



June 4, 2026

DISNEY TELEVISION DISCOVERS: TALENT SHOWCASE INTRODUCES 2026 CAST OF ACTORS ON THE RISE

Ten Emerging Performers, Selected From 42,000 Actor Submissions,
Will Star in an Original Ensemble Piece



Top row, from left: AJ Troup, Alexander Sanson, Eric Tabach, Jessica Damouni, Malia Munley;
Bottom row, from left: Mishka Yarovoy, Olivia Nikkanen, Renita Lewis, Sydney Winbush, Taha Mandviwala
Credit: Felicia Ralph/Campbell J Parsons/Kyle Rothwell/Caitlin Fisher/Sam Pickart/Ken Yotsukura/April Blum/Dash
Kolos/Matt Kallish/Mikki Schaffner/ABC*

The Disney Television Discovers: Talent Showcase is returning for its 24th year, elevating a new class of rising performers selected from 42,000 actor submissions nationwide.

Led by the casting team behind ABC Entertainment, Hulu Originals, Onyx Collective and Freeform, the annual program continues its mission of identifying, mentoring and creating meaningful industry exposure for emerging talent. This year's 10 selected actors will star in "Death to My Twenties," an original comedy ensemble piece from writer **Brittani Nichols** and based on characters by **Austin S. Harris**. In addition to returning as executive producer, **Richard J. Lee** will also direct this year's piece. It follows a celebrity publicist who turns her milestone birthday into a carefully curated rebirth, but when a ritual takes an unexpected turn, the celebration spirals into a night of chaos and mystery.

This year's showcase introduces a dynamic new cast of performers, including **AJ Troup, Alexander Sanson, Eric Tabach, Jessica Damouni, Malia Munley, Mishka Yarovoy, Olivia Nikkanen, Renita Lewis, Sydney Winbush** and **Taha Mandviwala**.

The 2026 program will premiere in August with a highly anticipated in-person screening event for an exclusive industry audience of agents, managers, casting professionals and producers. Virtual

screenings will also be available, introducing this year's cast to an even broader range of industry leaders.

"One of the most rewarding parts of our work is identifying exceptional talent early and creating meaningful opportunities to help launch their careers," said Felicia Joseph, SVP of Talent and Casting, Disney Entertainment Television. "In recent years, our team has sharpened its focus on casting for a global audience, and we believe this year's cast reflects that commitment through their undeniable artistry, rich cultural perspectives, and distinct comedic voices."

The showcase reflects Disney Entertainment Television's long-standing commitment to identifying and supporting new talent. After narrowing more than 42,000 submissions from across the U.S. to 10 standout actors, casting executives work hands-on with the selected performers throughout the process, offering mentorship and creative guidance leading up to the annual screening event and beyond. To date, the team has produced more than 50 Talent Showcases and mentored over 600 actors.

For more than two decades, Disney Television Discovers: Talent Showcase has helped introduce the industry to a wide range of performers who have gone on to build successful careers across television, film and theater. Past participants include Academy Award® winner Lupita Nyong'o ("12 Years a Slave"), Golden Globe® winner Chadwick Boseman ("Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "Black Panther"), Golden Globe winner Gina Rodriguez ("Jane the Virgin"), Tony Award® winner Maleah Joi Moon ("Hell's Kitchen"), Tony Award® winner Ali Stroker ("Oklahoma"), Pedro Pascal ("The Mandalorian and Grogu"), Jesse Williams ("Grey's Anatomy"), Randall Park ("Fresh Off the Boat"), Meghan Markle ("Suits"), Jermaine Fowler ("Coming 2 America"), Utkarsh Ambudkar ("Ghosts"), Dominique Fishback ("Swarm"), Laz Alonso ("The Boys"), Amanda Morrow ("Scrubs"), David Gridley ("Scrubs"), Poorna Jagannathan ("Deli Boys"), Saagar Shaikh ("Deli Boys") and Carrie Ann Inaba ("Dancing with the Stars").

*COPYRIGHT ©2026 American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. All photography is copyrighted material and is for editorial use only. Images are not to be archived, altered, duplicated, resold, retransmitted or used for any other purposes without written permission of ABC. Images are distributed to the press in order to publicize current programming. Any other usage must be licensed.

Media Contacts:

Helen Pollock Wolfe

helen.p.wolfe@disney.com

Erica Santoyo

erica.j.santoyo@disney.com

###