



Texas Thespians Monthly

**2023 STATE
FESTIVAL DATES**

**MARCH:
THEATRE IN
OUR SCHOOLS
MONTH**

**PREMIERE
COMMUNITIES
FOR THEATRE
EDUCATION**

SAVE THE DATE!



TEXAS
THESPIANS



San Antonio

NOVEMBER 11 - 14, 2023

Grapevine

NOVEMBER 16 - 18, 2023



"TEXAS THESPIANS ISN'T A PLACE, IT'S A PEOPLE!"



TEXAS
THESPIANS

TEXAS THESPIANS



JR. FESTIVAL

San Antonio

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Grapevine

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

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SPOTLIGHT

THEATRE IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

How to celebrate on your campus! - pg. 12



READ

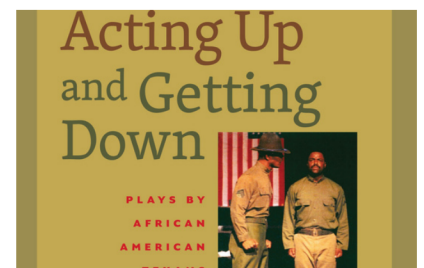
20 PLAYS WRITTEN BY BIPOC PLAYWRIGHTS



TIPS

SELECTING THE RIGHT GLUE FOR THE JOB!

Tips and tricks for what is going to stick! pg. 14



PROFILE

BLACK THEATRE HISTORY

Check out the first Black Playwright of Texas and the history of HBCUs! pg. 3

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BLACK THEATRE HISTORY OF TEXAS

First Black Texas playwright,
Sherman Dudley (1896)

from "Acting Up and Getting Down
Plays by African American Texans"
Edited by Sandra M. Mayo and Elvin Holt

Over the past 250 years, African Americans have developed and sustained a rich tradition in amateur and professional theatre. They have produced plays in schools, women's clubs, men's lodges, churches, and public theatres.

Black Theatre in Texas has been a part of this tradition from the turn of the 20th century until today with roots in the African past and slavery, leading to late 1800s Texas minstrel companies (e.g., Texarkana Minstrels) and the first Black Texas playwright, Sherman Dudley, with *The Smart Set* (1896).

In Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio, Black Theatre has been the corner stone of arts activity through persistent theatre groups since the turn of the 20th century.

The Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s inspired numerous theatre groups. The Texas Black Theatres initiating during this period include Urban Theatre in Houston (1969), Black Arts Alliance in Austin (1970s), and The Sojourner Truth Players in Fort Worth (1972).

SANDRA MAYO is Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Theatre and Dance and Associate Professor of Theatre at Texas State University. ELVIN HOLT is Professor of English at Texas State University. Mayo has edited several scholarly books, and both authors have published numerous essays in the field.

A few of the active theatre groups before the 1950s:

1866 - Thespian Society for "Cullud Genman" in Houston

1920 - Myra Hemmings Players in San Antonio

1925 - Log Cabin Players at Wiley College in Marshall

1929 - Charles Gilpin Players at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View

blacktheatreintexas.com

3

HBCUS OF TEXAS

Prior to the Civil War, there was no structured higher education system for black students. Public policy prohibited education of blacks in various parts of the nation.

A major part of historically black colleges and universities' (HBCUs) mission in the early years was to provide elementary and secondary schooling for newly freed slaves who had no previous education. It was not until the early 1900s that HBCUs began to offer courses and programs at the post-secondary level.

Texas is home to 9 historically black colleges and universities. Each school is located on the eastern half of the state. Paul Quinn College is the first HBCU to open in Texas in 1872, and is located in Dallas. The second oldest black institution in Texas is Wiley College, located in Marshall, which opened in 1873.

1 PAUL QUINN COLLEGE

Paul Quinn College was originally founded in Austin, Texas on April 4, 1872. The college was created with the purpose of educating freed slaves and their children. In the year of 1877, the college moved from Austin to Waco, Texas. Following the last relocation in 1990 to Dallas, Paul Quinn College remains the only HBCU in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.



2 WILEY COLLEGE

Wiley College was named in honor of the late Bishop Issac T. Wiley who was a minister, medical missionary, and educator. Wiley College was founded in 1873 south of Marshall, Texas. Despite Jim Crow laws and treacherous times for blacks, the college moved nearer to Marshall instead of farther away. The college remains standing today in the exact location of the 55 acres that was acquired during the relocation in 1880.



3 HOUSTON - TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

Huston-Tillotson University is an HBCU in Austin, Texas merged from the former schools of Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute and Samuel Huston College. Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute was chartered as a co-educational school in 1877 and opened on January 17, 1881. After being developed out of a Methodist Episcopal conference in 1876, Samuel Huston was established in 1883. Having similar interests and values, trustees of both schools met on January 26, 1952 to discuss the details of merging. Later that year in October, the school was officially merged and remained a sole provider of higher African-American education until the Brown vs. Board of Education case. On February 28, 2005 the institution's name was changed to Houston-Tillotson University.



4 PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

Prairie View A&M University is the second oldest public institution of higher education in Texas. The school was established in 1876 during the reconstruction period after the Civil War. Originally established as the "Agricultural and Mechanic College of Texas for Colored Youths" the school's management responsibility was entrusted with the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Bryan. After multiple name changes until 1947, the institution was named Prairie View A&M University on August 27, 1973.

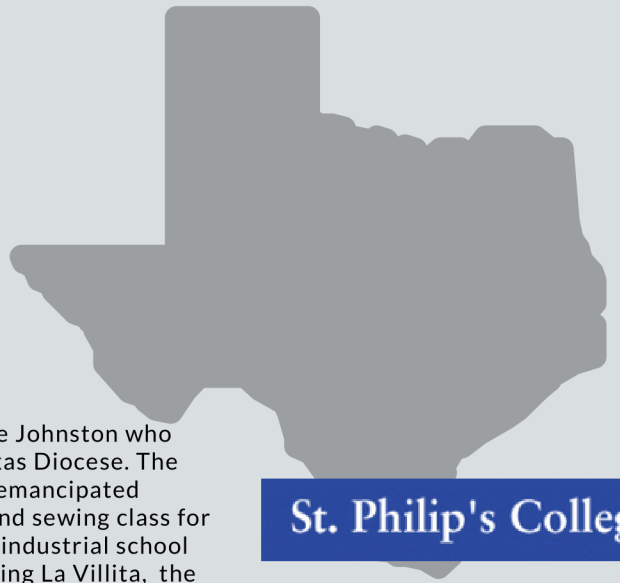


5 TEXAS COLLEGE

Texas College is a post-secondary HBCU institution located in Tyler, Texas. The college was founded in 1894 by a group of ministers of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. The group of ministers established the institution in an effort of offering a quality education to African-American youth.



HBCUS OF TEXAS



6 ST. PHILLIPS COLLEGE

St. Phillip's College was established in 1898 by James Steptoe Johnston who was a bishop of St. Phillip's Episcopal Church of the West Texas Diocese. The school was originally designed to educate and train recently emancipated slaves. On the first opening day, the school began as a weekend sewing class for six black girls. The institution progressed drastically from an industrial school for girls to a high school, and later a junior college. After leaving La Villita, the institution moved to its present location in San Antonio, Texas. Today St. Phillip's college is designated as both an HBCU and a Hispanic-serving institution with a Hispanic population of 51%.

St. Philip's College

7 JARVIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Jarvis Christian College began in 1913 with an enrollment of twelve students. Originally the college began as Jarvis Christian Institute, which was modeled after the Southern Christian Institute of Edwards, Mississippi. The school remains in Hawkins, Texas on the 456 acres of land deeded from Major and Mrs. James Jones Jarvis. The demanded conditions for the deeded landed was that it "keep up and maintain a school for the elevation and education of the Negro race... in which school there shall be efficient religious and industrial training".



8 TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

On September 14, 1927 Houston Public School Board agreed to fund the development of a junior college in Houston for African-Americans. Houston Colored Junior College was established to provide an opportunity for African-Americans to receive college training. In the year of 1934, Houston School Board changed the junior college to a four-year college - Houston College for Negroes. After the landmark suit filed by Herman Sweatt, Texas State University for Negroes was created to be an equivalent of the University of Texas in Austin. Five years following, the new school students petitioned the state legislature remove the phrase "for negroes" from the school's name. On June 1, 1951 the name of the school was changed to Texas Southern University.



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

9 SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas was founded and sponsored by members of Churches of Christ. In the fall of 1948, Southwestern Christian College began as Southern Bible Institute in Fort Worth, Texas. The following year when the Texas Military College in Terrell, Texas closed, the trustees purchased the property. During this time the school name was changed to Southwestern Christian College.



Southwestern
Christian College



TEXAS THESPIANS ADVOCACY NETWORK

Texas Thespians Premiere Communities for Theatre Education 2022-2023 Award Recipients



Providing Excellence in Theatre Education



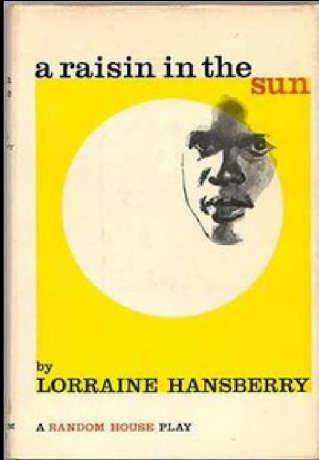
Forney ISD
Inspiring Students Through Innovative Education



20 BIPOC PLAYS

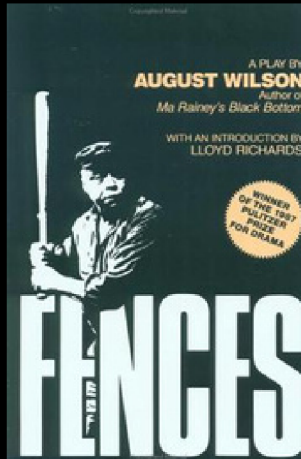
BLACK, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR

01



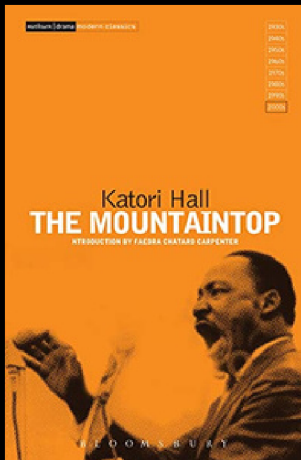
"A Raisin in the Sun" tells of a black family's experiences in south Chicago, as they attempt to improve their financial circumstances with an insurance payout following the death of the father, and deals with matters of housing discrimination, racism, and assimilation.

02



This sensational drama starred James Earl Jones as Troy Maxson, a former star of the Negro baseball leagues who now works as a garbage man in 1957 Pittsburgh. Excluded as a black man from the major leagues during his prime, Troy's bitterness takes its toll on his relationships with his wife and his son, who now wants his own chance to play ball. "Fences" was revived in 2010, starring Denzel Washington in the lead role.

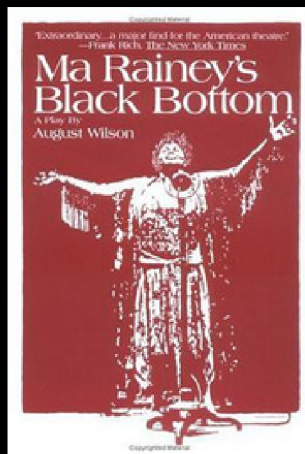
03



"The Mountaintop" looks at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy as a leader of the civil rights movement, but also asks viewers to understand the positive and negative impact they can make on the world around them.

In a rundown Chicago recording studio in 1927, tempers rise and simmering conflicts erupt when the "Mother of the Blues" and her band record a set of jazz and blues standards.

04

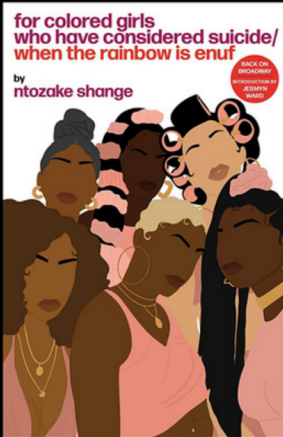


05



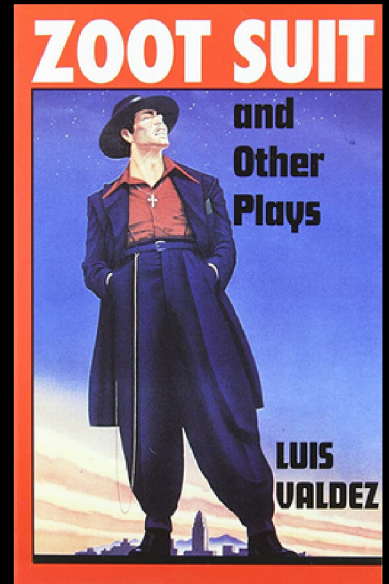
A darkly comic fable of brotherly love and family identity, "Topdog/Underdog" tells the story of Lincoln and Booth, two brothers whose names, given to them as a joke, foretell a lifetime of sibling rivalry and resentment. Haunted by their past, the brothers are forced to confront the shattering reality of their future.

06

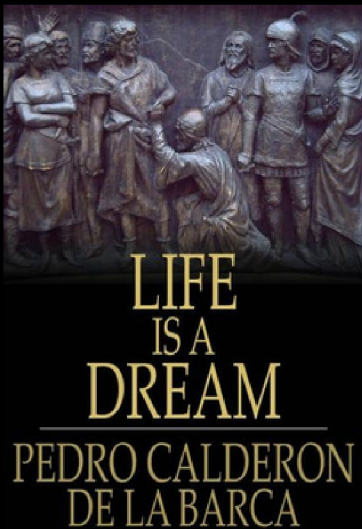


"For Colored Girls..." tells the stories of seven women who have suffered oppression in a racist and sexist society. As a choreopoem, the piece is a series of 20 separate poems choreographed to music that weaves interconnected stories of love, empowerment, struggle and loss into a complex representation of sisterhood.

07



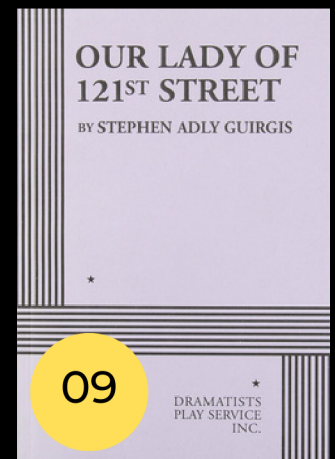
"Zoot Suit" tells the story of Henry Reyna and the 38th Street Gang, who were tried for the Sleepy Lagoon murder in Los Angeles, during World War II. After a run-in with a neighboring gang at the local lovers lane, Sleepy Lagoon, the 38th Street Gang gets into a fight at a party, where a young man is murdered.



08

Set in a mythical version of the kingdom of Poland, "Life Is a Dream" tells the story of King Basilio, who imprisons his son, Segismundo, at birth, because his astrological studies have given him reason to fear that the boy will grow up to be a tyrant and a rebel against his authority.

In this riotously funny, startlingly spiritual play, a group of former students reunite in their Harlem neighborhood to pay respects to their beloved and feared teacher, Sister Rose. Together for the first time in decades, past passions and grievances are reignited and old wounds reopened in "Our Lady of 121st Street"



09

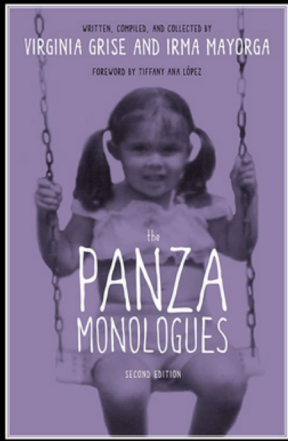


10

The setting of "Roosters" is a simple wood-frame house in the American Southwest. Hector, a young campesino (peasant farmer), is apprehensively awaiting the return of his father, Gallo, who has been serving a jail term for manslaughter. Gallo, who is obsessed with cock fighting, is a philandering, high-living macho type, who finds it difficult to communicate with, much less understand, his contemplative, questioning son.

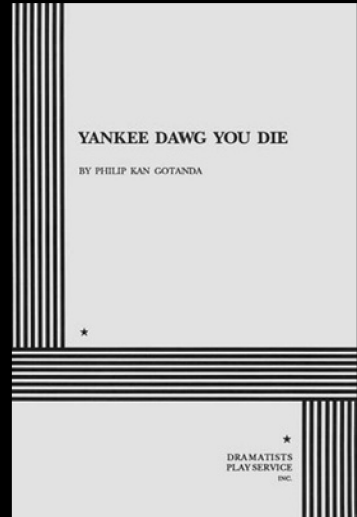


11



Conceived of and written by Virginia Grise and Irma Mayorga, "The Panza Monologues" is an original solo performance piece (performed by Grise, directed & designed by Mayorga) based on women's stories about their *panzas*. Tú sabes - that roll of belly we all try to hide! "Panza" is a one-woman tour de force as told through the words of women speaking with heart-stopping frankness, these stories create a journey of poignancy, humor, and revelation.

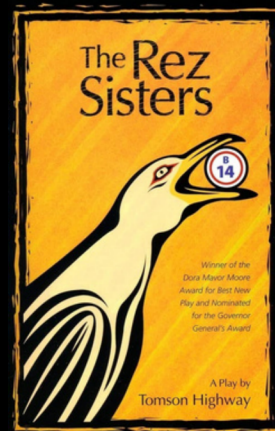
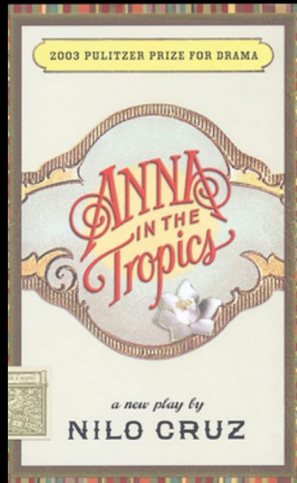
12



"YANKEE DAWG: YOU DIE" is a two-man show about the relationship between a pair of Asian-American actors. The play explores the obstacles and moral dilemmas faced by Asian-Americans who want to succeed in mainstream movies and television.

13

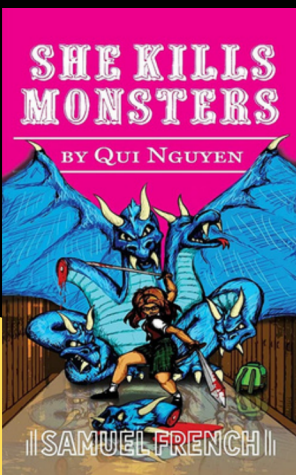
Shimmering with passion and poetry, "Anna in the Tropics" is Pulitzer Prize-winning drama which weaves the tale of a Cuban-American cigar factory in 1929 Florida where cigars are still rolled by hand and "lectors" are employed to transport and inspire the workers as they toil on the factory floor.



14

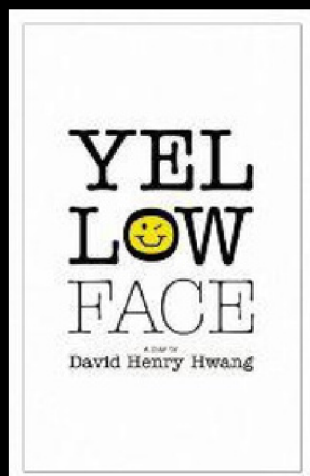
The plot follows the pattern of the journey motif. Seven women on the "Rez" share anger, laughter, hardship and gossip when they decide to go to Toronto for the world's biggest bingo game. During the trip, one woman dies of cancer, and another wins \$600, which she uses to install a new toilet in her home.

15



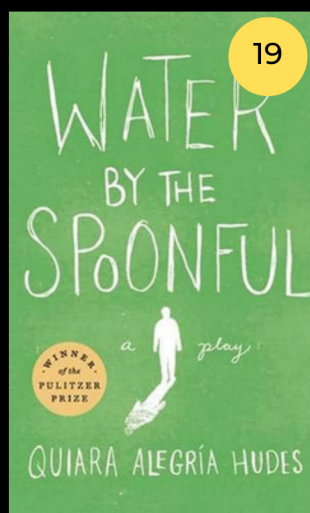
A comedic romp into the world of fantasy role-playing games! In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres and 90s pop culture, , acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all in "She Kills Monsters."

9



17

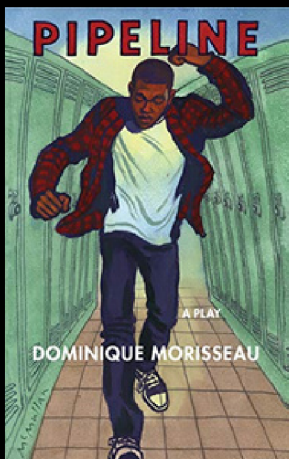
"Yellow Face" is David Henry Hwang's self-mocking drama about his reaction to the casting of Caucasian actor Jonathan Pryce as a Eurasian character in the Broadway musical, *Miss Saigon*. Hwang was loudly critical of the casting choice, and he decided to write a play about the experience.



19

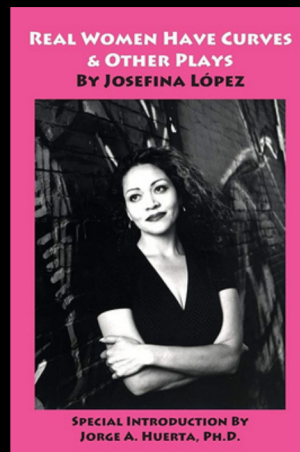
"Water by the Spoonful" depicts the aftermath of the death of Ginny, Elliot's adoptive mother. As Elliot and his cousin Yaz attempt to process their loss, Ginny's sister Odessa, Elliot's biological mother, bonds with other recovering addicts on the Narcotics Anonymous support chat room she moderates.

"Fuente Ovejuna" is a pedagogical tale of bravery, set in the time of the Catholic Monarchs. It tells the story of a social conflict between a feudal lord and his vassals. The main storyline is the uprising of the people, who want justice because the commander abused his power.



16

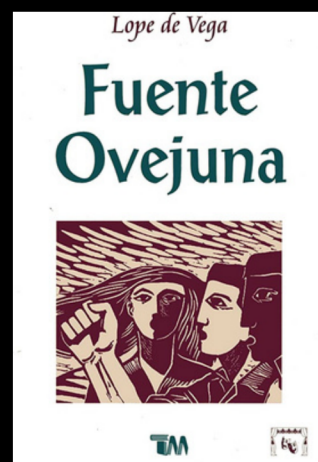
A mother's hopes for her son clash with an educational system rigged against him in "PIPELINE," the riveting new play by Dominique Morisseau (*Skeleton Crew*). Nya, an inner-city public high school teacher, is committed to her students, but desperate to give her only son Omari opportunities he will never have.



18

Set in a tiny sewing factory in East L.A., "Real Women Have Curves" is the outrageously funny story of five full-figured Mexican-American women who are racing to meet nearly impossible production deadlines in order to keep their tiny factory from going under. And while they work, hiding from the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service), they talk... about their husbands and lovers, their children, their dreams for the future.

20



TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL

BY BK GOODMAN

Over 1400 Junior High and Middle Schools students participated in a Texas Thespians Junior Festival this year.

The Texas Thespians Junior Festival Board hosted four regional festivals where students attended workshops, competed in theatrical events, and showcased their troupe pride. The first in the series of programming was held at Goodnight Middle School in San Marcos, Texas. There, students were able to compete in Technical Theatre Challenges that showcased skills in knot-tying, sewing a button, hanging a lighting instrument, and folding a backdrop. Other events included an All-Star Troupe Display and Lip-Sync Challenges.

The largest of the series was held the day before the State Thespian Festival in Grapevine, Texas. Over seven hundred (700) Junior Thespian attendees experienced the magic of the Gaylord Texan's holiday decor as they crowded the halls between workshop sessions. Guest artists from across the state provided a wide array of workshops for the young theatre-goers. One artist, Rachael Gomez of UIL Theatrical Design, attended all four of the Junior Regional Festivals and shared, "I loved everyone of them! The students were so talented and eager to learn more about design." Gomez taught "Design in a Bag" where students were given a set of materials and supplies to create costume designs in just a few short minutes.

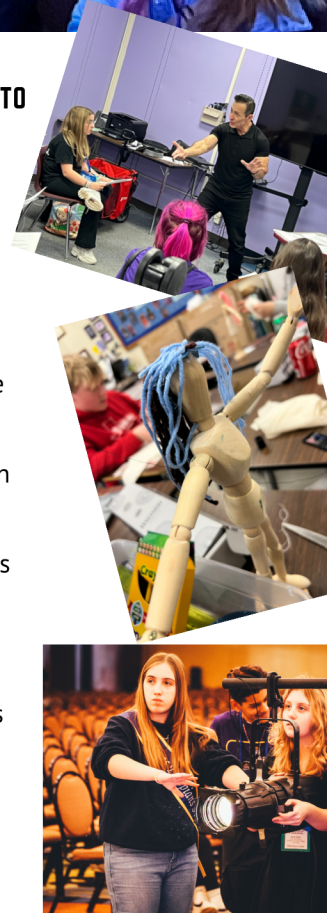
"I APPRECIATED THE WORK AND TIME YOU ALL PUT INTO THE DAY. IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE AND MY STUDENTS LEARNED A LOT."

Monica Rial, American voice actress and ADR script writer, served as the Keynote Speaker sharing fascinating details about her career and tips on breaking into the voice acting industry.

The workshop Guest Artist roster also included Theatre Education majors from Texas State University and students from University of Texas at Austin. The collegiate group got hands-on experience working with students in improvisation workshops, technical theatre applications, and helped adjudicate student competitions. These festivals not only brought students together with other theatre teachers from across the state, but theatre practitioners in all aspects of the trade.

At the Central Junior Festival in Austin, Texas, students gained insight into film acting, stage combat and, choreography from *Matilda the Musical*. All around, each event provided students with opportunities to collaborate with troupes from different cities, share their love of theatre, and celebrate each other's successes.

Make sure to keep an eye out for the 2023 - 2024 Junior Regional Festival dates. You don't want to miss out on these great opportunities!





THEATRE IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

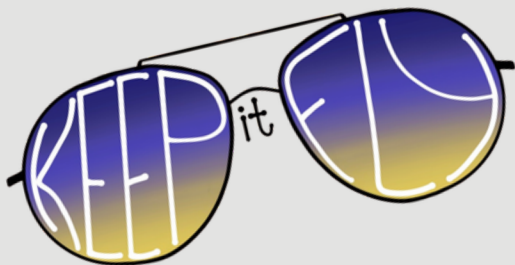
Feature article written by Texas Thespians
Ambassadors: Michelle Akpan, Meagan McMillin,
& Zoe Nolan.
Graphics by: Kimberly Clendennen

Theatre In Our Schools Month - let's talk about it!

TIOSM takes place during the month of March and is a wonderful opportunity for troupes and theatre programs to celebrate each other, the art form, and theatre education as a whole.

Celebrating TIOS Month is incredibly important for spreading awareness about the importance of theatre education. It creates a platform for programs to ask for what they need and inform others about the great work their troupes are doing.

TIOS Month is about advocacy within all levels of theatre education. It's all equal; your school and its accomplishments are just as valuable and important as rallying at the state level. During March this year, make sure to "Keep it FLY!". Do so for your theatre Family, Love of the art, and Yourself.



What Can You Gain from Theatre in our Schools Month?

Theatre in our Schools Month is a great way for your troupe to gain recognition from your community. TIOSM can also help to grow your theatre department in numbers and in support.

How should TIOSM be celebrated?

There is no "right" way to celebrate theatre education during March. TIOS month is about celebrating, sharing how important theatre is, and advocating theatre to all. We have broken it down into four sections which include advocating in your school, community, on social media, and to elected officials. There are multiple ways to do this, but here are some ideas on how we can Keep it FLY this month.



Michelle Akpan



Meagan McMillin



Zoe Nolan



Kimberly Clendennen

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

Make sure to check out Texas Thespians' social media for more updates and ideas about how to celebrate during Theatre In Our Schools Month!

Look for the hashtag
#KeepItFLYTX

Week One: Advocate at School

- Have a theatre day to give non-theatre students a taste of theatre (ie: having an after-school workshop and teaching a number from a show or a dress-up day.)
- Collaborate with the art programs and clubs in your school to advocate for theatre and its advantages
- Raise awareness for TIOSM in your school!
- Show non-theatre students what theatre is about and what Thespians do for theatre!
- Have your school proclaim TIOS month to be officially celebrated in your school!
- Talk to middle schoolers about joining high school theatre and the importance of taking fine arts classes!

Week Two: Advocate in Your Community

- ASK for what you need! Seek out support from your community!
- Raise awareness for Theatre In Our Schools Month in your community.
- Collaborate with other directors and schools!
- Meet with small businesses and work out free tickets for donations or being a patron!
- Get in contact with community members and officials and simply inform them about the benefits of local and school theatre

Week Three: Advocate to the Media

- Reach out to local media about upcoming theatre events (such as newspapers, local news, and magazines).
- Recognize your students on social media! (Theatre and non-theatre accomplishments).
- Promote your shows by showing the process and hard work that goes into them.
- Spread your program across social media platforms!
- Use the hashtag #KeepItFLYTX

Week Four: Advocate With Elected Officials

- Advocate for Theatre whenever possible.
- Get TIOS proclaimed in your city!
- Tell your representatives about the importance of theatre education.
- Talk to your district or school board about the benefits of theatre.



Tech Tip Ready for GLUE - I - L!!!

Use this quick reference guide to find the right kind of adhesive for your production needs. Traveling with set pieces can be daunting and you don't want to keep repairing items every trip.

Types of adhesives and their uses

Guide

1ALITTLEBIGGER.COM

Print this puppy and keep handy for when sticky questions come up.

	permanent	dries clear	non-toxic	paintable	acid free	washable	ceramics	fabric	glass	leather	metal	paper	plastic	rubber	stone	styrofoam	wood
clear gel Tacky Glue																	
contact cement																	
e-6000																	
Epoxy																	
Fabric Glue																	
Glass & Bead (Aleene's)																	
Glue Sticks																	
Hot Glue																	
Mod Podge (most)																	
Paper Glaze																	
Rubber Cement																	
Spray Adhesive																	
Super Glue																	
Tacky Glue (most)																	
The Ultimate (Aleene's)																	
White/School Glue																	
Wood Glue																	

ant for quick reference only. Please read package instructions and follow directions when working with adhesives. Gray dots = sometimes.

Tips provided by Tim Dowle and Mel Edwards





TEXAS
THESPIANS™

THESPIAN

of the month

February 2023

Know an outstanding Thespiian?

THESPIAN
of the month

February 2023



JACK MORTON

Troupe 8336

from a peer:

"I had the pleasure of sharing the stage with Jack for our Fall production of "Rumors" by Neil Simon. Ever since the show was cast, Jack has given 110% into every single rehearsal. He is a great actor, and continues to grow through every rehearsal we have. I am very proud of Jack, and I am glad I can confide in him whenever needed."

Fulshear High School
Fulshear, Texas

Thespiian of the Month - Link



TEXAS
THESPIANS™

TEACHERS

of the month

February 2023

TEACHERS *of the month*

February 2023



MS. MOLLIE

Boulevard

from a student:

"Being a part of her class, I always felt like I mattered and the spaces she created in the theatre department encouraged kids to build a community. One of my favorite traditions of hers was what she called "snaps". Every Friday, we would write anonymous notes to people in the classroom who we felt deserved a snap. Ms. B would collect them and read them aloud, and it was a great way to build up a loving community."

Adams Junior High

Marvel, Texas

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

TEACHERS *of the month*

February 2023



MRS. LEAH

Short

from a student:

"Mrs. Short made sure to create a positive environment during "Elf" (the musical), and did not tolerate disrespect or unkindness. She made sure that we were all able to shine and feel comfortable. She was vigilant in making sure the show was the best it could be."

Manvel High School

Manvel, Texas

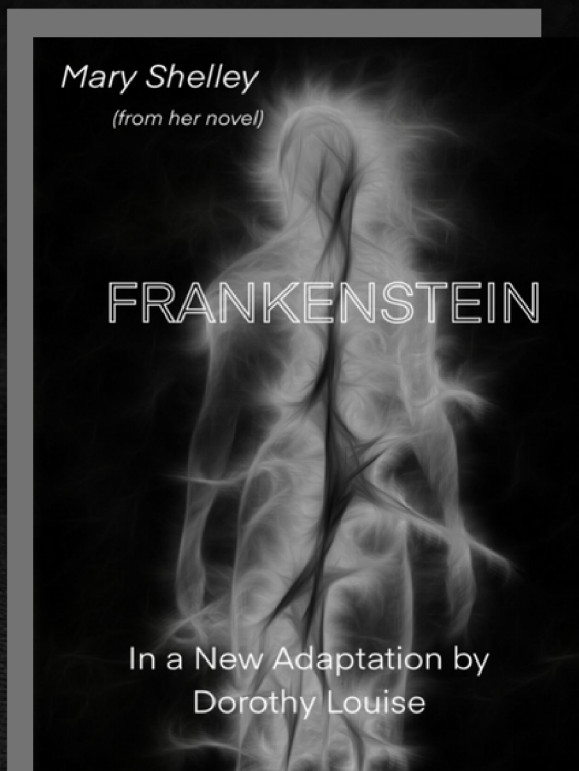
[Teacher of the Month - Link](#)

BREAK A LEG, THESPIANS!

UIL ONE-ACT PLAY

UIL THEATRICAL DESIGN

UIL SHORT FILM



WWW.UILTEXAS.ORG