

Passaic County Technical Institute

“Passaic County’s Award-Winning Public High School for Academics, Careers & Technology”

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PRESS RELEASE

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Paper Mill Playhouse Announces PCTI “Rising Star” Award Winner

Wayne, NJ – **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – Passaic County Technical Institute’s (PCTI) spring musical *Man of La Mancha* has received the **Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Award for Excellence in Outstanding Scenic Achievement**. The prestigious award recognizes sets designed and built by Instructor Robert Vendetti of Stillwater, NJ and PCTI’s School of Construction Technology students. *Man of La Mancha*’s intricate backdrops harkened back to the quality of those found on the stages of Broadway and painted the perfect atmosphere to accentuate both the talents of actors and dancers alike.

“The Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards raise the bar and create opportunities for student performers and theater technicians to be recognized for their achievements, while giving them access to thousands of dollars in scholarships and professional training. We consistently hear from top-tier colleges and casting directors that a Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Award is a significant accolade for an aspiring theater artist,” Paper Mill Director of Education, Lisa Cooney, explains.

Man of La Mancha was directed by Douglas Smith and Lynn Quinn of Wayne, both instructors of PCTI’s School of Performing Arts program.

Paper Mill Playhouse’s Rising Star Awards, presented by the Investors Foundation, are modeled after the Tony Awards; the program serves the entire state of New Jersey, with nearly 100 entered productions from public, private and parochial high schools. The awards were conceived and created in 1996 to give schools the opportunity to showcase their musical arts programs on a statewide level.



PCTI School of Construction Technology students Elijah Robles (Paterson), Frank Tandurella (North Haledon), and John Sutcliffe (Wayne), join *Man of La Mancha* Directors Lynn Quinn & Douglas Smith (left and right; Wayne) and Robert Vendetti (Stillwater) in celebrating their Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Award for Excellence in *Outstanding Scenic Achievement*.

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