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UPCOMING DEADLINES OCTOBER 21ST

Triple check that all your events are in registration and consent forms have been updated! Every attendee needs a consent form on file.

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Registration Comp Make sure that students in group events have a for the correct number of participants! Competitions and Application	Thespy Titles Make sure that students are registered for the event and titles for Thespys have been updated! Ons to be uploaded to Submittable
☐ College Auditions	☐ Student Ambassadors
☐ Scholarships	☐ Mainstage Shows
☐ MusicalWorks	☐ Marathon Shows
☐ DemocracyWorks	☐ Honor Crew
OCTOBER 28TH Competition submissions to be uploaded in Submittable	
☐ Short Film	☐ Dramatic Design
☐ Lip Sync Challe	enge

FEATURED ARTISTS



Shirlee Idzakovich - Professional Costumer

Shirlee Idzakovich is a professional costumer and stylist that works world wide. She is a Master Tailor and has worked with Vogue, V mag, Essence, Paper Mag, Harpers Bazaar just to name a few. She has styled and tailored for many A list clients including Madonna, Mariah Carey, and Billie Eilish. Her passion is helping teachers and students learn more about her jobs and the career path it takes to get there.

Sessions:
Costuming With New Paper Dolls
Let's learn how to design your show!

Dan Rutzen - East Carolina University School of Theatre & Dance

Dan is an experienced Musical Director and Educator who has spent the last 17 years working in Toronto, Ontario, Canada where he most recently was nominated for a DORA award for his musical direction of Sweeney Todd for Talk Is Free Theatre. Currently, Dan is on faculty at East Carolina University School of Theatre & Dance and continues to work and teach as well as present internationally.

Sessions:
Musical Theatre Improv
Rock the Pop!



FEATURED ARTISTS

Timothy Hughes - Open Jar Institute

Timothy R. Hughes hails from Brookfield, Wisconsin and graduated with a BFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

The LA Times deemed him a "breakout star" for his work in the Broadway Musical Hadestown, which won the 2019 Tony for Best Musical! Prior to Hadestown, Hughes originated the role of Pabbie, the Troll King in Disney's Broadway musical Frozen at the St. James Theatre. He made his Broadway debut in Chaplin: The Musical. He's performed at regional theatres across the country including Goodspeed Opera, The MUNY, Music Theatre Wichita, Music Theatre West, St. Louis Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Geva Theatre, and Los Angeles Opera as well as touring with Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

On screen, Timothy is best known for his work as The Strongman in the hit movie musical The Greatest Showman with Hugh Jackman.



Sessions: HADESTOWN Broadway Dance Workshop



Jack Sippel - Open Jar Institute

Broadway: The Prom. National Tours: Memphis, Newsies. Film: The Prom, Disney's Newsies. Regional: Mary Poppins, West Side Story (Paper Mill Playhouse), Hello, Dolly!, Singin' in the Rain, Tarzan, Bye Bye Birdie (Muny), Chasing Rainbows.

Sessions:
"Newsies" Broadway Dance Workshop

STATE FESTIVAL COLLEGES

Austin Peay State University

Greensboro College

AMDA College of Performing

Arts

KD Conservatory College of Film & Dramatic Arts

American Academy of Dramatic Arts Kilgore College

Baylor University

Lamar University

Butler University, Jordan
College of the Arts

Lone Star College University Park

Centenary College of Louisiana

Montclair State University

Cornish College of the Arts

New York Film Academy

DePaul University

Northern Michigan University

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Oklahoma State University

Hussian College, Los Angeles **Otterbein University**

Rockford University

STATE FESTIVAL COLLEGES

Sam Houston State University

The Hartt School - University of Hartford

Stephen F Austin State University

The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts

Southwestern University

The University of Oklahoma Helmerich School of Drama

Stephens College

University of the Incarnate Word

Tarleton State University

University of Evansville

Temple College

University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Texas State University

University of Northern Colorado

Tyler Junior College

University of South Alabama

Texas A&M University - Commerce

University of Texas - Austin

Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

University of Wyoming

Texas Woman's University

Webster University - Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts

STATE FESTIVAL VENDORS











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Setting the Stage for Inclusive Theatre

If "all the world's a stage," then our stages must look like the world. The conversation surrounding diversity and inclusion cannot exist without disabilities.

To start, let's touch on terminology. If unsure which language is appropriate, ask the person. In the same way, if a disabled person corrects your verbiage, honor their preferences. The terminology given is, from my research, the most widely accepted language in the disabled community. Using terms such as "differently/otherly abled" or "special needs" negates the label that brings people a sense of community. Disabled is not a bad word. A newer notion in the autism community is the use of support needs rather than functioning labels or severity levels. Functioning labels imply that autistic people have a base level of function at all times. Autism is a spectrum, so, we should describe an individual's specific support needs. For example, Student A has high fine motor support needs and low social support needs. This means that Student A may receive intervention for fine motor skills, but less, if any, social intervention. The switch from using the term "nonverbal" to "nonspeaking" shifts the narrative around how people communicate. Many people who are nonspeaking are verbal in ways other than typical speech.

If you are considering starting a program at your school where students from the special education department are included with their typical peers, consider using peer-partnership programs. This gives both students an opportunity to form meaningful relationships. Be intentional about which typical peers are incorporated into the program. Choose students who will take the program seriously. Host an official application and interview process at the start of the learning period for typical students to complete. Accepted students will need to undergo a training process before the learning period starts. Collaborate with the special education department in your school and/or bring in disabled artists to share their expertise in the field.

One tool that your special education department can train in is the use of Alternative/Augmentative Communication (AAC). Texas educator Bryan Stanton has used AAC to allow nonspeaking students the opportunity to deliver lines during productions. He teamed up with the special education department at his school to make icons that matched the show for students to identify during productions when it came time to deliver lines. He was able to use GoButton or the students' own AAC programs to accomplish this. This accommodation allows every student to use their voice on stage. This is true inclusion.

Another tool is the use of visual schedules. Many neurodivergent people benefit from routine and the ability to identify what is happening next. It is best practice to use real-life imagery from your classroom as images for your schedules or the icons that are incorporated into your students' AAC devices, if applicable.

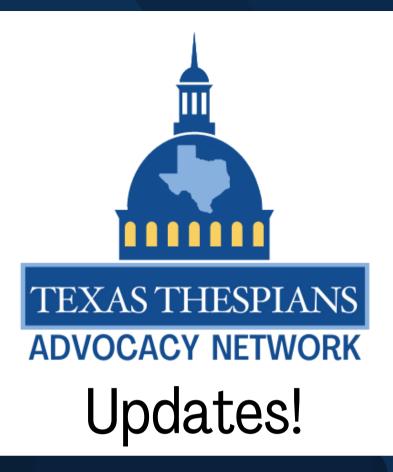


When bringing disabled students into your department, recognize humanity above all else. Practices such as infantilization (or treating someone younger than their actual age) are still at play both in and out of the classroom. Be aware of your own biases. Develop relationships that are built on constructive criticism in this area and overall mutual respect. Accessible lesson planning isn't making the content 'easier' by using sublevel standards. Adapt core, age-level standards to accommodate all learners. Above all else, presume competence.

There are many more areas to explore in the disability-inclusive arts classroom such as accessible classroom materials, sensory needs and exploration, and the disability advocacy mantra, "Nothing About Us Without Us." I encourage you to research how to better serve disabled students. Although, the best research is what your disabled students are already telling you. Listen. "Listening is letting your reaction make a difference."- Michael Shurtleff.

-Helana Barber is a student at the University of Houston where she is studying to become a Theatre Educator with an emphasis on Inclusion Theatre.

Terminology



ARTS ARE EDUCATION

Arts Are Education! Welcome to a national campaign committed to ensuring that all students have access to an equitable delivery of arts education. Arts Are Education provides extensive information and advocacy resources on how to get involved and have an impact.

Sign the Pledge here:

https://www.artsareeducation.org/action-center

Texas Arts Education Campaign

The Texas Arts Education Campaign's (TAEC) mission is to inform Texas voters and state lawmakers about the unique importance of fine arts education in preparing K-12 students for the global workforce and in addressing the social and emotional needs of students, even more important during these pandemic times.

TAEC is supported by a coalition of educators and arts associations committed to ensuring quality arts programs are protected and promoted in K-12 public education.

Sign the Pledge here: https://www.txartsed.org/join-us

Americans for the Arts Action Fund has launched its ArtsVote "Make Your Vote Count" pledge campaign.

Take the pledge to make your vote count today. You can then celebrate being an ArtsVote champion by posting an ArtsVote graphic of your choosing on your website and social media platforms with a link to your State's Voter Factsheet!

All ArtsVote resources are available at www.ArtsActionFund.org/ArtsVote.

1. TAKE THE PLEDGE



2. DOWNLOAD YOUR STATE VOTER FACTSHEET



3. SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA





What does it mean to be a Student Ambassador?

Student Ambassadors are high school Thespians who have been selected and trained to promote Texas Theatre Education. Texas Thespians Student Ambassadors enhance public awareness of the value and impact of Theatre Education.

Know that YOUR voice matters!

Student Ambassadors are proud supporters of Theatre Education and believe they have the power to change the world around them!

- They are passionate, enthusiastic, driven, compassionate, caring...
- They are well informed... They are great communicators... They are goal-oriented...
- They are connectors... They are flexible...
- · They are inspiring!

What do Student Ambassadors do?

Student Ambassadors are on the ground promoting public awareness of the value and impact of Theatre Education by educating their peers and participating in local and statewide advocacy efforts.

Local Advocacy

Local Advocacy begins on your home campus and extends into your District School Board and community. Local Advocacy includes speaking at School Board meetings, hosting community events, and presenting to school administration.

TTAN Student Ambassadors encourage students to use their own voice to advocate for their programs and Theatre Education across Texas by creating "advocacy tools" and publishing digital content for Texas Thespians' social media and presenting arts advocacy workshops.

State Advocacy

State Advocacy includes letter writing, participation in Advocacy Day(s), and speaking before State Legislatures about the needs of theatre programs in Texas

How can I become a TTAN Student Ambassador?

Any freshman, sophomore or junior who is an inducted Thespian and is in good standing with his/her troupe may apply. Candidates should complete an application and submit the required documents to demonstrate their passion for advocacy in Theatre Education. For more detailed information, <u>click here!</u>



Fine Arts Administrator Day

What is the Texas Thespians Fine Arts Administrator Day?

- This day is specifically for campus fine arts principals, as well as district fine arts directors, fine arts coordinators and facilitators.
- Our Fine Arts Administrator Day is designed to educate our administrators on all aspects of Texas Thespians, our student festival experience, and provide advocacy and educational resources in support of our theatre programs.

What will we offer?

- Tour of the Texas Thespians State Festival and Contests
- Active participation in the Texas Thespians State Festival
- Educational sessions on theatre classrooms support
- Educational sessions on fine arts advocacy
- Collaboration with the Texas Thespians Board of Directors
- · Collaboration with fine arts administrators across the state
- Meaningful discussions with knowledgeable theatre professionals will provide insight and tools needed to support your campus theatre directors.

When:

Nov. 14th - Riverwalk Marriott/San Antonio

Nov. 18th - Gaylord/Grapevine



\$100 for the Admin Day pass

FREE if your administrator registers and attends the full festival with students! Invite your campus and district administrators today!





TEXASTHESPIANS STATE FESTIVAL STATE FESTIVAL OCCUPANT OF These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and events.

INFORMATION

- **ESSAY**: Select one (1) of the two (2) essay choices below. All essays must be between 500-700 words (this does not include the two short answer questions.
 - *Prompt* 1: How does theatre support your social and emotional well being and foster a welcoming school environment?
 - *Prompt 2*: What is your theatre story and how has theatre made a difference in your life?
- **SHORT ANSWER**: Please answer all of the following questions. Answers should be 2-3 sentences each.
 - What is the importance of Theatre in Arts Education?
 - Why do you want to advocate for Theatre Arts Education in Texas?
- The Texas Thespians annual DemocracyWorks Essay Competition is open to all high school theatre students in the State.
- Essay and short answers will be submitted via Submittable.
- Three winners will be announced at closing ceremonies and will be awarded the following:
 - Pin of recognition
 - o Cash prize: 1st Place-\$200, 2nd Place-\$150, and 3rd Place-\$100
 - $\circ\;$ Recognition on the Texas Thespians website and social media
 - $\circ~$ Letter to campus principal and district superintendent
- Essays are protected from the moment they are submitted. By submitting an essay to Texas Thespians, you are agreeing to allow Texas Thespians to possibly publish your essay in print and/or online.















What does a Junior Festival Day look like?

7:30 - 8:15	Registration
8:15 - 8:45	Opening Ceremonies
9:00 - 10:15	Session 1: Thespy Competitions & Tech Playland
10:20 - 11:20	Session 2: Workshops & Tech Playland
11:30 - 1:25	Mid-Day Troupe Rotations and Lunch
1:15 - 2:15	Session 3: Workshops & Tech Playland
2:20 - 3:20	Session 4: Workshops & Tech Playland
3:25 - 4:25	Session 5: Workshops
4:30 - 5:15	Keynote Speaker
5:25 - 5:30	Closing Award Ceremonies

Registration includes:

STAY IN THE KNOW

Junior Festival South Registration Opens October 28

Need Help Registering?

alexis.gette@texasthespians.org

Festival Swag, Lunch, & access to all workshops

Troube Spotlight

ALVIN HIGH SCHOOL TROUPE 2955



-by BK Goodman-

The Yellow Jacket Theatre Company hit the ground running for the 2022 - 2023 season! Under the direction Laurie Wilson and John Grimmett, the Troupe is presenting *And Then There Were None, Into the Woods, Jack and the Beanstalk* and UIL One-Act Play for their season.

Wilson has been the Theatre director for YJTC since 1995 and Grimmett is returning to his Alma Mater to serve as the Technical Director. Both Directors beam with excitement when talking about the plans for this season! Their new Performing Arts Center is the perfect location for the shows planned this year. It is an absolutely stunning facility.

Junior and Troupe Recording Secretary Chris
Trevino, shared that "And Then There Were None is
spectacular! Mr. Grimmett has designed a fantastic
set and his crazy theatrics really bring the show to
life."

Troupe officers shared their campus involvement as an "inclusive group of Fine Arts who support each other." This year the Yellow Jacket Theatre won the Homecoming Day Parade as Jurassic Burgers, a mash up of *Bob's Burgers* and *Jurassic Park*.

Each year the YJTC Drama Club hosts a Halloween Lip Sync Battle to collect canned goods for the Trick-Or-Treat So Kids Can Eat service project. President, Devon Baxa and Vice President, Jennifer Bozeman have been participating in the Lip Sync Battle for several years and are very excited to continue to grow the program and serve their community.

"Our parents are amazing! We have a great booster club to help us achieve our goals," said Jade Guerra, Corresponding Secretary. Grimmett shared that "YJTC is an open and inclusive department that has representation from all areas of the Fine Arts to promote the spirit of collaboration."

YJTC will be attending the Texas Thespians State
Festival in San Antonio. Some advice shared by the
Troupe officers includes "Meeting new people from other
troupes provides a great perspective and we love
getting to make new friends. Don't be scared to talk to
others."

To learn more about the Yellow Jacket Theatre Company and performance dates, you can visit their website - <u>www.yitc.org</u>



2022 - 2023 Officers:



Homecoming Day Parade 2022



Dialect Workshop with H. Russ Brown

Troupe Spotlight BARBERS HILL HIGH SO

BARBERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL, A NEW TROUPE



The Salt Dome Theatre is under the direction of Sarah Kouba and Chris Irwin. Kouba is starting her second year as Head Theatre Director and shares the joy of producing theatre with ten year veteran and Technical Director, Chris Irwin.

I got the chance to sit down with the Production Theatre class and Director Kouba to learn more about their program.

Tell me about Theatre at Barbers Hill High School.

Kouba shared that "there is a Legacy of Community in the Salt Dome Theatre Company. The celebrated and long time director of the program, Travis Poe, built such an amazing program of students. I am honored to continue as torchbearer after his retirement. It's an absolute joy to come to work everyday."

"The Theatre program makes up 10% of the school's overall population. With over 220 students in the program at a 5A school, its quite an accomplishment. The growth and sustainability is encouraged through the support of all the Fine Arts on campus and the willingness to work with schedules so that students can continue to thrive."

What makes the Salt Dome Theatre Company Special?

"Its hard to describe how amazing it is to be involved here. Theatre has nestled its way into my heart because everyone is so kind and welcoming." said Megan Penrod, Senior.

"The stories we make and the friends we create is just one of the things I love about our program. We genuinely ally care about each other," explains Alyssa Williams, Sophomore.

The production theatre class is made up of students who not only participate in Theatre, but in Band, Choir, Dance Team, and Cheer.







How do you keep the legacy alive for new members?

GC Aslin, Senior, shared some of her experience as a new member of the troupe. "I was a transfer student and was sad that I was leaving my other program. Coming into SDT I was nervous, but I've made so many new friends, so much so that I wrote my college essay on our experience with UIL One-Act Play. Theatre allows you to open up and become a different person while taking your life experiences and applying that to tell a story."

"Theatre is very vulnerable. It allows you to see what others are going through by them directing that energy into their characters and their performance. We also get to leave our worries at the door and step on stage to transform into a different character."

What are some goals for your Troupe this year?

We are looking to grow the connections between middle school campuses and the high school. Several students have been involved in theatre at BHISD for 6 or more years. Two middle school programs feed into the Salt Dome Theatre; Middle School North under the direction of Jessica Vass, and Middle School South with Diane Balogh. Both are thriving programs that prepare students for theatre in high school and provide multiple performances each year.

What are you most excited about for Texas Thespians State Festival?

"We are excited about Thespians because it will give us a chance to connect with other troupes across the state and build lasting relationships. We are also excited to participate in competitions and college auditions for seniors."

To learn more about the Salt Dome Theatre Company you can follow them on Facebook: Salt Dome Theatre at Barbers Hill High School.



Treasure Island, October 2022

Troupe Spotlight MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL TROUPE 3376



I had the chance to Zoom with Midland Senior High Troupe 3376 and their directors, Tiffany Gardner-Moore and Rodrigo Sanchez as they are plan for a fantastic season of shows.

The students of Midland Theatre are gearing up for two performances this fall that will work in tandem. One group is working on Shakespeare Stealer, a mostly male cast with a few female parts and Wild Bunch Women, which as you can guess is predominately female cast with a few male roles sprinkled in.

Mrs. Gardner-Moore is heading up the production of *Wild Bunch Women* and shared that the cast is "planning a 19th century style camping trip to gain a better understanding of what its like to rough it without all the pleasantries of a modern world."

Both productions will open at the end of the month and the Troupe is planning to bid both shows to the Texas Thespians State Festival as Marathon Plays in Grapevine, Texas.

The Junior Varsity class is also preparing for a holiday production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.*

Aside from theatrical performances, the Midland High School Troupe also participates in Speech and Debate, UIL One-Act Play (2022 State Finalist with *The Beggars Opera*) and UIL Theatrical Design.

This year's Troupe goal is to focus on building a strong Thespian program at the four Middle School campuses and participate in Trick-or-Treat So Kids Can Eat as their service projects.

The Fine Arts Director for Midland ISD, Deb Shaw, made an appearance on the Zoom as she was helping costumers prepare for both shows. Deb Shaw has been a life long supporter of theatre and is a member of the Texas Thespians Hall of Fame.

It's a busy department, for sure!

Troupe Members are also rehearsing and preparing their entries for Texas Thespians State Festival. State Thespian Officer, Marisa Berrones, is eager to "announce Mainstage Shows and participate in Opening Ceremonies" through her role with Texas Thespians.

Blane Wheelis shared his excitement about attending Texas Thespians State Festival "because I get to learn more about the College Audition process and meet with perspective colleges."

Several students shared their tips for first time Troupe attendees: "Wear comfortable shoes, bring lots of snacks, and don't be nervous or compare yourself to others, just live in your craft!"

To learn more about Midland High School Theatre or to purchase tickets for the upcoming season, check them out on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.







The Beggars Opera



The Old Man and The Old Moon



Tech Tip Using the right tool for the right job

Got teeth? The more the merrier

- 40T: Ripping solid wood, works fine for plywood, cuts slower, usually requires more sanding
- 60T: Crosscutting, cleaner cuts, veneered plywood, melamine, requires slightly less sanding
- 80T: Crosscutting, finer woodworking like crown moulding, less blowout which results in cleaner cuts, MDF

<u>Carbide Tipped</u> – precision cuts for projects that require minimal tearout, generally used with miter & table saws

<u>Diamond Tipped</u> – creates a rough cut when applied to wood, intended for stone, concrete, ceramic

Choosing the right fasteners for your material

There are many preferences when it comes to hardware. But when using coarsely threaded drywall screws, did you know you only need three lengths to build any set piece?

Now, which to use?

Is your hardware length greater than TWICE THE THICKNESS of the material you are going into? Follow the guide below to know what to use!

Lauan 1/4" 💥 2 == 1/2" use 1/2"

3/4" Ply 3/4" **2** = 1-1/2" use 1-1/4"

1x4 (on edge) 3/4" 2 = 1-1/2" use 1-1/2"

2x4 (on edge) | 1-1/2" | 2 | = 3" use 2-1/2"





TEXAS THESPIANS EDUCATOR COLLECTIVE







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



Teacher of the Month - Link



October 2022





America's High School Troupe 5820

El Pago, Texas

MR.HAASE Tromas

from a student:

"Mr. Haase is my teacher and also like a father figure. He is always there for us, and we strive to make him proud. Mr. Haase pushes our department to show its true potential. Through his teachings, I won a medal for my work. It could not have been done without his support. He is a teacher who jumps through obstacles for his kids (Thespians)."

-Aleisha Reyes



Know some outstanding Thespians?



Thespian of the Month - Link



October 2022





ROBBEN MONTEZ

Troupe 1053

From a troupe member:

"Robben has been helping out at the
Crighton Theatre since before I was even
doing shows there. He helps out
backstage with tech and on stage by
filling in roles. Over the summer, I
performed Grease and during the run of
the show, Robben had to step into the
role of Sunny. He learned the role within a
week, along with all the songs and
choreography! During our final
performance, a mishap caused the car in
the scene to run over his toe, and his
toenail ripped off, yet Robben still went
out to perform his solo. Robben always
commits and is an exceptional Thespian!"

The Woodlands High School Woodlands, Texas

-Owen McWhirter