



Theatre for Youth Letter

Fellow Directors,

The time to begin gearing up for this year's MTA Festival being held January 13-16, 2022. This year's festival is planned to be live and it is fast approaching! As the chairpersons for the Theatre for Youth Festival, we are writing to encourage you to register your students to be a part of this richly rewarding event.

The Theatre for Youth Festival is intended for theatre troupes who wish to perform to an elementary school audience. As such, we are requesting that the material you wish to produce be appropriate for grades K-6, and adhere to a time limit of only thirty minutes. We are making a change this year as all Theatre for Youth productions will be presented on the Saturday of the festival, January 15, in an effort to encourage more families with young students to attend these productions. This is a one-day festival so limited entries will be accepted, on a first-come-first-served basis only. The deadline for registering for this festival is November 22. Entry spots fill up quickly, so we encourage you to sign up early. Registration will open on September 25.

The Theatre for Youth division would also like to broaden access to theatre for youth to schools, daycares, and community youth organizations across Mississippi by providing a digital education package to be available upon request following the festival until January 2023. MTA will ask for the permission of original productions and plays that are in the public domain to be recorded at MTA 2022. The productions will then be shared with young educational institutions across the state in an effort to increase theatre education and accessibility to theatrical productions.

Though the festival is non-competitive in nature, adjudicative written feedback will be provided at the conclusion of the festival. Two "Best Play" awards will be given, highlighting a secondary performance group, as well as a community theatre/college group. All-Star awards will be given; in addition to special awards highlighting technical or performance, the achievement will be

given at the adjudicator's discretion. There will be no oral adjudication this year, but schools will receive their written adjudications following the annual festival. Awards will be highlighted during the main award ceremony on Sunday.

Any group, of any age, may enter, and the fee for entry is \$50 if you are registered for the full weekend. If not, the entry is \$75. We look forward to seeing you there. It's important to remember that as we gear up for the big competition that we do not forget about the younger audiences that will one day fill our troupes with talent!

If there is a decision, due to COVID restrictions, to move this festival to a virtual format, MTA will let you know by November 1. If MTA must move to a virtual format, MTA will utilize the Streaming

Platform – ShowTix4U. Please make sure that you have the appropriate licensing needed for your production.

It is the director's responsibility to contact the publishing company, notify them of our festival requirements, and obtain performance and recorded live streaming or virtual rights. As always, titles in the public domain and original works are welcome and encouraged.

All students will need to sign the Consent to Broadcast form, located in the MTA Registration packet.

REGISTRATION WILL BE LOCATED [HERE](#).

Thanks in advance,

[Ruth Taylor](#)

Theatre for Youth Chair
Northwest Rankin Middle School

[Keri Horn](#)

Theatre for Youth Vice-Chair
VoicesKeri/Mississippi Public Broadcasting/The Royal Y'all