



TEXAS THESPIANSSM MONTHLY

Happy Holidays!

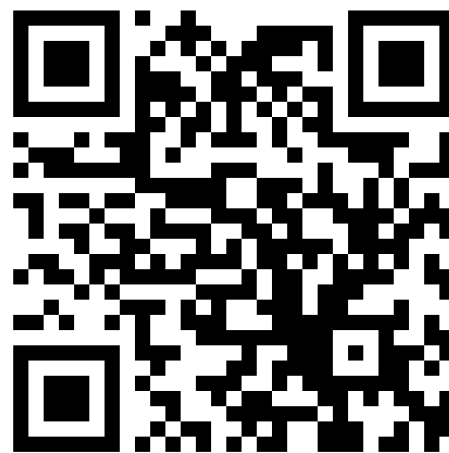


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Register today for
Educator Conference!

www.globauxsourceevents.com/ttec23

Thank you, Honor Crew 2022!

This year's festivals wouldn't have been possible without our dedicated members of the State Festival Honor Crew.



San Antonio: Jacob Cox, Ryan McGuire, Olivia Vaughan, Megha Joshi & Emiko Steinke



Grapevine:

Melaina Denison, Miles Menendez, DJ Lampe, Halle Howard, Mason Barnes, Michael Chavez, Millie Esme-Leonard, Z Oliver Bozoglu, Alex Turner, Andrew Mendoza, Antonio Laws, Brady Canaday, Karol Yanez, Marcus Lodge, Nicholas Todd, Reagan Godwin, Yash Ruparelia, Joan Osho, Stella Davison, Gabe Young, Jayden Reyna, Kaitlyn Dorsey, Kyle Trehern, Megan Gibb & Rachel Cooke



CHATTING WITH DARLA JONES, EDUCATOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

*I got a chance to visit with Darla Jones about the upcoming Educator Conference and some of her favorite things about Texas Thespians.
~ BK Goodman*



BKG: Darla, tell us about how you got involved in Texas Thespians.

DJ: I chartered Troupe 6391 at Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts in 2005 (we were at Wichita Falls that year), and began to see a need for clarity and communication with the directors. As a first-time director, it was overwhelming - even in those days when there were just 2500 or so people! So, I volunteered to rewrite the director's packet so that first-timers like me would have a clue as to what was happening at Festival. After that, I started the Junior Festival in Houston, then moved onto helping with State Festival scheduling, managing Guidebook, maintaining the website, and in recent years, heading the Educator Conference and heading up the Educator Collective Board. I'm a big believer that if you see a need, see how you can fill it and get involved!

BKG: You're also the Board Secretary for Texas Thespians. What does the Secretary do?

DJ: Well, the official job of a secretary is to take minutes of meetings and write correspondence. I have also co-written and edited bylaws, the manual of operations, and any official documents and publications - like this newsletter. I love writing - finding just the right words, using the correct grammar, the correct spelling and researching the origin of words - all of the nerdy things that go with writing! Haha!

BKG: What's different about the Educator Conference than others that you've attended?

DJ: For one, we rotate presenters and guest artists. When I was first given this position, I was determined that we wouldn't see the same workshops year after year.

BKG: Why is that?

DJ: It is so important to me that teachers are inspired when they leave TTEC, and that they feel like they have new tools to take back to their classrooms. Every theatre teacher needs to keep up with the latest information for technology or new scripts or products, so we can keep ahead of our students! So we look for guest artists who bring new material and a fresh face! Blake Minor does a great job of securing our guest artists and bringing a variety of topics.

BKG: Talk to me about Thespians Bucks!

DJ: Thespians Bucks are the best! Amy (Jordan) came up with the idea a few years ago, and we first used them in a cash cube, which was a BLAST! We give them for years of service, workshop attendance, or random drawings, and then our

educators can use them towards event fees. It's just a great way for us to give back to our teachers. Some people have really racked up the bucks and gotten their registrations covered!

BKG: Are there other ways that teachers can get free registration?

DJ: We have teacher grants - Send a Teacher - that we offer each year, and if a teacher presents 3 workshops for a conference, their registration is covered for that event. This year, Theatrefolk offered eight scholarships to cover registration to TTEC, which is AWESOME!! I love that we make it so accessible for anyone to attend. Truly, that's the spirit of Texas Thespians - that generosity and inclusion. And ultimately, our goal is to make our teachers better so our students can be their best.

BKG: What's new this year for TTEC?

DJ: Design and Tech Challenges - just like at Texas Thespians Festival! We decided we would give the teachers the opportunity to compete just like our students. It's going to be so fun to see what our teachers come up with for set and costume designs, and to compete in tech events.

Also new are our Collaboration Stations. We wanted to have a designated time so people could brainstorm and collaborate with other directors for solutions on working out blocking, or cutting a play for UIL, or share lesson plans, or to figure out how to travel with their students, or any number of the many things that we as directors are faced with. I'm hoping this will offer two things to our teachers - mentorships from veteran teachers, and networking opportunities that they wouldn't normally have.

BKG: What do you do when you're not working on Thespians?

DJ: This marks my 20th year at FWFA! This year, I'm teaching costuming, stagecraft, and a college transition class. In those 20 years, I've taught 3rd-12th grades and all aspects of theatre. When I'm not teaching, I spend time with my husband John, my 85 year old mom, Mimi, and my two grown children, Blake and Aubrey and son-in-law, Dustin, plus the 2 maniac dogs, Chloe and Daisy. I'm a member of the Woman's Club of Fort Worth, and enjoy seeing long-time friends there. But I absolutely cherish my time working for Texas Thespians and love being a part of our Texas Thespians Board family. It gives me such joy to spend time with people who are so dedicated, so creative and innovative, and who work towards a common goal of serving our educational theatre community in Texas.

Registration closes January 6, 2023



- Educators recharge, refresh, and bring new skills and insight to the classroom.
- Collaborative, intimate learning environment for educators only - no students!
- Industry Professionals & Master Educators teach multiple workshops
- One-on-one opportunity with theatrical vendors
- Networking
- Thespian Bucks/Participation Incentives
- Outstanding Educator Awards



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TheatreFolk[®]

Administrator Lunch
& Scholarships



Tate Stage Sponsor



Administrator Lunch



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Administrator Lunch

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CONSERVATORY FOR
DRAMATIC ARTS
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Festival Sponsor

Vendors at TTEC

A Plus School Solutions

A.M. Designs LLC

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Broadway Media

Covenant Communications

Dragaud Custom Sojourns

Dramatic Publishing Company

Educational Travel Adventures

It's a Wrap by Terri/Unit Sets Unlimited

Ludlam Dramatics

Ludus

Palco Specialties

Romeo Music

School Tours of America

Sennheiser

ShowTix4U

ShowUp

TheatreFolk

TIFE Theatre

Travel Passport LLC

Truly Horrible Things

TRW

Vari-Lite

YouthPLAYS

ZingerZ Comedy FUNdraising

12 THURSDAY

Registration
9:00 - 11:45 AM

Collaboration
Stations
10:00 - 11:45 AM

Opening Session
& Lunch
12:00 - 12:55 PM

Workshop
Sessions 1
1:00 - 2:50 PM

Workshop
Sessions 2
3:00 - 4:50 PM

Workshop
Sessions 3
5:00 - 6:50 PM

Dinner on your own
& Networking
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Game Night -
Jackbox!
9:00 - 10:30 PM

2023 Educator Conference Schedule

Sessions are 1 hour &
50 minutes each
Earn up to 25 hours of CPE!

13 FRIDAY

Workshop
Sessions 4
8:00 - 9:50 AM

Workshop
Sessions 5
10:00 - 11:50 AM

Awards Luncheon
12:00 - 1:00 PM

Collaboration
Stations
1:00 - 2:50 PM

Workshop
Sessions 6
2:00 - 3:50 PM

Workshop
Sessions 7
4:00 - 5:50 PM

Dinner on your own
& Networking
6:00 PM - ?

Design Challenge
8:00 AM -
2:00 PM

Tech Challenge
2:00 - 8:00 PM

Collaboration
Stations
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Workshop
Sessions 8
8:00 - 9:50 AM

Tech Challenge
8:00 - 10:20 AM

Workshop
Sessions 9
10:00 - 11:50 AM

Closing Session
12:00 - 1:00 PM

14 SATURDAY

What's new for TTEC?

Collaboration Stations!

Collaborate and find solutions to questions and obstacles with fellow educators and industry professionals on a variety of topics.

Team Design Challenges!

Compete with a team of four (4) to create a set design or costume design in just two hours.

Tech Challenges!

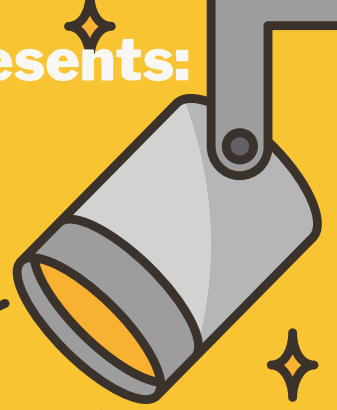
Compete individually to complete in a series of technical events.

Vendors

New vendors this year, open from 10-6 daily!

Texas Thespians Educator Conference Presents:

TECH CHALLENGES 2023



**Win PRIZES,
Thespian Bucks and
bragging rights!**

Register for the Educator Conference and join in the fun!

COSTUME DESIGN CHALLENGE

- Team of four
- Using a surprise prompt, design costumes in under two hours!

TECH RELAY CHALLENGE

- Individual event
- Complete various technical events in the fastest time to win!

SET DESIGN CHALLENGE

- Team of four
- Using a surprise prompt - design a set in under two hours!

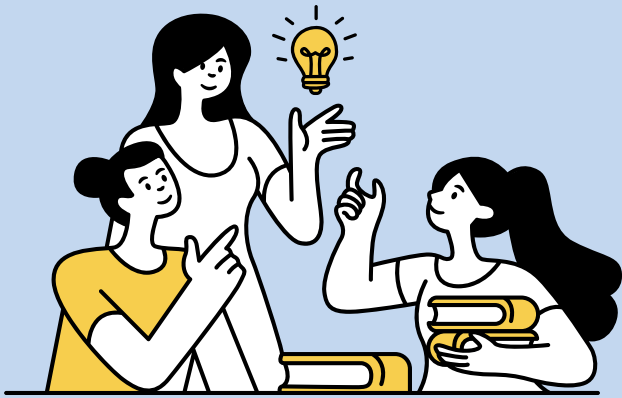


**SIGN UP ONSITE AT
REGISTRATION CHECK-IN**

NOW INTRODUCING AT THE 2023 EDUCATORS CONFERENCE:

COLLABORATION STATIONS

**A time to regroup,
redirect, and recover
with friends and fellow
artists.**



**Visit our Collaboration Stations throughout the
Conference weekend.**

There you will find resources to:

Share Ideas - UIL, Musicals, and More

Sketch or Finalize Set/Design Plans

Exchange Resources - Script/Lesson Plan Swap

Meet and Greet Organically

Socialize and Have Fun!



**GIVE A SCRIPT
TAKE A SCRIPT
SWAP PARTY!**



AWARDS! TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL

THESPY NATIONAL QUALIFIERS JUNIOR FESTIVAL SOUTH

Award	Event	School
Outstanding Troupe Overall		Bonham Academy
Outstanding Troupe - 1st Place	Musical Theatre Lip Sync	Woodcreek- "Bop to the Top"
Outstanding Troupe - 1st Place	Tech Relay	Spring Branch
Outstanding Troupe - 1st Place	Poster Design	McNair
Outstanding Troupe - 1st Place	Mask Design	Spring Branch
Outstanding Troupe - 1st Place	Costume Design	Fort Settlement
Outstanding Troupe - 1st Place	Scenic Design	Bonham Academy
Outstanding Troupe - 1st Place	Group Improv	Woodcreek
Outstanding Troupe - 1st Place	Hair & Makeup Design	Bonham Academy
Superior Troupe- 1st Place	All-Star Troupe Display	Shepherd
Superior Troupe- Best in Event	Technical Relay Challenge	McNair
Superior Troupe- Best in Event	Technical Relay Challenge	Thornton
Superior Troupe- Best in Event	Technical Relay Challenge	Bayside
Outstanding Troupe- 1st Place	Distinguished Engagement Challenge	Bayside
Superior Troupe- 2nd Place	Distinguished Engagement Challenge	Hofius
Superior Troupe- 2nd Place	Distinguished Engagement Challenge	Baines
Outstanding Thespian- 1st Place	Monologue Presentation	Woodcreek- "Joan of Arc"
Musical Theatre Lip Sync- 2nd Place	Texas Thespians- South 2022	Reading- "Naughty"
Musical Theatre Lip Sync- 3rd Place	Texas Thespians- South 2022	Bayside- "MJ: The Musical"
Monologue Performance- 2nd Place	Texas Thespians- South 2022	Bayside- "Neverland Stays in Neverland"
Monologue Performance- 3rd Place	Texas Thespians- South 2022	Bayside- "The Cast List"
Perfect Score on Thespy IEs		
Duet Musical	Billy Baines Middle School	Nicole Linton and Kennedy Malveaux
Group Acting	Dr. Ronald E. McNair Junior High	Eileen Buaku, Courtney Maye, Jennifer Shibu, Mia Silva, Andia Smith, Christian Wallace, Maya Bhakta

AWARDS! TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL

THESPY NATIONAL QUALIFIERS JUNIOR FESTIVAL SOUTH

Award	Event	School
Thespy IE National Qualifiers		
Solo Musical	Bayside Intermediate School	Ruth Delperdang
Solo Musical	Bayside Intermediate School	Olivia Baudier
Solo Musical	Bayside Intermediate School	Luke Duckett
Solo Musical	Bonham Academy	Eva Rodriguez
Solo Musical	Spring Branch Middle School	Amelia Vogelsang
Solo Musical	Woodcreek Bend Lane	Kaydence Brown
Duet Musical	Nolan Ryan Junior High	Josie Kow and Lily Assadi
Solo Musical	Ronald Thornton Middle School	Andrew Hooks
Duet Musical	Connally Middle School	Sophia Gonzalez and Mary Villareal
Duet Acting	Woodcreek Bend Lane, 89324	Jesus Maldonado and John-Ryan Kleinhans
Group Acting	Woodcreek Bend Lane, 89324	Gracie Strickland, Adalyne King, Hadley Sewell, Lola Kraus, Allison Obenhaus, Evan Landry, Matthew Warren
Group Acting	Ronald Thornton Middle School	Lorelei Lee, Kevin O'Brien, Anna Sacco, Hannah Varughese
Group Acting	Dr. Ronald E. McNair Junior High	Alexandra Baldin, Alyssa Gredinger, Sarah Karnilow, Hailey Taylor

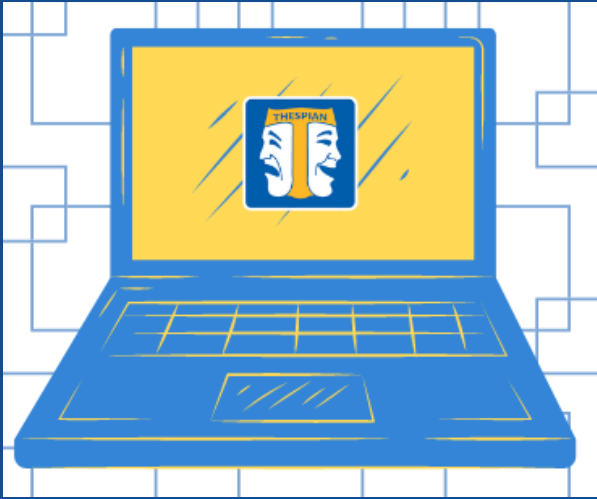
Congratulations!

VIRTUAL COMPETITIONS & AUDITIONS

Texas Thespians will offer virtual competitions starting November 28, 2022 - January 13, 2023

Delegates who do not qualify for Nationals at a Festival may resubmit their Thespy for evaluation.

Troupes who cannot attend a Festival are encouraged to submit competition pieces in Thespys and Texas Only Events.



- Students may enter multiple categories.
- Students may not enter multiple entries for the same category.

Performance Thespys

Monologue
Duet Acting
Group Acting
Solo Musical
Duet Musical
Group Musical

Technical Thespys

Lighting Design
Make-Up Design
Scenic Design
Sound Design
Costume Design
Costume Construction
Short Film
Marketing
Playwriting

College Auditions

Acting
Musical
Technical
Educator

State Competitions

Lip Sync Challenge
Dramatic Design
Prop Design

Musical Theatre Dance

Solo MT Dance
Duet MT Dance
Group MT Dance

- Directors need to register all students from their campus
- Deadline for payment is 1/13/23
- Open to High School and Junior High/Middle School Thespians
- \$25 for College Auditions and \$15 for all Competitions

TTAN TECHNICAL THEATRE SURVEY

CELEBRATE,
ADVOCATE,
PARTICIPATE



OBJECTIVE

IN AN EFFORT TO BETTER SERVE THE GREATER TECHNICAL THEATRE COMMUNITY, TEXAS THESPIANS ADVOCACY NETWORK (TTAN) IS COLLECTING DATE SPECIFIC TO TECHNICAL THEATRE IN EDUCATION.

WHY THE SURVEY?

- ▶ We hope to compile this data into a format that can be used to assess and grow your own programs, present to your admin as a data-driven source for advocacy.
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For questions or more information please contact: **TIMOTHY DOYLE**
tjdoyle@prosper-isd.net

Tech Tip

Stage Management at a Glance

Got Stage Management?

Many Tech Theatre programs across Texas struggle when it comes to **quality Stage Management** of their shows. Tech students, while amazing, sometimes lack the training to handle the many responsibilities that come with stage managing a large production. Here are some tools you can use to train your stage management students for that **BIG UPCOMING Musical** or **UIL One-Act Play**.



A TALE OF TWO STAGE MANAGERS

Stage Managers have to live a double life during a production. They serve as the "Rehearsal" SM and the "Performance" SM. What does this look like?

Rehearsal SM

- Create a PROMPT BOOK
- Take attendance
- Notate blocking, light cues, sound cues
- Give line notes
- Create and distribute quality rehearsal reports
- Assign other tasks as needed to ASMs

Performance SM

- Help manage Tech Rehearsal(s) with Tech Director
- Call the show
- Manage the run crew
- Effectively communicate with House Manager
- Create and distribute quality performance reports

Prompt Books

A PROMPT BOOK is a Stage Manager's BIBLE, and should include:

- the script, with all tech cues notated
- rehearsal reports
- contact sheets
- designs
- publicity
- any other pertinent production documentation

Rehearsal Reports

Rehearsal reports should be created DAILY and include Director's notes, technical notes, production notes, absences, start/stop times, reminders, and what's being covered in today's and tomorrow's rehearsals.

Calling the Show

Each "CALL" in a show happens in three parts:

- 1) The 'STANDBY' - about a page before the G-0
- 2) The 'CUE' - a line or two before the G-0
- 3) The "G-0" - ON THE CUE LINE/ACTION

So a "CALL" might sound like this:

[a page before] "Standby Light Cue 23 and Sound Cue 14." *[after dialogue and action gets you closer - a line or two before]* "Light Cue 23 and Sound Cue 14..." *[as the cue line/action occurs]* "G0."

OTHER RESOURCES

Half Hour Call - SM Youtube Channel

The Stage Manager's Tool Kit - Book & Companion Website

Stage Management 101 - Youtube Playlist (Nicholas Acciani)

Stage Manager Supply Co. - SM Youtube Channel

Year of the Stage Manager - Website to educate folks and celebrate Stage Managers



**Nominate a Teacher who has made a
difference in your life!**



Teacher of the Month - Link



**TEXAS
THESPIANS™**

TEACHERS

of the month

December 2022

TEACHERS *of the month*

December 2022



MR. MENN

Troy

from a student:

"Mr. Menn is so creative and finds a way for everybody to be involved in the show process. We recently did a production of *Rumors* by Neil Simon, and we had one of the best sets that I've ever seen in my entire life. He also doesn't baby us and he treats us with respect, like we are professionals. He also doesn't take no for an answer. Mr. Menn will always fight for us like we are his own children."

-Ashlyn Clark

Fulshear High School
Fulshear, Texas

TEACHERS *of the month*

December 2022



MRS. VOLENICK *Kate*

from a student:

"Mrs. Volenik is a wonderful teacher as well as person. She is encouraging to all her students, and makes sure they all feel welcomed and included in her classroom. She has spent many hours overtime working to make theatre a positive experience for so many kids, and ensuring that quality performances were put on."

-Rachel Noble

Lamar Middle School

Flower Mound, Texas

Know some outstanding Thespians?



[Thespian of the Month - Link](#)



TEXAS
THESPIANS™

THESPIAN

of the month

December 2022

THESPIAN *of the month*

December 2022



BRODIE GARZA

Troupe 3519

from a student:

Brodie has done so much for our theatre troupe. As my close friend, he has spent the time to push us to do our best and pass! He's one of our best performers, and always provides support to those around him. He helps calm our anxieties before shows and does everything he can to get our shows running well. Brodie is insanely talented and a patient Thespian!"

-Crowley Friloux

BF Terry High School
Rosenberg, Texas