

**TEXAS
THESPIANS
MONTHLY**



**ONE STATE
ONE POND**

BEST IN THE NATION

Texas Thespians showcased at
the International Thespian
Festival 2023

JUNE 2023



Y'all Means All!

Celebrating Pride Month isn't just about parades and glitter, it celebrates a rich history of inclusion and advocacy for all marginalized people.

By BK Goodman

LGBTQ students and teachers often face unique challenges, such as discrimination, bullying, and exclusion, which can significantly impact their academic experience and overall mental health. It is crucial for educational institutions, teachers, and fellow students to create an inclusive and safe environment where all students can thrive, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Theatre's Role:

Theatre plays a crucial role in the lives of high school LGBTQ students and teachers by providing a supportive and inclusive space for self-expression, empowerment, and community-building. Here are some reasons why theatre is important to the LGBTQ community within a high school setting:

Self-Exploration and Identity Development:

Theatre offers a platform for students to explore different characters and stories, which can help them better understand and express their own identities. Students can find resonance in plays or musicals that address their own experiences, providing them with a sense of validation and belonging.

Representation and Visibility:

Theatre allows LGBTQ students to see themselves represented on stage, breaking down feelings of isolation and offering positive role models. It helps to challenge stereotypes and promote diversity by showcasing a range of sexual orientations and gender identities. Seeing LGBTQ characters and stories portrayed with dignity and authenticity can profoundly impact students' self-esteem and confidence.



Empowerment and Advocacy:

Theatre provides a medium through which LGBTQ students can raise awareness about LGBTQ issues, challenge societal norms, and advocate for equality and acceptance. Through performances and storytelling, they can share their perspectives, experiences, and challenges, fostering understanding and empathy among their peers and the wider community.

Safe and Inclusive Environment:

Theatre programs that actively promote inclusivity and respect create a safe space for all students to express themselves without fear of judgment or discrimination. These programs prioritize creating an atmosphere of acceptance and support, which can be particularly valuable for LGBTQ students who may face adversity elsewhere in the school environment.

Community and Support:

Theatre fosters community among students and teachers, providing a space to connect, collaborate, and build relationships based on shared interests and experiences. The theatre community often becomes a supportive network, offering friendship, mentorship, and a sense of belonging.

Educational Opportunities:

Theatre offers a unique educational experience that goes beyond the classroom. LGBTQ students and teachers can learn about LGBTQ history, literature, and important social issues through plays and productions. Theatre can also provide opportunities for learning technical skills, fostering creativity, and developing critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Overall, theatre plays a vital role in the lives of high school LGBTQ students and teachers, offering a powerful platform for advocacy, self-expression, representation, empowerment, and community-building. It provides a space where voices can be heard, stories can be shared, and identities can be celebrated.

It is essential for society as a whole to recognize and celebrate the contributions of LGBTQ individuals and promote equality for all. By supporting LGBTQ students, we are not only affirming their rights, but we are also building a more compassionate, just, and inclusive society for everyone.

Several plays and musicals have significantly contributed to LGBTQ representation, visibility, and the exploration of queer experiences on stage. They have sparked important conversations and pushed boundaries.

Here are eight literary works that have greatly shaped the theatrical landscape for LGBTQ artists and audiences.

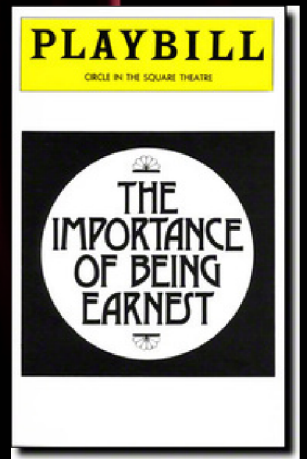


1

Angels in America by Tony Kushner:

A groundbreaking two-part play that explores the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and tackles themes of identity, sexuality, and political activism.

2



The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde:

Although Wilde's sexuality was not openly acknowledged during his time, this witty comedy showcases his subversive humor and satire, often interpreted through a queer lens.



3

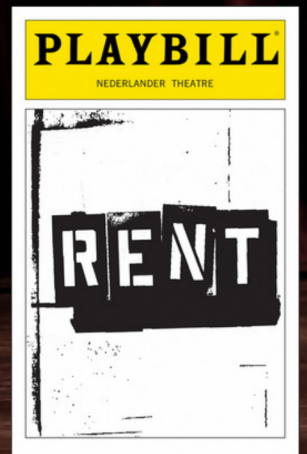
Fun Home by Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori:

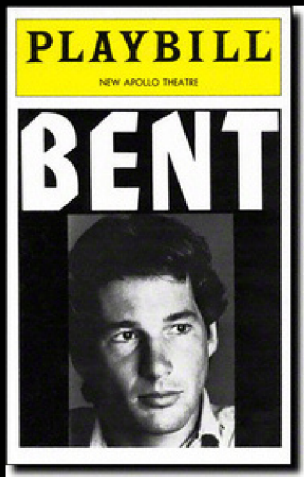
Based on Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir, this Tony Award-winning musical delves into Bechdel's journey of self-discovery, coming out as a lesbian, and her complex relationship with her father.

4

Rent by Jonathan Larson:

This iconic rock musical depicts a diverse group of artists in New York City during the height of the AIDS epidemic, exploring themes of love, friendship, and LGBTQ identity.



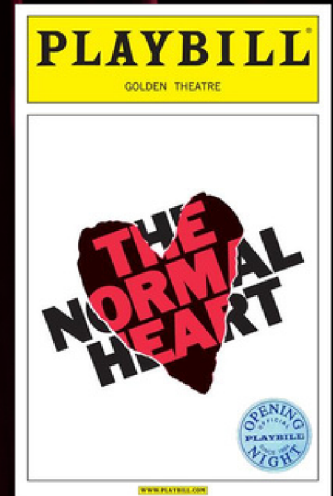


5

Bent by Martin Sherman:

Set in Nazi Germany, this powerful play focuses on the persecution of homosexuals during the Holocaust, shedding light on the struggles faced by LGBTQ individuals and highlighting themes of love, survival, and defiance.

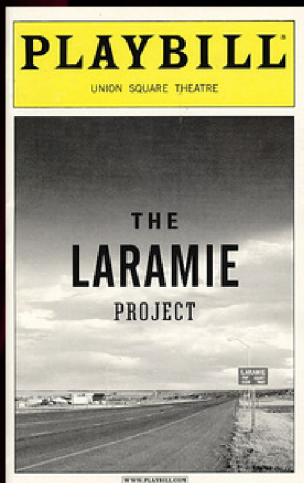
6



The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer:

A passionate and searing drama that confronts the early years of the AIDS epidemic, emphasizing the urgency for activism and fighting against societal and political indifference.

7



The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman:

A docudrama that portrays the aftermath of the hate crime murder of Matthew Shepard and its impact on the community of Laramie, Wyoming, and is one of the most frequently performed plays in America, as its messages still resonate with audiences today.

8

She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen:

A comedic and heartfelt play that follows a young woman as she explores the world of Dungeons & Dragons in an effort to connect with her deceased sister and ultimately find empowerment and acceptance along the way.





International
**Thespian
Festival**

June 19-23
2023

Texas Delegation Photo



Performances

"Queens" by Prosper High School
Troupe 6800



"Mean Girls" by JJ Pearce High School
Troupe 6896



"Damn Yankees" by Bridgeland High
School Troupe 6800





International
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Highlights!



G.W. Carver Magnet High School performed during the International Thespians Festival's Opening Ceremony; alongside Broadway star Ashley De La Rosa with their rendition of "A Brand New Day" from *The Wiz*.

State Thespian Officers from Texas provided fantastic coverage of the International Thespian Festival



Texas Thespians Student Ambassadors are making a difference and represented Texas Thespians by attending advocacy workshops and networking with other Troupe Leaders



International
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Texas Thespian Troupes Represented at ITF!



**Dickinson High School
Troupe #2362**



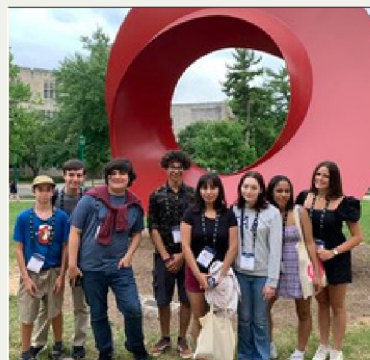
**Montgomery High School
Troupe #5986**



**Randle High School
Troupe #10431**



**Sharpstown High School
Troupe #6511**



**Houston ISD
Troupes 153, 3039, & 6511**



**Ridge Point High School
Troupe #7678**



International Thespian Festival

June 19-23
2023



**Coppell High School
Troupe #5992**



**Little Cypress - Mauricevill
High School
Troupe #1115**



**Jersey Village High School
Troupe #1565**



**Sandra Day O'Conner
High School
Troupe #5872**



**Cypress - Ranch High School
Troupe #7372**



**Bridgeland High School
Troupe #8503**



**Alvin ISD
Troupes 2955, 8441, 10735, & 88931**



**Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts
Troupe #88698**



**Waco University High School
Troupe #1212**



Troupe Days 2023



The Woodlands HS

July 22

The Woodlands, Tx

Argyle HS

July 25

Argyle, Tx

University HS

July 29

Waco, Tx

Robert Vela HS

August 5

Edinburg, Tx

Davenport HS

August 5

San Antonio, Tx

Bridgeland HS

August 12

Cypress, Tx

John Horn HS

August 12

Mesquite, Tx

**Registration Fee:
\$15 per attendee**

Officer Training

- Up to 10 students may register, no additional fee
- Training will start the night before via zoom and conclude in sessions 1 & 2

Schedule

Workshop Tracks for
Students and Directors

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Registration
- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM: Opening Ceremonies
- 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Workshop Session 1
- 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM: Workshop Session 2
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch/Troupe Time
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Workshop Session 3
- 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM: Workshop Session 4
- 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Closing Ceremonies

***Socorro HS**
September 8 & 9
El Paso, Tx

*Two day event, no housing
provided; see website
for more details

2023 Texas
Thespians
Troupe Day

Troupe Days 2023

REGISTER
NOW!

Professional
Development

The Woodlands HS

July 22

The Woodlands, Tx

Argyle HS

July 25

Argyle, Tx

University HS

July 29

Waco, Tx

Robert Vela HS

August 5

Edinburg, Tx

Davenport HS

August 5

San Antonio, Tx

Bridgeland HS

August 12

Cypress, Tx

John Horn HS

August 12

Mesquite, Tx

**Registration Fee:
\$15 per attendee**

Professional Development:

**CPE Professional Development
TEA CPE Provider #902-342**

- Whats New?! with Texas Thespians
- Developing Troupe Dynamics
- Tips and Tricks for Festivals
- Festival Registration Overview
- Premier Communities Enrollment
- Collaboration Stations
- Leadership Academy & Honor Troupe
- Much More!

***Socorro HS**
September 8 & 9
El Paso, Tx

*Two day event, no housing
provided; see website
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20 Texas
23 Thespians
Troupe Day

Troupe Days 2023

Registration
Deadline: July 21st
*August 31st for Socorro HS
Event



www.texasthespians.org/troupe_days

Can't make a Troupe Day?
Join us for Virtual Officer Training
on July 29th from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Inventory Sale!

Theatrical Lighting

CYC MKII



SL PL3 LED



ColorDash PAR



SL SPOT 300



SL BAR 520



SL SPX Zooms



Looking to
upgrade your
lighting?

**SALE
SALE
SALE
SALE**

**These and
much more!**

Contact Amy Jordan!

amy.jordan@texasthespians.org

Inventory Sale!

Theatrical Equipment

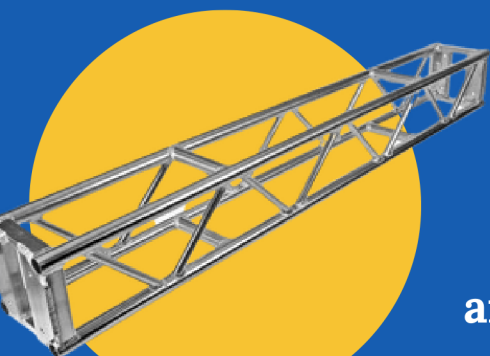
Projectors



Speakers



Truss



Screens



Roadcases



Display Monitors



Looking to
upgrade your
equipment?

**SALE
SALE
SALE
SALE**

**These and
much more!**

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TEXAS THESPIANS JUNIOR FESTIVAL



San Antonio Grapevine

HENRY B. GONZALEZ - SAN ANTONIO, TX

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

GAYLORD TEXAN, GRAPEVINE, TX

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Houston

ALVIN HS, ALVIN, TX
DECEMBER 9, 2023

Laredo

LAREDO ISD, LAREDO, TX
FEBRUARY 3, 2024

WWW.TEXASTHESPIANS.ORG



TEXAS THESPIANS STATE FESTIVAL

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



San Antonio Grapevine

NOVEMBER 10 - 13, 2023

NOVEMBER 15 - 18, 2023



WWW.TEXASTHESPIANS.ORG



TEXAS THESPIANS STATE FESTIVAL

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR
COLLEGES AND VENDORS

REGISTER NOW!

ATTEND THE LARGEST THEATRE
EVENTS IN TEXAS

- 10,000 ATTENDEES
- 150 EXHIBITORS
- 80 COLLEGE REPS
- TEACH WORKSHOPS
- ACCESS TO CAREER FAIR
- UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

JOIN THE TEAM!

WWW.TEXASTHESPIANS.ORG

