2022), *The Rabbit Queen* by Ilana Gordon, Laura Watkins, and Jamie Lyn Beattie (2023), and *Flashes of Light* by Ron Boustead and Billy Larkin (2025).

All musicals submitted (at any level) to NMI by July 15, 2026 will be automatically entered in the Search for New Musicals for this season. Winners of the 2026 Search will be announced by November 15, 2026.

Information on submitting to the Search is available by visiting www.nmi.org.

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