

TEXAS THESPIANS MONTHLY



**REGISTER
NOW!**

SEPTEMBER EDITION



**Texas Thespians
State Festivals
are a great
opportunity to
showcase your
Troupe Pride!**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03. **Chatting with Texas Thespians
President, Matt Peters**
- 04. **Texas Thespians College Auditions**
- 05. **Festival Exhibitors**
- 06. **Become a Texas Thespians State
Thespian Officer**
- 07. **Tech Tip of the Month**
- 08. **Texas Thespians Regional Junior
Festivals and F.A.Q.'s**
- 10. **Thespian of the Month!**
- 11. **Advocacy Network – Educator
Ambassadors**
- 12. **Texas Thespians Educator Conference**
- 13. **Thespian Teacher of the Month!**
- 14. **Troupe Spotlights**
- 17. **Texas Thespians Marquee**
- 18. **Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention
Center ~ ICE!**

CHATTING WITH MATT PETERS, PRESIDENT & FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



I got a chance to chat with the newly elected President of Texas Thespians, Matt Peters. Mr. Peters shared some of his favorite Thespian Festival memories and gave some insight into his dual role as President and Festival Director.

- BK Goodman

BKG: Tell us how you first got involved with Thespians.

MP: My first festival experience was my Senior year. My HS troupe, Spring Woods HS Troupe 127, went to the 2003 State Festival in Wichita Falls and we performed on Main Stage with *Les Misérables: School Edition*. When we processed from the convention hall to the performance space behind an elephant, I knew I had found my people. Maybe we should bring that back...(Author note: I saw the show and it was brilliant!)

BKG: As theatre people, we all have our favorite shows or roles. What's yours?

MP: Oh definitely *Les Mis*. We took a trip to New York my junior year of high school and we saw it there. I fell in love with the show immediately and spent the entire night listening to the multi disc international cast recording. In fact its my go to soundtrack to sing during STAAR testing, in my head of course.

BKG: Have you always been involved with Texas Thespians?

MP: When I graduated from Texas A&M and became a theatre teacher, I knew I wanted to get involved in whatever way possible. The wonderful thing about Thespian events, is that you are surrounded by literally thousands of theatre people who are the most supportive group in the world. As an educator, I wanted to make sure students had the same experience I had when I was there age. It was truly life-changing for me.

BKG: How did you get involved as a board member?

MP: I worked my way up serving on several boards in areas of need. Vendors, Colleges, Festival DJ, Main Stage, Marathons, ACE, etc., and also started the Improv Challenge. For each position I tried to learn as much as I could in case I was needed elsewhere.

BKG: Are you excited about having two festivals to plan now? What is your role for festival?

MP: I'm super pumped about expanding into areas of Texas that we have never been to before! For both San Antonio and Grapevine, my job as Festival Director is to make sure that all of our events are running as efficiently as possible. It's a big honor to be entrusted with one of the largest state festivals in the country, and I want it to be a positive experience by every attendee.

BKG: Aside from the State Festival of it all, you are the President of the Executive Board. What's that like?

MP: As President, my job is to make sure Texas Thespians, as a whole, works collaboratively and effectively as we are growing in numbers, but also in our programming offerings. On a personal note, getting to work with other directors across the state has been such a rewarding experience professionally. The various boards of Texas Thespians are truly some of the best theater directors in the state.

BKG: Teacher by day, Thespians by night?

MP: Yeah! Pretty much. I work with some amazing directors at The Woodlands High School - Tim Jackubek, Heather Collins, and Bonnie Dupuis. I direct the musical, collaborate on UIL OAP, coach Speech and Debate, and coach our Improv Troupe, The Funky Bunch!

BKG: I have to ask, what do you like to do in your spare time?

MP: What spare time?! (*He laughs~*) When I do have spare time I spend it with my two boys, Mason and Connor, and my extremely understanding wife, Claire. We love hanging out with the kiddos - going to the museum and zoo. Saturdays are now reserved for kid birthday parties and little league. I'm an avid sports fan, especially Houston and A&M teams.

COLLEGE AUDITIONS

■ OVER 60 COLLEGES

Over 60 college and university representatives will be in attendance in San Antonio and Grapevine

■ JUNIORS & SENIORS

Auditions are open to high school Juniors and Seniors

■ VIRTUAL AUDITIONS

All applications will be submitted virtually, giving Colleges access until 2023!

■ CALL BACKS

Each University or College will hold callbacks at their exhibitor booths at both State Festivals

■ REGISTER NOW!

Registration is now open
www.texasthespians.org



TEXAS
THESPIANSSM



**Over 50
Vendors &
Exhibitors!**

**"I love getting to stock
up on supplies while
we are at Festival!"**

**"A.M. Designs always
provides the best
booth exhibit and
scenic ideas!"**

EXHIBITORS AT STATE FESTIVAL

As you are making your plans to attend a Texas Thespians State Festival, plan ahead to purchase some awesome swag or stock up on your theatrical supplies.

Vendors and exhibitors come from all regions of the United States to meet with Texas Thespians attendees each year!

Vendor booths will be open during both State Thespian Festivals and they always have great deals for teachers and students.

Whether you are looking for amazing foam props, travel plans for a Troupe trip, fundraising ideas, or just need to stock up on makeup supplies, Texas Thespians' vendors have you covered!

Make sure to check the Texas Thespians website for a working list of all the vendors and exhibitors you can visit while at State Festival.

Most vendors accept cash, credit card, or purchase orders onsite, so be sure to come with a pre-approved PO.

STATE THESPIAN OFFICERS



Texas Thespians is proud to provide leadership opportunities to the best and brightest across the state through STO training.

Dream



The STO's role is to plan, host, and manage Texas Thespians State Festivals, Leadership Days, Junior Regional Festivals, and Honor Troupe.

Believe



Any Freshman, Sophomore or Junior who is an inducted Thespian and has good standing with their troupe may run for office.

Grow



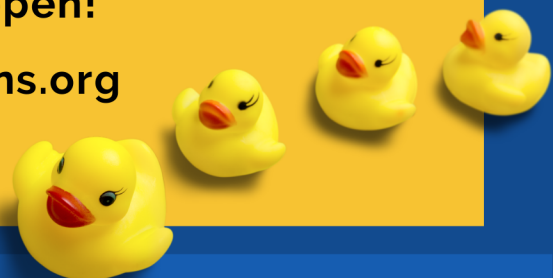
Applicants must be prepared to work hard for their fellow Texas Thespians. One student per school may apply.

Achieve



State Thespian Officer
Applications are now open!

Visit www.texasthespians.org



Technical Theatre Tip of the Month

Tech Tip Extension Cords and Power Strips

Did you know that October 9th – 15th is Fire Prevention Week?

I'm sure, as tech directors, we've all taken shortcuts to simply make it work. But, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, nearly 1 out of 5 fires in non-residential buildings are caused by equipment, appliances, or electrical malfunctions.

Knowing how to appropriately use your circuits, extension cords, power strips, and other electrical equipment can greatly reduce your risk of fire, and will keep you, your space, and your STUDENTS safe.

Here are some do's and don'ts when it comes to electrical safety.

DO

Plug your tool into an extension cord that is directly in the wall

Plug your tool into a power strip that is directly in the wall

Buy a power strip that has length already built into the cord

DON'T

Extension cords and power strips are not to be used together

Multiple extension cords are not to be plugged into each other

Power strips are not to be plugged into each other



Application:

- Travelling shows
- UIL One-Act Play
- Children's shows at elementary schools
- Scene Shop
- Black Box Theaters
- Other "tight" spaces



Thank you to Timothy Doyle of Prosper ISD Fine Arts and Mel Edwards of Rouse High School

TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVALS

What is offered at a Junior Thespian Festival?

Texas Thespians Junior Festivals are scheduled for the 2022 – 2023 school year throughout the state.

Texas Thespians strives to provide our Middle School and Junior High students with a valuable Festival experience where they can:

- Participate in competitions
- Attend workshops taught by industry professionals
- Learn leadership skills
- Work with technical theatre equipment

All on ONE DAY!

Competitions

Thespy Events –

- Solo, Duet, and Group Musical
- Duet and Group Acting

Performance Events –

- Monologue Presentation
- Solo & Group Lip Sync
- Improv Challenge
- Works in Progress

Technical Events –

- Costume Design
- Scenic Design
- Mask Design
- Poster Design
- Hair & Makeup Design
- Tech Team Challenge





TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL



Do I have to have a Troupe to attend?

No, any and all Texas Theatre students may attend the Texas Thespians Regional Junior Festivals and students do not have to be inducted to participate in ANY Texas Thespians event.

Is payment due before registration closes?

No, Troupes do not have to submit payment until registration closes. You can find a copy of our W-9 on the website or you can send us a vendor packet to complete for your purchasing department.

Is Tech Challenge required?

Yes, it is included in registration. The handbook is available on the website and students will have the opportunity to learn challenge skills in the Tech Playland.

Can Junior Thespians still do other Thespys?

Yes! Students may compete in additional non-qualifying events as well as Thespys through a virtual contest submission that will open on November 28th and close January 13th, 2023.

Can Junior Thespians qualify for Nationals?

Yes! Junior Thespians are welcome to attend the International Thespian Festival hosted by the Educational Theatre Association each summer.

Can adults (teachers and parents) attend?

Yes- as chaperones and must be registered.

Is All Star Troupe Display required?

No, but its highly encouraged. This is a great way to share what you do at your school and to build collaborative efforts among Troupes attending.

Will there be a Main Stage show at Junior Festival?

No, we have moved to an exciting Keynote Speaker format and increased the session options.

Can I use songs or scenes from movies for Thespys?

No, performance selections must come from published plays or musicals. Visit our competition page on the website for a full listing of selection guidelines.



Thespian of the Month

THESPIAN
of the month

September 2022



TEXAS
THESPIANS



KARLIE KLAMMER
Troupe 5986

From a troupe member:

"During the production of *Shrek the Musical*, something went wrong, everybody was freaking out backstage, and it was extremely chaotic. Our stage manager, Karlie, came over from her side of the stage, calmed everybody down, and came up with an alternate plan to keep the show running smoothly. As an actor in the situation, it was an amazing thing to watch her accomplish. She showed great leadership skills that day and continues to amaze me with everything she does. She is organized & an incredible role model."

-Karis Klammer

Montgomery High School
Montgomery, Texas

Educator Ambassadors



What does it mean to be an Educator Ambassador?

Educator Ambassadors are Texas Theatre Educators who have completed the Advocacy Track at the Texas Thespians State Festival or Texas Thespians Educator Conference and have taken the pledge to incorporate arts advocacy into their lives. Educator Ambassadors lead advocacy events at the local level and participate in statewide theatre education advocacy efforts.

Educator Ambassadors are a field team.

We can't be everywhere at once and no one knows your program better than you do. Educator Ambassador's are on the ground incorporating advocacy efforts, empowering student and parent advocates, and collaborating with fellow educators to advocate for theatre education.

What does "advocacy" look like?

To advocate for the arts means to work to inform policymakers of the needs of arts programs.

State Advocacy

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

State Policymakers

- Texas House Representatives
- Texas Senate Representatives
- Board of Education
- Texas Education Agency
- Governor's office

Local Advocacy

Local Advocacy begins on campus and extends to the District School Board and community.

Local Advocacy

- Speaking at School Board Meetings
- Hosting community events
- Working with school administration.

Local Policymakers

- School Boards
- City Council
- Mayors
- School Administration
- District Administration

You can find your State Representatives by clicking this [link](#).

Educator Ambassadors Are Leaders

As part of the Texas Thespians Educator Ambassador program Educator Ambassadors have the opportunity to participate in regional advocacy meetings and town halls to help drive local, state, and national advocacy efforts. These meetings focus on the specific needs of teachers local to your area and allow you to share ideas, resources, and support to advocate collectively. Educator Ambassadors gain access to advocacy resources available online to help support efforts in advocacy. Resources include one-page documents, training, and access to Educator Ambassador Liaisons for consultation on your specific advocacy needs.

2023 TEXAS THESPIANS EDUCATOR CONFERENCE



Call for Presenters for Educator Conference!

Do you have a hands-on, interactive workshop geared toward K-12 educators? Yes?! Then we **need you** to present at the 2023 Educator Conference!

Teach three (3) workshops in exchange for registration!



~ Mark your calendar ~
**Educator Conference Registration
opens October 6!**

Registration fee is \$225
For Pre-Service educators
(Student Teachers), registration is \$200

Hotel is \$160/night

January 12-14, 2023 ~ Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront

www.texasthespians.org/ttec_landing

Teacher of the Month

TEACHERS

of the month

September 2022



Cypress Ranch High
School
Troupe 7372

Cypress, Texas

MRS. BRADFORD

Cheryl

from a student:

"Coach Bradford has fostered my interests and talents since day one. She was the first teacher to continually push me to improve and establish a growth mindset. She's helped reinforce the paradigm that one can always improve. Coach consistently gives her students opportunities to grow and offers valuable notes and critiques. She treats all of her students with exceptional levels of respect, kindness, and professionalism, allowing for a productive and friendly work environment."

-Avery-Grace Payne

[Nomination Link](#)

Troupe Spotlight

ARGYLE HIGH SCHOOL TROUPE 6015

~by BK Goodman~

Walking into the brand new facility at Argyle High School to meet with Thespian Troupe 6015 is everything you want to see in a Theatre class. Students immediately put their phones in the phone management system and hit the stage to begin class with a dance warm-up led by their peers. The energy and excitement were contagious and they were thrilled to share what this year is going to look like for the department.

Beauty and The Beast will be their opening show followed by student-directed one-act plays: *Bob a Life in Five Acts*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *Women of Lockerbie*. They are making plans to bid one of the senior-directed shows as a Marathon Play entry at the Texas Thespians State Festival in Grapevine.

Senior Ian McKenna shared that attending the festival "is an amazing way to get to know everyone in our troupe. It built a foundation for all the wonderful relationships I have now."

Transitioning into a new building put a strain on troupe dynamics, but Thespian Festival helped them grow and bond as a Troupe.

Srimaan Kolanakuduru said that his favorite parts of festival were the performances. "Getting to watch shows like *The Show That Goes Wrong* was a highlight because you get to share the energy of 8000 theatre kids."

Senior, Grace May, shared that her favorite part was also *The Play That Goes Wrong* because "we all know how it works, but to share that energy and insight with so many other audience members really make what we do feel magical."

The students of Argyle Theatre are working hard to prepare their Thespy and Texas Only competition pieces. They have successfully gained a bid to Nationals for all their previous entries in 2021 and hope 2022 gives them the same result.

Aside from preparing for State Festival, the Troupe is also working on fundraisers to help them with attendance costs. Each year the Argyle Theatre program puts on a Haunted House and Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre. Troupe Director, Melissa Carpenter is a fantastic resource for school engagement if you are looking to produce a haunted house.

Ms. Carpenter's words of advice for starting a fundraiser of this type is "become friends with your Fire Marshal and buy lots of cheap, black fabric. We work as a team on developing the types of scares that work. For only taking about 24 hours to prep, we are always surprised with the turnout and profits."

For more information on Argyle High School's theatre productions and fundraising efforts, check out their Instagram page.

Insta: @argyle.theatre



2022 - 2023 Officers:

Srimaan Kolanakuduru, Kennedy Webster, Cole Tisdale, Kiera Sherphard, Caleb Leonard, Bryce Majerczyk



2022 - 2023 Production Theatre Class



Troupe Spotlight

SOCORRO HIGH SCHOOL TROUPE 2600

~by BK Goodman~

Socorro High School Thespian Troupe 2600 from El Paso, Texas met via Zoom to discuss their upcoming season and share plans to attend the Texas Thespians State Festival in the Fall.

Their Thespian Troupe, also known as the **Teatristas**, is a thriving program with over 30 inducted members and still growing! The term *Teatristas* translates into "theatre makers", but to this group of Thespian officers, it means family.

Junior Julio Cardiel, provided some history on the troupe name and stated that "Teatristas is not just the name of our troupe, it's a history that has been handed down for generations". Aisha Deriviere, also a Junior, shared that "when I first joined, I was a bit shy, but the Teatristas helped me feel welcome and to grow as a theatre artist".

The Teatristas will begin their performance season with a production of *Puffs the Play*, "A FAST-PACED ROMP through the 'Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.'"

Their performance space is undergoing a major renovation currently, but the Troupe is excited to christen the new space by performing an all-arts-inclusive musical. The Troupe has not announced the musical title yet, but Director Molly Alvarado shared "it's going to be a fun, holiday musical for all to enjoy!".

In the spring, Troupe 2600 will participate in the UIL One-Act Play competition, as well as produce a spring show.

The officers shared that they are very excited about attending the Texas Thespians State Festival in Grapevine, Texas in November. Troupe President, Angel Macias provided some advice to his fellow officers "seeing a lot of people who like the same things I do is empowering. Don't get overwhelmed with the amount of people because they all are there for the same thing, to learn and grow".

Sophomore and Troupe Secretary, Evelyn Rojo, spoke of her excitement about the Troupe as well as her intentions to run for a State Thespian Officer position. "I am most excited about meeting new people who share the same interests as me and I plan to run for an STO spot. I know it's a lot of work, but I'm ready to take on the responsibility to lead other Thespians."

As a Troupe, each officer will be competing in Thespys and Texas Only events for a chance to gain a bid to Nationals. They are also gearing up for workshops and main stage shows.

Be on the lookout for this dynamic Troupe! You can identify them with their fantastic Troupe shirts and dramatic energy!

Follow Socorro High School Troupe 2600 on Twitter - @Teatristas



2022 - 2023 Officers:

Angel Macias, Evelyn Rojo, Raven Villarreal
Ashley (Arsenic) Bueno-Allsop, Yuridia Leyva,
Aisha Deriviere, Julio Cardiel



2022 - 2023 Teatristas



Troupe Directors :

Mr. Troy Herbolt & Mrs. Molly Alvarado

Troupe Spotlight

ANNA HIGH SCHOOL TROUPE 8444

~By BK Goodman~

It was an absolute privilege to meet Troupe 8444 of Anna High School, under the direction of Mr. Glenn Price and Mr. Aaron Kays. This is the second year Mr. Price has been the Head Director, joining the Anna Troupe in 2021.

While meeting with Troupe members, they shared some of their favorite Thespian Festival memories as well as advice for the first time attending members.

Senior Quewanna Graham gave some great advice to her underclassmen: "Being around so many people like me made feel safe and like I was at home. Thespian Festival is a great experience to broaden your horizons through attending the workshops and meeting with College reps".

Denzel Chinanga is also a Senior who attended State Thespian Festival in 2021. His favorite part of the event is "the competitions! I got a perfect score last year and I am hoping to do the same this year!"

Other members also piped up and shared their love of the event by encouraging others to go to as many workshops as possible.

Autumn Parr, also a senior, said "Working with different guest artists and troupe directors who taught workshops gave us such great content to come back with. We always felt inspired after each workshop."

Beyond making plans to attend the Texas Thespians State Festival in Grapevine, the students and directors of Anna High School are preparing for a great season.

Beyond making plans to attend the Texas Thespians State Festival in Grapevine, the students and directors of Anna High School are preparing for a great season.

Their upcoming production of *The Great Gatsby* has created a buzz in the group as they discussed Mr. Price's set and costume designs.

Senior Cole Medina shared that "What Price does with his designs are very unique and its good representation of our style. His costume choices are always unexpected, but work brilliantly."

This year Troupe 8444 will be applying to take *The Great Gatsby* to State Festival as one of the Marathon shows.

Their musical this year is the famed *Addams Family Musical* and all students are very eager to start working on that production once *Gatsby* closes. Some students shared that musical talent was not their forte but that they would be joining the team as designers, technicians, and hopeful chorus members.

Of course, the great thing about theatre is that it's a group effort and anything is possible when you share the same goals!

It is apparent that Mr. Price runs a tight ship, but that his students feel welcomed and loved. One student shared that "Price is scary, but in a good scary kind-a way. He always makes us think in the moment, which is frustrating, but we know he is preparing us for more than just high school."

It was a fantastic day of laughs and storytelling with this troupe! Be on the lookout for them at the Grapevine Festival and we want to wish them a huge "BREAK A LEG" from all of us at Texas Thespians!



2022 - 2023 Officers:

Chris Conner, Denzel Chinanga,
Kadence Daily, Aiden Kennedy



2022 - 2023 Production Class

"Working with different guest artists and troupe directors who taught workshops gave us such great content to come back with. We always felt inspired after each workshop." ~Autumn Parr

Texas Thespians Marquee



Let us help you fill the seats!

Scan the QR code and Texas Thespians will
post your season on our website!



ICE!

ICE! is back for 2022!
This magnificent and inspiring exhibit has returned just in time for Texas Thespians State Festival – Grapevine. Troupes may pre-purchase tickets in registration for this once in a lifetime experience.



THE MAKING OF ICE!

Bringing The Polar Express to life is a meticulous process and a labor of love. It's the work of master artisans from 7,000 miles away in Harbin, China, who chip away at two million pounds of ice over the course of several weeks to create the scenes you'll enjoy when you walk through ICE!.

