

# OC VARSITY ARTS



## TOP *dance*

**some of the nominees:** from left, Janelle Kaneda, Corona del Mar High School; Christine Park, Sunny Hills High; Gabrielle Mix, Northwood High; Oliver Rodriguez, Anaheim High; Alyssa Needham, Crean Lutheran High; Jacqueline Ward, San Juan Hills High; Tara Choat, Huntington Beach Academy for the Performing Arts; Kelly Hesp, Corona del Mar High.

# QUEST *FOR THE* BEST

**THIS WEEK:** MEET OUR CANDIDATES FOR ARTIST OF THE YEAR IN DANCE AND THEATER.



## TOP *theater*

**some of the nominees:** Andrea Martinez, Santa Margarita Catholic High; Kelsey Kato, Huntington Beach Academy for the Performing Arts; Lexi Ginn, Tesoro High; Jason Marrs, Mission Viejo High; Reed Jones, Laguna Hills High; Caitlin Crawley, Rosary High; Summer Wagner, Fullerton Union High.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LEONARD ORTIZ

BY HEIDE JANSSEN  
VARSITY ARTS EDITOR

**ON FEB. 17,** Varsity Arts published the nominees for our second-season Artists of the Year. These juniors and seniors, nominated by their high schools, represent the top theater, dance, instrumental music, vocal music, visual arts and film/video artists from our county's schools.

After reading statements from the

teachers and nominated students, reviewing performances and submitted artwork, and perusing the artistic resumes of the nominees, we, with the help of a panel of arts teachers, narrowed the complete list of 213 nominees to a Top 10 in each discipline for a total of 60 finalists.

Later this month, the Top 10 in each category will be interviewed by a panel of experts in their discipline, including distinguished artistic professionals and faculty

members from Southern California universities as well as the arts writers from the Register and a few representative high school teachers. During the interviews, the students will present their art form, and afterward the panels will determine the Artist of the Year for each discipline.

This week, we present our final two Top 10 lists, in theater and dance. Initially, 42 students were nominated in theater and 32 students were nominated in dance. In pro-

filming the artists, we have included quotes from them that refer to the work they submitted for consideration.

Theater artists include those who are performers, designers, directors and technicians. Dancers include those who perform in ballet, contemporary, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, tap, Broadway and folk styles as well as choreographers.

The winners will be announced May 21 in Varsity Arts.