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## **Darien's Got Talent — and All-Star Judges for the June 25 Competition**

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The Darien Arts Center is gathering first-class support for Darien's Got Talent with judges including *Kinky Boots* Producer Jane Bergere and *Nunsense* writer and director Danny Goggin.

Other entertainment professionals contributing their time and expertise as judges include musician and composer Joel A. Martin; former award-winning professional New York City Ballet dancer Ashlee Knapp Stewart; and John Doelp, senior vice president at Columbia Records/Sony Music Entertainment, a voting member of the Grammys and executive producer for Celine Dion.

The talent show takes place on June 25 at 7 p.m. at Darien High School. Viewed as an exceptional showcase of talent in the community, and a friendly, yet serious competition, it provides a fun way to support a long-

standing asset of Darien, The Darien Arts Center.

The DAC is celebrating 40 years of enriching the community with visual and performing arts programs, and its major fundraiser elicits emotional commitments and passionate responses from those familiar with it.

Tony-winning Broadway producer, former Darien's Got Talent judge and Darien resident, Ed Schloss, had this to say, "If you're looking for solid-gold-plated entertainment, as Dorothy says in *The Wizard of Oz*, 'There's no place like home!' Even if it's only forty five minutes from Broadway, there's really no reason to leave your own backyard with all the talent that's on display."

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— [an announcement](#) from *Darien Arts Center*

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And Toni DeCarlo, three-time Darien's Got Talent audition judge, commented, "It was an honor to be asked to judge and (I feel like) we were the winners!! The talent is just superior."

Local business owner, David Genovese of Baywater Properties, a returning sponsor of Darien's Got Talent, fondly remembers a previous year's show; "My wife, Julie, and I walked away from the last Darien's Got Talent feeling totally blown away. This was one of the most memorable events we have ever experienced in Darien. It was truly incredible to see."

Other returning sponsors, Andrew and Dee Stefanou, owners of Andrew Stefanou Salon and Spa, are sharing their passion for beauty both inside and out, and will once again, give contestants star-quality glamour for their finals performances. Staff at the salon and spa will expertly provide complimentary hair and makeup services, an invaluable contribution to the evening.

Andrew commented, "We love being able to do this for the Arts Center. I can't think of a better way to support this important organization in town." Other sponsors providing financial support include Dana Fead, Realtor, EastCoast Irrigation, the Eenkema van Dijk family, Goodnow Investment Group, and the DAC's corporate partner, Darien Rowayton Bank.

Tickets for Darien's Got Talent are \$35 for adults and \$20 for students at [darienarts.org](https://darienarts.org).

VIP tickets are \$125 and include front row seating and entry to the post show party. Family sponsorships at \$500 include 5 VIP tickets and entry to the post show party.

Patron sponsorships of \$1000 include 2 season tickets to DAC Stage productions in addition to family sponsorship benefits.

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Darien High School is located at 80 High School Lane. For more information, including how to vote for the Darien's Got Talent People's Choice Award, visit [darienarts.org](http://darienarts.org) or call (203) 655-8683.

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*Editor's note: This article originally was published on June 6. The time stamp has been changed to put a link to it back on the Home page.*