

Young Thespians

written by Arkansas Catholic Staff |

Twenty-one members of Mount St. Mary Academy Thespian Troupe 8462 in Little Rock attended the 2025 Arkansas State Thespian Festival Feb. 13-15 in Russellville. The students earned superior ratings in various categories, qualified for the National Thespian Award, and received several college scholarship offers.

Scholarships

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For Maya Johnson and Isabella Nguyen, seniors at Mount St. Mary Academy in **Little Rock**, it has been an achievement-filled start to their final semester of high school. The two Concert Belles were among the 10 Arkansas high school seniors awarded a Thea Foundation performing arts scholarship in January. Additionally, the duo was selected to the 2025 Arkansas Choral Directors Association All-State Choir, a distinction that sets them apart as some of the top high school choral performers in the state.

Inspired by the theme “Fluidity,” 300 students from high schools across Arkansas applied for a chance at part of the \$219,000 worth of scholarships in the Thea Foundation’s 2024-2025 competition. As the first-place winner in the performing arts category, Nguyen was awarded

the top \$10,000 scholarship. Johnson, who placed eighth in the same category, won a \$3,000 scholarship. A total of 36 Arkansas seniors were awarded scholarships in five different categories, including performing arts, visual arts, creative writing, film and fashion. On Feb. 7, just a week after learning about their Thea Foundation scholarships, they competed in prepared music and sight reading at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro against hundreds of the state's best high school singers for a place in this year's All-State Choirs. Johnson received soprano II 1st chair as well as a perfect score in sight reading, and Nguyen received soprano II 3rd chair.

MSM senior Kylie Byrne and junior Perrin Kuhn each qualified to audition for this year's All-State Choirs, too.

Johnson and Nguyen will be in Hot Springs Feb. 20-22 for the All-State Music Conference.