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**DISNEY AND NICKELODEON STAR LANE NAPPER TO DIRECT AND CHOREOGRAPH
"HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" AT AXELROD PAC!**

Ocean Township, NJ (Monday, July 9, 2018) - Disney Channel's smash hit "*High School Musical*" is coming to the Axelrod stage on July 29th, directed and choreographed by none other than Lane Napper! Napper, well known for his Disney and Nickelodeon roles, will be working with the Axelrod Rising Stars program, which includes some of the best musical theater students in the area.

Napper has appeared in hit tween shows such as "iCarly," "Suddenly Susan," and "Victorious." He has also worked as a dialogue coach on shows such as "Drake and Josh" and "Zoey 101."

"Our Rising Stars program is thrilled to have Lane directing and choreographing this production," says APAC Youth Performing Arts Director Lisa Goldfarb. "Not only is he incredibly talented, having a TV star they can relate to means the world to our young performers!"

"I am super excited to be working on the Jersey Shore at the Axelrod Theater this summer," says Napper. "Being able to work with the talented performers we have attending this intensive is a dream come true. I've done many television and film productions, but nothing beats the thrill I get when I'm working with the talent we'll have performing on that stage this year. I CAN'T WAIT! Such a blessing!"

"*High School Musical*" follows the story of Troy Bolton (Joseph Bach, NYC), a basketball star for the East High Wildcats, and Gabriella Montez (Elizabeth Ritacco, Toms River), a new student who catches his eye. The two eventually discover a secret passion for musical theater and audition for the spring musical. Chaos ensues when the school's top drama star, Sharpay Evans (Evan Schultz, Colts Neck), feels threatened by the couple's talents. Follow the East High Wildcats on this fun, crazy journey as they try to "Stick to the Status Quo," while at the same time strive to see the "Start of Something New."

The show will run July 29 and August 5 at 3 PM, August 1 & 2 at 8 PM. Tickets prices are: Adults \$28, Senior \$26, and Students \$20. They can be purchased online at www.axelrodartscenter.com/shows. The theater is fully accessible and offers free, on-site parking, and is located at 100 Grant Ave., Ocean Township.

About the Axelrod Performing Arts Center

The Axelrod Performing Arts Center is New Jersey's newest professional theater, offering main-stage musicals with casts and production teams from New York City and beyond as well as original concerts throughout the year. The Axelrod fosters artistic excellence by showcasing varied and distinct cultural programs that enrich the imaginative, intellectual, and creative soul, while cultivating an appreciation of diverse communities through the pursuit of the arts. For more information, please visit www.axelrodartscenter.com.