

MISSISSIPPI DELTA TENNESSEE WILLIAMS FESTIVAL



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Dear Theater Instructors ~

We hope all is well at the beginning of another school year. We are busy as ever preparing for the 30th Annual MS Delta Tennessee Williams Festival this year!

Thank you all for the responses to our initial letter in the spring. We are so looking forward to an amazing year in person at the festival, and we sincerely hope you all can make the trip to Clarksdale. This year, we will have some overnight accommodations available for your students if you need them. Please let us know as soon as possible if this is something that you want so we can get the reservations completed. We have been communicating with the owners at the Auberge Hostel, 164 Delta Avenue in downtown Clarksdale and the Hampton Inn, 15000 New Africa Road and off of Highway 61. Both have wonderful accommodations so we just need to get that worked out if it will be helpful for you. We want to do whatever we can to bring you and your students to Clarksdale for the festival and coming in on Thursday or Friday might make things much easier for your travel.

We also want to update you on the Student Drama Competition (SDC) guidelines for this year so you can begin preparing your students.

As a reminder, the festival will be held Thursday, October 13th through Saturday, October 15th. The SDC will take place on Saturday morning from 9AM to noon at the Norman Brown Commons Building on the grounds of the Coahoma County Higher Education Center/Cutrer Mansion, 109 Clark Street, in Downtown Clarksdale. The competitors will perform from 9 AM to 11:15 AM, a performance feedback session while the judges deliberate from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM, and the winners will be announced around 11:45 AM. We will also host a pizza party on Saturday after the competition on the Cutrer property.

As always, the winners will be given the opportunity to perform their winning pieces during the Porch Plays that afternoon at 3pm.

At this time, we are undecided on whether or not a virtual component of the SDC will be held. If the trip to Clarksdale is truly unfeasible, we are open to working with you to accept virtual submissions. *Please* let us know as soon as possible if you still want to participate but cannot travel so we can prepare for virtual submissions. With that being said, the competition guidelines are as follows:

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Monologues:

Monologues should be from one of Williams' full length or one act plays, and run no longer than 90 seconds. Students must prepare a slate (name, school, character and show that the monologue is from). This introduction will **not** be factored into their time limit.

Each school can perform up to five monologues. Because we are back in person this year, we do have to keep within the set time allotted for the SDC.

Scenes:

Like monologues, scenes should be from a full length or one act play by Williams. The scene must be four minutes maximum, not factoring in the students' slate (students' names, school, and play). We will provide two tables and five chairs at the Festival. Any props or costumes your students wish to bring are encouraged! Set-up time is also not factored into the scene's time limit, but quick and professional set-up and take-down is appreciated.

Each school can perform one scene. However, the scene can involve as many actors as you want.

Stella Calling:

A time-honored tradition of the Festival, the "Stella" call will commence at this year's Festival. **Each school can have two contestants for the Stella Calling competition.** A few reminders:

For all of the competitions, perhaps especially the Stella Call, the full context of the work is important. It is **highly** encouraged that students read the play that they perform from. If your school does not have a Williams play your students will be performing from, please contact us and we will do our best to get you a copy.

We want students to have fun and be creative with the iconic "Stella...Stella...Stella!" scene, but it is imperative that the abuse and violence that the play, and the scene, depicts is understood and handled appropriately.

Because of the time constraints of the in-person festival, the newer "Splash Scene" competition will not take place this year. We hope that the inclusion of only monologues, scenes, and Stella Calling will allow you and your students to fine-tune those submissions and make for a great, well-rounded competition.

The "Intent to Participate" and registration forms will be sent out by September 1st. Once received, please have those filled out and sent back to me at actyner@gmail.com no later than September 15th, 2022.

Awards:

Winners will receive trophies on the day of the competition and cash prizes totalling \$3000 will be mailed about to your school's theater program within three weeks after the competition. Our goal is to mail the checks by November 7th and you should receive the check by November 15th.

Monologues:

1st place: \$550 and performance in porch play
2nd place: \$350 and performance in porch play
3rd place: \$250 and performance in porch play

Scenes:

1st place: \$550 and performance in porch play
2nd place: \$350
3rd place: \$250

Stella Calling:

1st place: \$150
2nd place: \$75

Outstanding Teacher Award (given at judges' discretion for quality learning, performance and participation of student ensemble): \$250

Additionally, judges will give out 3 distinct "Judges Awards" to students for \$75 each.

Thank you for your interest. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Very best regards,

Anna Carson Tyner

