



Good-night, sweet prince; And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.



JANUARY 12-15, 2023

The Lyric Theatre & Link Centre Tupelo, Mississippi

#MTARocks

#TUPELOROCKS

#MTA2023

#MSDoesGreatTheatre



TCT is extremely proud of the hard work of the cast & crew of *Once*. We can't wait to have this production back on stage.

Tupelo Community Theatre welcomes you to the historic Lyric Theatre.

Thank you for participating in MTA 2023 hosted in Tupelo.

We wish you "broken legs."

MISSISSIPPI THEATRE ASSOCIATION

ZOZ3 MTA FESTIVAL

Hosted by TUPELO COMMUNITY THEATRE JANUARY 12-15, 2023 TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR. Tom Booth
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR. Bronwyn Teague
HOST COMMITTEE CHAIR Tracie Conwill
PROGRAM Pattye Archer
PHOTOGRAPHER Sydnee Tapley
LIVE STREAM PRODUCER Katie Lewis

MTA DREAM TEAM

Harley Armstrong
Aysha Celestin
Esther Cloyd
Tabitha Hewitt-Rafferty
Kayla Jacobs

Olivia Kidd Reese Overstreet Alyssa Sheppard Riley Tuccio

SPECIAL THANKS

Please help us in expressing our gratitude to our hosts and festival coordinators for their hard work in organizing and preparing for this festival.

This festival would not be possible without the countless hours of work by the host theatre.

Very special thanks to all of the volunteers!

Tupelo Community Theatre Link Centre

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL THANKS

John Barnts | Tom Booth | Melanie Deas
Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau
Tom Hardy | Debbie Dunaway | Dianna Janus | Thomas La Foe
Long Beach High School: Carrie-Ferguson Bellew - South 10 Minute Festival Host
CREATE Foundation - Host of the 2022 MTA Teacher Workshop

MISSISSIPPI THEATRE ASSOCIATION

MTH OFFICERS AND BOARD

OFFICERS

Executive Director	Stacy Howell
President	-
Vice-President	Gabe Smith
Past-President	Tim Matheny
Treasurer	•
Secretary	Bronwyn Teague

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

10-Minute Festival Chair	
10-Minute Festival Vice-Chairs	Randy Ferino and Carrie Ferguson-Bellew
College & University Chair	Tim Matheny
College & University Co-Vice-Chairs	Rory Ledbetter and Cory Squires
Mississippi State Auditions Coordinator	Amy Smith
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Playwriting Division Chair (Youth)	Tonya Hays
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Individual Events Chair (Adult)	David Delk
Professional Division Chair	
SETC Representative	Tim Matheny

FESTIVAL SPONSORS

The Mississippi Theatre Association greatly acknowledges our sponsors. Without their support this festival would not be possible!



Mississippi Arts Commission
National Endowment for the Arts
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Show Up



MISSISSIPPI THEATRE ASSOCIATION FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the course of the last three years, theatre makers from all over the world have persevered and proven what many of us already knew, "theatre is magic and we are the magic makers." As I come to my final MTA State Festival as President, I look fondly back on all that we have accomplished and joyfully forward toward what is to come. I remain proud of the great theatre Mississippi artists continue to create, and I am humbled by and in awe of the commitment that each of you devotes to the making of our beautiful magic.

MTA 2023 brings unprecedented membership and participation, not just as "Post-Covid," but for any State festival held thus far. This is proof that theatre cannot be stopped. We follow the example of the Renaissance theatres - those 16th and 17th century arts institutions - that were reborn after their doors had been shuttered by



the plague. Like our ancestors, we rise from ashes that seemed, just months ago, to grind all public performances to a halt. But here we are: bigger, better, brighter than before. Congratulations to each of you!

As we celebrate beautiful theatre this weekend, I would like to take this opportunity to extend gratitude to those who made this larger-than-life festival possible. 2023 is the first year since 2010 that MTA has been held in Tupelo; it is exciting to be back! So first, thanks to Tom Booth, Tupelo Community Theatre, and the City of Tupelo for being our gracious hosts. Tom has worked tirelessly to secure (and resecure) venues for each of our festival events. This has been no small feat! If you happen to see Tom, TCT board members, volunteers, and theatre makers from the Tupelo community, please thank them for their generosity and graciousness.

Next, we are thrilled and grateful to have the Dream Team with us again this year. The 2023 Dream Team consists of nine collegiate volunteers who help ensure that the festival runs smoothly. Each of these incredible theatremakers has been involved with MTA since high school. They now choose to share their time and talent in support of our organization. Many of our Dream Team members are returning for their second or third year. Reese Overstreet, senior theatre major at University of Mississippi, is completing her fourth year on the Dream Team, an MTA record! We are so grateful for all of our Dream Team members; we could not do this without them!

This festival could not happen without the support of our Executive Committee and Board of Directors. These leaders have worked throughout the year to plan this festival and to continue the outreach and advocacy that are so important to the mission of the Mississippi Theatre Association. Division chairpeople have received feedback from you, our members, and made thoughtful adjustments to better accommodate your needs. We are so grateful for the volunteers on our Board of Directors. I would like to extend special thanks to our Past President, Tim Matheny, who continues to be a compassionate advisor to me and our board members, and to our Executive Director, Stacy Howell, who puts in countless hours for the betterment of MTA and is an incredibly supportive leader and friend.

Finally, to the people who turn this weekend into the incredible festival you attend: Thanks to each of our adjudicators, workshop presenters, and volunteers. And, thanks to YOU: to our members and guests. I am exceptionally grateful to everyone involved in MTA in any way – both this weekend and throughout the calendar year.

Thank you for joining us in Tupelo this weekend, thank you for continuing to create magic, and thank you for demonstrating once again that MISSISSIPPI DOES GREAT THEATRE!



THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

12:30 P.M. Registration Opens

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre, Lobby

1:00 P.M. High School Directors Meeting

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre, Stage

5:00 P.M. Registration Closes

5:00 P.M. College & University Auditions - Check-In

One director per theatre

Location: Link Centre, Glass Lobby

5:00 P.M. Technical Audition Display Set Up

Location: Link Centre, Margaret Ann Murphy Gallery

6:00 P.M. College & University Auditions - Technical Auditions

Location: Link Centre, Margaret Ann Murphy Gallery

Reception Hall (Holding Room for Performers)

6:00 P.M. Secondary Teacher CEU Meeting

All teachers receiving CEUs must be present Location: Link Centre, Library (Room 109)

7:00 P.M. College & University Auditions - Performance Auditions

Location: Link Centre

Black Box Theatre (Performance Auditions) Reception Hall (Holding Room for Performers)

7:00 P.M. SECONDARY IMPROV SHOW

Presented by West of Shake Rag Location: Link Centre, Concert Hall

9:00 P.M. College & University Division Meeting

Location: Hotel Tupelo

2023 MTA STATE FESTIVAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

MTA recognizes that this event is taking place on Chickasaw and Yuchi land, otherwise known as Tupelo, Mississippi.

This acknowledgement comes with an understanding of the violent history of colonialism, the current struggles of indigenous people, and a commitment to honor the truth and dignity of indigenous stories, sovereignty, and humanity.

MISSISSIPPI THEATRE ASSOCIATION

MISSION: To foster appreciation and participation in theatre.

VISION STATEMENT: A Mississippi where art is valued through the power of theatre.

VALUES: ACE

- Advocate To publicly support or recommend a particular cause or policy.
- Communicate Share or exchange information, news, or ideas.
- *Educate* To train by formal instruction, and supervised practice especially in a trade, skill, or profession.

OVERALL GOALS:

- Acting as an advocate to government agencies, businesses, and the public.
- Sponsoring festivals, workshops, and networking opportunities.
- Communicating with members and the public.
- Recognizing excellence in performance and production.
- Sanctioning representatives to regional festivals.





Friday, January 13, 2023

MTA Festival Registration Opens 7:00 A.M.

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

Secondary Festival Doors Open 7:45 A.M.

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

Theatre For Youth Festival 8:00 A.M.

Location: Link Centre, Concert Hall

8:00 а.м. **Secondary Festival Welcome**

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

8:15 A.M. SECONDARY PERFORMANCE BLOCK I

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

Aunt Leaf

By Barbara Wiechmann Produced by Arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company Directed by Sarah Hankins



★ Disclaimer: Death of Family Member

SAINT MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL

The Inexplicable Chaos Factor of Mia Gregory

By Emily Hageman Produced by Arrangement with Stage Partners Directed by Sarah Bartos



→ Disclaimers: Mature Content, Excessively Loud Sounds, Performers Moving Into Audience / House, Emotional Violence, Domestic Abuse, Suicide, Suicidal Ideation, and / or Self Harm

STONE HIGH SCHOOL

Pains, Twains, and Something Surreal

By Jordan West Original Work Directed by Jordan West



Disclaimers: Historical Discrimination, Alcohol / Drugs / Substance Abuse





Friday, January 13, 2023

LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL

The Crucible

By Arthur Miller

Produced by Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service

Directed by Louis Codling



→ Disclaimers: Mature Content, Adult Language / Profanity, Excessively Loud

Sounds, Emotional Violence, Child Abuse

12:15 P.M. **Lunch Break**

2:30 р.м. **WORKSHOPS**

Location: Link Centre

See Workshop Schedule on pages 20-25 for complete list and locations

4:00 P.M. **Secondary Festival Doors Open**

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

4:05 P.M. SECONDARY PERFORMANCE BLOCK II

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

JACKSON ACADEMY We Shall By Morning

By Kerri Sanders

Original Work

Directed by Kerri Sanders



Disclaimers: Adult Language / Profanity, Historical Discrimination, Emotional Violence

OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

A Breach in the Darkness

By Suzanne Allmon

Original Work

Directed by Suzanne Allmon



★ Disclaimers: Firearms and / or Weapons, Fog / Haze Effects, Black Light

We will have an overflow room on Friday in the Concert Hall of the Link Centre for watching the secondary productions.







⁻RIDAY, **J**ANUARY **13, 2023**

OCEAN SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL ¡Bocón!

> By Lisa Loomer Directed by Chris Permenter Produced by Arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company

Disclaimers: Excessively Loud Sounds, Lighting Effects (e.g. strobe)

NORTHWEST RANKIN HIGH SCHOOL

Babette's Feast

By Rose Courtney; Conceived and developed by Abigail Killeen;

Adapted from the short story by Isak Dinesen

Directed by Juniper Wallace

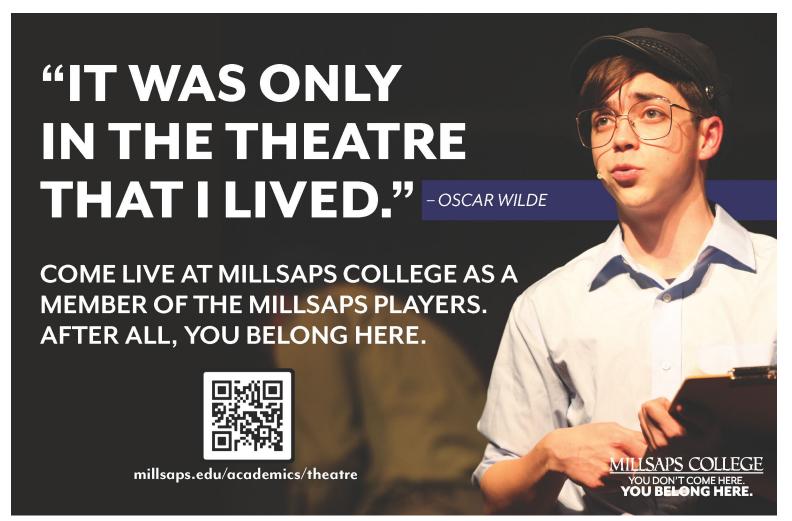
Produced by Arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company

7:00 P.M. **Adult Individual Events Festival**

Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre

7:50 р.м. **Dinner Break**









8:00 A.M. **Registration Opens**

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre, Lobby

8:00 A.M. **Individual Events Team Leader Meeting**

Location: Link Centre, Room 216

8:30 A.M. **Individual Festival**

Location: Link Centre

Concert Hall, Choir Room, Room 200, Room 206, 105, Room 119, Reception Hall

(Technical Individual Events)

WORKSHOPS 9:00 A.M.

Location: Link Centre

See Workshop Schedule on pages 20-25 for complete list and locations

9:00 A.M. **Community Theatre Welcome**

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

9:15 а.м. COMMUNITY THEATRE PERFORMANCE BLOCK I

Location: The Lyric Theatre, Tupelo Community Theatre

MS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Beauty in the Heart

By Amile Wilson

Produced by Arrangement with New Play Exchange

Directed by Amile Wilson



Disclaimers: Mature Content, Adult Language, Profanity

STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

Underneath the Lintel

By Glen Berger

Produced by Arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing

Directed by Paula Mabry



★ Disclaimers: Mature Content, Historical Discrimination

WORKSHOPS 10:00 а.м.

Location: Link Centre

See Workshop Schedule on pages 20-25 for complete list and locations

WORKSHOPS 11:00 а.м.

Location: Link Centre

See Workshop Schedule on pages 20-25 for complete list and locations

12:15 P.M. Lunch Break

WORKSHOPS 1:00 P.M.

Location: Link Centre

See Workshop Schedule on pages 20-25 for complete list and locations

1:00 р.м. Adult Playwriting Festival – Staged Reading

Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre

First Place Winner: Flyover by Thomas Easterling

2:00 р.м. WORKSHOPS

Location: Link Centre

See Workshop Schedule on pages 20-25 for complete list and locations

2:00 р.м. Youth Playwriting Festival – Staged Reading

> Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre Sponsored by William Carey University

> > First Place Winner: View from Inside the China Cabinet by Elliott Nix

2:00 р.м.

Secondary Division Meeting

Location: Link Centre, Room 106

2:00 P.M.

Community Theatre Doors Open

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

2:05 P.M.

COMMUNITY THEATRE PERFORMANCE BLOCK II

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

THE CENTER PLAYERS

Aunt Jane of Kentucky, Sally Ann's Experience

Written by Betty Jo Mahaffey

Original Work

Directed by Betty Jo Mahaffey

MERIDIAN LITTLE THEATRE

Drinks on Me

By Prince Duren Original Work

Directed by Anquanizia Hall



Disclaimers: Mature Content, Adult Language, Profanity, Firearms/Weapons, Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse

3:00 р.м.

WORKSHOPS

Location: Link Centre

See Workshop Schedule on pages 20-25 for complete list and locations



5:15 P.M. Dinner Break

7:00 P.M. Community Theatre Doors Open

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

7:05 P.M. COMMUNITY THEATRE PERFORMANCE BLOCK III

Location: The Lyric Theatre – Tupelo Community Theatre

TUPELO COMMUNITY THEATRE

Once

By Edna Walsh

Produced by Arrangement with Music Theatre International

Directed by Tom Booth

★ Disclaimers: Adult Language, Profanity

8:00 P.M. Youth Social (See details on page 37)

8:30 P.M. Community Theatre Division Meeting

Location: Tupelo Community Theatre

9:30 P.M. Adult Social

Location: Tupelo Community Theatre Sponsored by Ludus and Our Group Tour

Thank you to our wonderful 2023 hosts,
Tupelo Community Theatre!

You guys
FIGER



SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

9:30 A.M. MTA Annual Business Meeting

Location: Cadence Bank Arena & Conference Center, West Hall

10:00 A.M. MTA COMMUNITY THEATRE AWARDS CEREMONY

Location: Cadence Bank Arena & Conference Center, West Hall

10:30 A.M. MTA Secondary Theatre Awards Ceremony Doors Open

Location: Cadence Bank Arena & Conference Center, West Hall

10:45 A.M. MTA SECONDARY THEATRE AWARDS CEREMONY

Location: Cadence Bank Arena & Conference Center, West Hall



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Anquanizia "Tia" Hall, Chair Randy Ferino, Advisor

Esther Newell, Vice-Chair Francine Reynolds, Member

Yolanda Williams, Advisor Tim Matheny, Member



A representative of the EDI committee will be available for discussion on the Friday and Saturday of the festival at the vendor expo, during lunch and workshop times.



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

Time	School	Selection	Audience
8:00 AM	Ocean Springs High School	The Snow Queen by Rachel Teagle	All Audiences
8:40	Pearl Junior High School	Winnie the Pooh by Lindsay Price	Grades K-2
9:20	Oak Grove High Theatre	The Ruffians (Jack and the Beanstalk) by Laura Joye	Grades K-2
10:00	Theatre Games	Ruthie Taylor and Keri Horn	
10:40	Biloxi High School	You Can Grow! by S.K. Grammar and C.M. Grammar	Grades K-3
11:20	Break		
12:00 PM	Gulfport High School	Gammer Gurton's Needle by IE Clark	Grades 2-6
12:40	Northwest Rankin High School	Celeste Original Production by Kennedy Carruth, Madison DeVaul, Makyla Fleming	Grades 3-6
1:20	Clinton High School	Folk Tails by Lisa L. Abbott	Grades K-6
2:00	St. Martin High School	The Struggles by Kendra Thomas	Grades 5-6



DEPARTMENT of THEATRE & COMMUNICATION

To all the Theatre for Youth participants, Break a leg! You've got this!

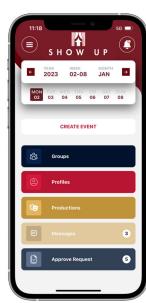




EDUCATIONAL THEATRE JUST GOT A LOT EASIER!

Show Up connects teachers, students and parents on one app for communication, casting, scheduling, production management, and more!





showuponstage.com

Seniors 2023 Theatre **Break a Leg!** Congratulations on your last MTA. St. Martin High School

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

Location: Link Centre

This schedule is tentative and is subject to change. End times are approximate.

Hospitality Room – Room 216

Tabulation Room – Room 215

Directors Meeting – Room 105

Warm Up Room – Room 119

Performance IEs Rooms – Concert Hall, Choir Room, 200, 206

Technical IEs Room – Reception Hall

- Students are asked to remain quiet in the hallways and outside of rooms.
- Students are encouraged to watch finals but must be polite audience members.
- Doors will be opened after each 5th performance to allow participants to quickly enter/exit the room.
- If a student breaks to more than one final round, he/she should report his/her first event and then report to his/her second event.

7:30 а.м.	Meeting for Directors of Students Participating in Final IEs and Technical IEs
1.50 A.M.	MICCHIE IN DIECTOR OF STRUCTUS FAFTICIDALIES IN FINALIES AND LECTIONALIES

Location: Room 105

7:45 A.M. Warm Up Room Opens

Location: Room 119

8:00-8:45 A.M. Technical IEs: Flight 1 Set Up Displays; Flights 2-8 Load In

Location: Reception Hall

8:00-8:45 A.M. Judges Report

Location: Room 216 (Hospitality Room)

8:30-8:55 A.M. Event Rooms Open for Seating (Doors will close at 8:55 a.m.)

9:00 A.M. Flight 1 Performance Events and Flight 1 Technical Events Begin

YOUTH INDIVIDUAL EVENTS FESTIVAL FINALS ADJUDICATORS

- Kristina Myers
- Jeff Glass
- Amy Smith
- Bradley Robinson
- Carol Joy Sparkman
- Joe Jackson
- Shannon McDowell
- Neill Kelly
- CC Allgood

- Cory Squires
- Keri Horn
- Kathy Newman
- Jake Yenish
- Donna Buckley
- Cody Stockstill
- Ben Allmon
- Ruthie Taylor
- Lisa Hargett

- Sam Sparks
- Tim Matheny
- Natalie Gault
- Jade Keaton
- Allyn Hackman



PERFORMANCE EVENTS FLIGHTS

ACTING – SOLO (ROOM 200)

Flight 1 - 9:00-9:25

Flight 2 - 9:30-9:55

Flight 3 - 10:00-10:25

BREAK - 10:25-10:45

Flight 4 - 10:45-11:10

Flight 5 - 11:15-11:40

Flight 6 - 11:45-12:15

DUETS (CHOIR ROOM)

Acting - Duet

Flight 1 - 9:00-9:35

Flight 2 - 9:40-10:15

Flight 3 - 10:20-11:05

BREAK - 11:05-11:25

Musical – Duet

Flight 4 - 11:30-12:05

Flight 5 - 12:10-12:45

Flight 6 - 12:40-1:25

Musical – Solo (Room 206)

Flight 1 - 9:00-9:35

Flight 2 - 9:40-10:25

Flight 3 - 10:30-11:15

BREAK - 11:15-11:30

Flight 4 - 11:30-12:05

Flight 5 - 12:10-12:45

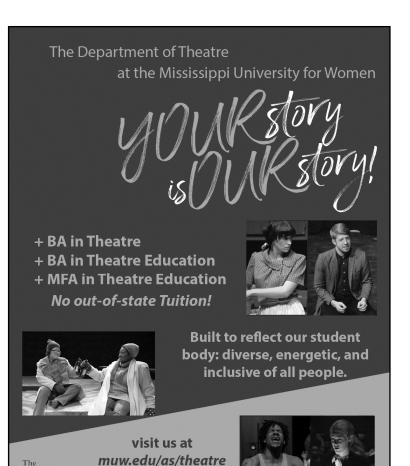
Flight 6 - 12:50-1:25

ACTING – GROUP (Concert Hall)

Flight 1 - 9:00-9:35

Flight 2 - 9:40-10:15







Louisville, KY

Find us on Facebook

TECHNICAL EVENT FLIGHTS

Flight 1 Setup / Flights 2-8 Load-in – 8:00-8:45 Flight 1 – 9:00-9:40

Strike Flight 1 / Setup Flight 2 - 9:40-9:45

Flight 2 – 9:45-10:25

Strike Flight 2 / Setup Flight 3 - 10:25-10:30

Flight 3 - 10:30 - 11:10

Strike Flight 3 / Setup Flight 4 - 11:10 - 11:15

Flight 4 – 11:15-11:55

Strike Flight 4 / Setup Flight 5 – 11:55-12:30

LUNCH BREAK - 11:55-12:30

Flight 5 – 12:30-1:10

Strike Flight 5 / Setup Flight 6 – 1:10-1:15

Flight 6 – 1:15-1:55

Strike Flight 6 / Setup Flight 7 – 1:55-2:00

Flight 7 - 2:00-2:40

Strike Flight 7 / Setup Flight 8 – 2:40-2:45

Flight 8 - 2:45-3:25

Strike Flight 8 - 3:25-3:30

Costume Design – Flights 1-8

Scenic Design – Flights 1-5

Makeup Design – Flights 6-8

Publicity Design – Flights 1-6

ODEO – Flights 1-4

Teacher GroupMe



There is a teachers' Group!Me to give groups real time updates, to keep up with MTA 2023 Youth Individual Event information, updates, and changes.

Visit https://groupme.com/
join group/84093396/20QwzluT

PRELIMINARY YOUTH IE ADJUDICATORS

Karissa Barber

Joe Frost

Erin Gill

Sharon Miles

Lacey Smith

Derek Van Barham

Ashia Benford

Peppy Biddy

Jennifer Patin

Allie Bennett

Georgina Christou

W 15 1'

Ward Emling

Dustin Pence

Donna Seage

Richard Younce

Magda Mirelez

Francine Reynolds

Theon Wilkerson

CC Allgood

Cindi Bullard

Taylor Galvin

Anna Lise Jensen

Temperance Jones

Randy Redd

Brodrick Ryans

Christian Scott David Sollish

Mary Frances Boyd

Neill Kelly

Jessica Manzo Derrick

PJ Padgett

Tara Padgett

Claire Porter

Lisa Hargett

Lexie Lang

Lexie Lang

Michael Dendy Turner Crumbley

Elissa Sartwell

Carol Joy Sparkman

74th ANNUAL CONVENTION





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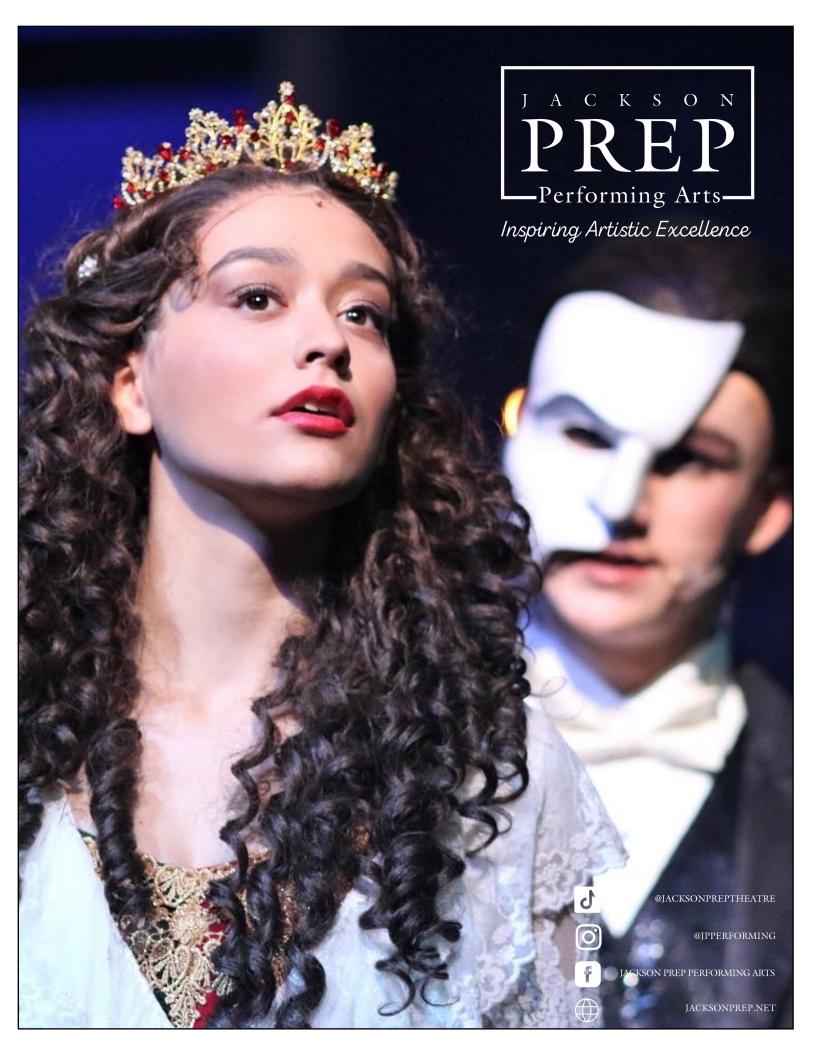
Educational & Commercial Exhibit Hall

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...& more!

MAR. 1-5, 2023 **CONVENTION.SETC.ORG**



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Тниворяу, Јямияву 12, 2023 7:00-9:00 г.м.

West of Shake Rag Interactive Improvisational Theatre Experience

Location: Link Centre, Concert Hall

West of Shake Rag



Come join West of Shake Rag in an interactive, entertaining, and educational improvisational experience.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

Z:30 F.M.

Wait, What?! Why Are They Singing???? Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre Katrina Ploof, AACT Representative



Based upon the work of David Ball presented in his book *Backwards & Forwards* this workshop is for directors and actors alike who find themselves scratching their heads whilst unraveling the mysteries of character and motivation in musical theatre. In this workshop we will use Ball's techniques and suggestions to answer such pressing questions as: "Why does Donkey love Shrek, despite how badly he's treated??" and "Can someone tell me how to make sense of the 20 seconds it takes Cossette and Marius to fall in love?" Come learn how to put both lyrics and dialogue to the test that can reveal honesty and depth in even the most ludicrous of situations.

Special Effects Makeup

Location: Link Centre, Library – Room 109 Matthew Grant, Cleveland High School

Students will have the opportunity to learn some basic theater special effects makeup tricks like bruises, cuts, wrinkles, etc...

Weeding Your Garden: Uprooting White Supremacy Culture

Location: Link Centre, Room 216

Esther Margaret, Teacher, Activist, MTA EDI Committee Member

Join theatre teacher, activist, and MTA EDI Committee Vice-Chair Esther Margaret as they lead an intergenerational discussion and collective imagining around what a multi-racial, multi-cultural beloved community of love and justice in Mississippi can look like. We will discuss and visualize (via pen/marker and paper) the values and mission of MTA's EDI committee to see what resonates with attendees. Then, drawing on Tema Okun's influential "Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture," participants will identify which characteristics they feel most affected by and discuss how they show up in their life. We will then use art-making to imagine what it might look or feel like to uproot this self-identified "weed" from both their individual "garden" and our collective garden. Please join us in this collective art-making activity!

Z:30 F.M.

The Team Effect

Location: Link Centre, Room 200 Kay Armstrong, Adjudicator

An open discussion: Whether director, music director, costumer, tech designer, performer, board operator, or volunteer with a hammer or paintbrush: YOU are a part of a TEAM to successfully accomplish the production....from earliest stages to opening night. Sharing and overcoming the challenges of working through the emotional and ego conflicts as well as the sharing of goals.

Setting the Scene: Staging a Theatrical Beginning to a Play

Location:Link Centre, Room 206 Emma Denson, Adjudicator

One of the most important jobs of the director is to invite the audience into the world of the play. This workshop will take participants through the process of establishing the world of the story from the beginning of the play, sometimes creating a theatrical event before the dialogue even starts. They will then be divided into groups, and each group will be given a different opening to a play. The groups will then work together to pitch a staging of their opening scene, using the components discussed in the first part of the workshop. The workshop will end with a feedback session from the other groups.

Theatre Knot Tying 101

Location: Link Centre, Room 119 Jesse Wade, Mississippi State University

Join us for this hands-on workshop to learn effective theatre knot tying techniques.

Character Choices

Location: Link Centre, Room 105

Layla Young, StoryWorks Theatre Company

Layla Young, Lead Teaching Artist for StoryWorks Theatre Company, will provide tips and tools for actors when making choices for their character. Through a series of activities and exercises participants will think about their character's objective and tactic(s) used to reach the objective. By the end actors will be able to make choices that are intentional and grounded in their character.



The Mississippi Department of Education seeks to create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and in the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens. To make this vision a reality, all students must be given multiple pathways to success, and teachers and administrators must continue to meet the challenges of this ever-changing landscape of public education.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Working as a Professional Theatre Artist ~ A Conversation

Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre

Marianne Savell, Adjudicator



As a long time professional actor, director, teacher/professor and playwright I love to share information that will help theatre makers get where they want as an artist and citizen of the world. Engaging with their dreams and their humanity we will discuss nurturing their art, determining where to live and how to pursue a life in the theatre.

Theatre Knot Tying 101

Location: Link Centre, Library – Room 109 Jesse Wade, Mississippi State University

Join us for this hands-on workshop to learn effective theatre knot tying techniques.

10:00 A.M.

"But You Don't Understand"

Location: Link Centre, Library - Room 109

Richelle Putnam, Adjudicator



In this monologue workshop, attendees write and perform a short monologue. Attendees draw from the "writing prompt" box a scenario from which they will create their convincing monologue, which will begin with "But you don't understand …" This is a fun workshop with lots of audience interaction.

Lab Rats Comedy Improv

Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre

Mississippi State University Lab Rats Improvisational Troupe

This workshop introduces players to the basic rules of improv and fundamental performance techniques. The second half of the workshop is comprised of a mock audition process, to give players a feel for what collegiate and professional improv troupe auditions might entail. Students will be participating in scenes with workshop leaders, and with one another, as well as doing group warmups and activities.

Vital Part of the Process: The Playwriting Workshop

Location: Link Centre, Room 115

Sarah Grammar, MTA Adult Playwriting Chair

So you've written a play (or part of a play): now what? One of the most vital parts of the playwriting process is the workshop, where actors read the script with minimal direction or none at all. This crucial step allows the playwright to hear their words aloud and gives life to emerging work. In this session, participants will learn about the play workshopping process, how to cultivate a constructive workshop audience, and what to do with a script after the workshop concludes. Attendees are encouraged to bring a hardcopy of an original scene suitable for a mixed age audience.

11:00 a.m.

Life as a Working Theatre Artist

Location: Link Centre, Library - Room 109

Shameca Freeman, Adjudicator



This workshop is for those that plan on having a career in the entertainment industry. We will discuss choices that theatre artist have to take to make it in the industry, as well as, how to support yourself financially.

Theatre Creation: Making New Work

Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre Joseph Frost, The Floodlight Theatre Company

Interested in learning to collaborate in making a new play? We'll learn to use devising techniques to build and assemble small moments into short pieces for performance - good for students, teachers, or any community interesting in making new things together.





Lunch Pick Up

Lunches can be picked up in the Glass Lobby of the Link Centre.



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, **J**ANUARY **14**, **ZQZ3 1:00** г.м.

Ludus: More Than Ticketing (focus on fundraising, marketing, classes and collections)

Location: Link Centre, Room 106

Kagen Miller, Ludus

The business part of Theatre doesn't have to be difficult. Teachers and directors will learn how to run their ticketing, fundraising campaigns, marketing emails, classes, and trip payments all in one easy platform! Ludus will keep everything organized and offer you more time to focus on the fun stuff! Product Specialist Kaghen Miller will discuss ways for directors/boosters/box office staff to fill their seats while making it easy for patrons! He will also discuss ways to increase sales and profits!

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Bard

Location: Link Centre, Room 115 Amile Wilson, MS Shakespeare Festival

Shakespeare and other classical works!

Fill Your Teaching Toolbox with GAMES!

Location: Link Centre, Library – Room 109 Sarah Bartos, St. Martin High School



How many GAMES can we get through?? WHO KNOWS! Come see how you can fill your teacher toolbox with games to develop skills in a fun, engaging way. We have games to get class started. Games to develop an ensemble. Games to practice improv skills. Games to get those creative juices flowing. PLUS games that are just downright fun and will bring your class to tears with laughter. Come watch a team of high school students demonstrate as many games as possible in the time allowed. You'll see oldie but goodie games plus new games as well. You will go home with all of the games described, instructions on how to make them work in your class, and a newfound love of all GAMES!

The Penguin Project

Location: Link Centre, Room 105 Kristy Meanor, SETC Representative

Come and learn more about The Penguin Project, a special needs outreach program of the Wetumpka Depot Players. The Penguin Project is a performance based program that pairs disabled children and teenagers, also known as artists, with non-disabled kids as mentors. The mentors guide the children with special needs throughout rehearsal and stay on stage with them during performances.



Z:00 F.M.

Script Analysis That Helps

Location: Link Centre, Room 115 Amile Wilson, MS Shakespeare Festival

How do you dive in and start to imagine words on a page coming to life? Learn a variety of tools to help analyze scripts and make your performances come alive!

Introduction to Long-Form Improv

Location: Link Centre, Concert Hall

Anubis Improv

Improvised creativity comes so naturally to us as children, but we often lose sight of its value as adults. Improv comedy training can help us begin to once again work out those creative "muscles," leading to more confident social interactions, stronger professional and personal relationships, and a regular outlet for joy in our lives. Drawing from eight years and thousands of hours of teaching and coaching experience, this workshop will introduce the fundamentals of long-form improv, including "Yes, and...," "If this, then what," and The Formula of Improv.

3:00 F.M.

Lab Rats Comedy Improv

Location: Link Centre, Concert Hall

Mississippi State University Lab Rats Improvisational Troupe

This workshop introduces players to the basic rules of improv and fundamental performance techniques. The second half of the workshop is comprised of a mock audition process, to give players a feel for what collegiate and professional improv troupe auditions might entail. Students will be participating in scenes with workshop leaders, and with one another, as well as doing group warmups and activities.







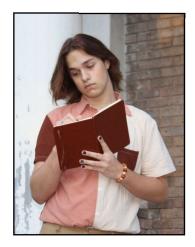
Elliott Nix of Laurel – View from Inside the China Cabinet Simone Smith of MSA Brookhaven – Flatline Jordan of Hazelhurst – Something Domestic Darren England of Ocean Springs – Azael's Knife Emma Stapp of Louisville – Selfish Creatures

WINNERS

Elliott Nix, first place for View from Inside the China Cabinet Emma Stapp, second place for Selfish Creatures Jordan Brown, third place for Something Domestic

SECONDARY JUDGES

Jesse Wade, Kathryn Lewis, and John Haman



Elliott Nix

SECONDARY PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL STAGED READING OF View from Inside the China Cabinet Sponsored by William Carey University

SATURDAY | 2 P.M.

Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre Reading Directed by Tonya Hays Readers - Golden Triangle Theatre Academy under the direction of Garrett Torbert. Eddie Sweeney, Chi Sweeney, Michaela Chunn

ADULT FINALISTS AND AWARD WINNERS

Thomas Easterling of the MS School of Math and Science – Flyover Joedda Gore and Robin Beasley of Clinton – Caldwell Phillip of Tupelo High School Theatre - Bum Rush Cindy Grammar of Biloxi - Four Part Harmony Randy Ferino of Meridian - Freedom Day

WINNER

Thomas Easterling - Flyover

ADULT JUDGES

Eli Schleicher and John Haman



Thomas Easterling

ADULT PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL STAGED READING OF Flyover SATURDAY | 1 P.M.

Location: Link Centre, Black Box Theatre Reading Directed by Sarah Grammar

Readers – Kelyse Spillers of Biloxi High School, Tonya Hays of Mississippi State University, Tre' Patton of Biloxi High School, Jayce Cummings of Biloxi High School, Jordan West of Stone High School, Jade Keaton of Mississippi State University, Jesse Wade of Mississippi State University, and Jeffrey Glassheim.

COLLEGESANUUNIUERSITIES



THANK YOU TO THESE OUTSTANDING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES!



Belhaven University
Millsaps College
Mississippi State University
Mississippi University for Women
Pearl River Community College
Troy University
University of Mississippi Department of Theatre and Film
University of Mobile
University of South Alabama
University of Southern Mississippi
William Carey University Theatre

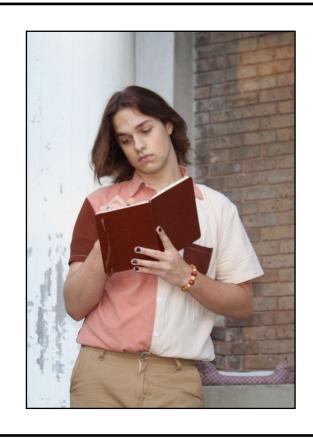
Congratulations to

Elliott Nix

First Place Winner of the Youth Playwriting Festival, and to all of the participants, from William Carey University.



DEPARTMENT of THEATRE & COMMUNICATION



Be a part of the conversation.

EQUALITY INCLUSION IDENTITY

M RoyalYallimprov@gmail.com

MTA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Survey All MTA event participants, attendees, and members are encouraged to complete this anonymous survey so MTA's EDI committee can better meet the needs and voices of everyone in our theatre community.



(O) @RoyalYallimprov

Visit us in the Margaret Ann Murphy Gallery in the Link Centre, 11:30 - 2:00 pm on Friday and Saturday.



If you'd like us to perform or teach at your next conference, reunion, or gathering, contact us:

1 @TheRoyalYallMS



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY





Bachelor of Fine Arts

- Scriptwriting (Available fully online)
- · Theatre for Young Audiences

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Concentrations

- Musical Theatre
- . Performance
- Design



www.wmcarey.edu

ZUZE MTH ADJUDICATORS

SECONDARY DIVISION

SHAMECA FREEMAN

Shameca is a theatre artist hailing from Radcliff, KY. She is a graduate from Western Kentucky University with BFA in Theatre (1998) and a BA in Psychology (2016), and most recently, a graduate from Regent University with an MFA in Film and Television (2021). She has worked with a variety of theatre companies and has toured 48 states and seven countries. Shameca currently works as the Operations Management Specialist for SETC and is an Adjunct Professor of Theatre at the University of Northern Colorado. In her spare time, she enjoys playwriting, directing, acting, and costuming.

JEFF GLASS

Jeff serves on the Alabama Conference of Theatre Board as the current President after previously serving as a Vice President and the Secondary Division Chair. He also serves the Alabama Educational Theatre Association Board as Secretary. Jeff currently teaches Theatre I & II, Musical Theatre, and Technical Theatre at Wetumpka High School. Jeff attended Auburn University Montgomery and interned at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He is a designer, director, and playwright who is the recipient of the Golden Apple teaching award, the 2018 Alabama Conference of Theatre Dorothy Schwartz Outstanding Educator Award, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's 2018 Alabama Educator of the Year, the 2019-2020 Alabama Thespians Teacher of the Year, and the 2020 ACT Secondary Theatre Teacher of the Year. Most recently he was named Elmore County Schools 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year. Jeff is the Director of the Wetumpka High Theatre Guild. He is thrilled to be back at MTA after adjudicating the Secondary Festival in 2019, where he witnessed Mississippi's long history of excellent storytelling through several brilliant shows!

MARIANNE SAVELL

Marianne is an actor (University of Illinois PATP, MFA), director, teacher and playwright. She's taught and directed at many Universities including Belhaven in Jackson, Mississippi. Marianne served as the Producing Director of Actors Co-op in Hollywood, California where she directed many productions including WIT, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN, HAMLET, KING LEAR, LONG DAYS JOURNEY INTO NIGHT and the world premiere of GULF VIEW DRIVE. She's an alumnus of Director's Lab West and the New Harmony Project and a member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA and SDC.



Shameca Freeman



Jeff Glass



MARIANNE SAVELL

COMMUNITY THEATRE DIVISION

KAY ARMSTRONG

Kay has served on the AACT board since 1996, including 10 years as Chair of the Festival Commission and four years as VP of Festivals. She took AACT adjudicator training from Annette Procunier and David Young (author, "How to Direct a Musical") and has enjoyed adjudicating over 12 festivals (two regional, six state, and four secondary-level. Since 2018, she has served as an adjudicator for Dallas Summer Musicals High School Musical Awards (part of the Jimmy Awards) which involves 70 high schools. Kay was Exec Dir for OCTA for nine years and coordinated state and regional festivals as well as serving on the Performance Auditions Committee for Oklahoma Arts Institute and as liaison to the Oklahoma Arts Council, sitting on the theatre arts grants committee. She became Exec Dir for the North Texas Dance Council in 2003 and produced four annual dance festivals as well as served on the Dallas Arts Council's grants committee for theatre and dance for 3 yrs. She is especially proud of a daughter who was an award-winning theatre teacher in high and secondary for 16 years. Of her seven grandchildren, she actively brags about the two who are college theatre majors on full scholarship and the two who are award-winning musicians and singers.

EMMA DENSON

Emma is an Alabama born, New York-based writer and director of theatre. In January 2023, she will direct a reading of her and Dr. Maria Rewakowicz' bilingual adaptation of *Hunger* at Irish Arts Center for Origin Theatre Company's First Irish Festival. Her short play *Otis and Anna* will premiere at Downtown Urban Arts Festival 2023. Emma's adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew*, which puts the play in conversation with *The Feminine Mystique* and the Italian immigrant experience, was commissioned by Salvatore LaRussa Dance Theatre in Queens for a staging in May, 2023. Selected credits: *The Keening* (Assistant Director, Irish Arts Center), *The Taming of Kate* (Director/Devisor, Triskellion Arts), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Director, Stagedoor Manor), *Emily* (Director, The Chain), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Assistant Director, Classical Theatre Harlem Young Company), *Blanche and Stella* (Assistant Director, Columbia University), *Top Hate* (Director, Staged Reading at Arts on Site) www.emmadenson.com

Adam M. Miller

Adam Miller holds an M.F.A. in Theatre Management/Arts Administration from The University of Alabama, having interned at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He served as the Director of Marketing & Public Relations for the LSU Department of Theatre and their affiliated Equity theatre, Swine Palace Productions, for more than three years. Adam has served as the Managing Director of Theatre Tuscaloosa at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, since 2010. He also enjoys acting, teaching, and directing, having performed and taught professionally with the Bijou Theatre Center in Knoxville, TN, and Playmakers of Baton Rouge, LA, and taught arts classes at UA, LSU, and Shelton State. He has directed with Playmakers of Baton Rouge, Theatre Tuscaloosa, and Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre.



KAY ARMSTRONG



Emma Denson



ADAM MILLER

ZUZS MTH FOR YOUTH

MELANIE DEAS

Melanie Deas has worked as an arts manager, writer, director, designer, educator, translator, and dramaturg across the United States for more than three decades. She is a member and former Vice President of Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, an international professional organization. She served three years on the three-person panel judging the annual dramaturgy prize for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (Region I). Melanie received her AB in History and Literature from Harvard and her MFA training in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism from Yale School of Drama. She returned to her hometown of Tupelo in 2007, to serve as Executive Director of Link Centre where she plans and implements programs and services that support the arts, education, cultural awareness, diversity, health, and welfare to make a vital difference for the Tupelo and northeast Mississippi region.

RICHELLE PUTNAM

Richelle is a Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) Teaching Artist/Roster Artist (Literary), a Mississippi Humanities Speaker, and a 2020 and 2014 MAC Literary Arts Fellowship recipient. Her YA biography, *The Inspiring Life of Eudora Welty* (The History Press, April 2014), received the 2014 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Silver Medal. In November 2021, Arcadia Publishing released her latest book *Mississippi In the Great Depression*, containing more than 200 photos and detailed captions, in its "Images of America" series. She co-wrote *Was It Worth It*, which won first place in the Tallahatchie Riverfest's William Faulkner Playwriting Competition. The co-writers performed the one-act play on stages around Mississippi. Richelle also co-wrote *Women of Potta Chitto* and the soundtrack. The play showed on two community theatre stages, and she performed the soundtrack in venues around the state. She earned her BS in Marketing Management at Western Governors University and is currently pursuing her Master of Arts in Creative Writing at the University of North Alabama. As a writer and teaching artist, her mission is to help youth experience the beauty of words and to realize their power.



MELANIE DEAS



RICHELLE PUTNAM



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AACTFEST REPRESENTATIVE SETC REPRESENTATIVE

KATRINA PLOOF

Katrina came to directing after an extensive acting career touring the US and Canada for 20 years. Since 1990 Katrina has directed more than 200 plays, musicals, readings and concerts including works by Sondheim, Chekov, Wasserstein, Wilder, the world premiere of T.K. Lee's Paper Thin and the regional premiere of *The Laramie Project*. In recent years she has received 9 nominations and 4 awards as Best Director from Broadway World Orlando for her work throughout Central Florida. She has also received Best Director and Best Actress awards from the American Association of Community Theatre, Southeastern Theatre Conference and the Florida Theatre Conference. Katrina is also an acting coach and teacher and works with private and public school students throughout Central Florida. As a playwright, she has collaborated on adaptations of works by Charles Dickens and Kenneth Graham, and an original work about the travels of an extraordinary giraffe who became the first resident of the Paris Zoo. Katrina has been a member of the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors' Laboratory since 2000, and has served as a theatre festival adjudicator more than 50 times throughout the U.S. and Canada since 1995.



KATRINA PLOOF

KRISTY MEANOR

Kristy has spent a lifetime in theatre as an actor, director designer and producer. During her 17 year tenure with the Wetumpka Depot Players, she has served as the Artistic Director. Under her leadership the theatre has been recognized nationally for two productions, Second Samuel (2011) and The Diviners (2019), that progressed from state and regional festivals to the national stage. For these productions and numerous others Kristy and the Depot Players have received recognitions for work in direction, acting, and design. Serving in leadership roles with Southeastern Theatre Conference, she is also the past president of the Alabama Conference of Theatre and the region rep for American Association of Community Theatre. Performance credits include Jessie ('night Mother), Sister Amnesia (Nunsense), Amanda (The Glass Menagerie), Dotty (Noises Off), Melissa (Love Letters), Helene (84 Charing Cross Road) and has traveled the show At Wit's End - Erma Bombeck to audiences around the south. Directing credits numbering over 100 include Big River, Young Frankenstein, Ring of Fire, The Fantasticks Big Fish, Bright Star and Hands on a Hardbody. Kristy has spearheaded community outreach including the Encore Players (senior theatre) and Penguin Project (special needs outreach). Kristy has adjudicated high school and community festivals and is also the author of the stage adaption of Doug Segrest's novel, A Storm Came Up. Kristy is a recipient of the Marian Galloway Award for her contributions to theatre in Alabama.



Kristy Meanor



To keep up with MTA 2023 Festival information and changes, like us on Facebook. Make sure to turn on your notifications to ensure timely information.

PASSWORDS

MINUTE REGIONAL FESTIVALS

The **Regional 10-Minute Festivals** provide an opportunity for students to work with students from other schools to produce a 10-minute play in a one-day period. The 2022 regional festivals were held Saturday, October 15. Please look for information on upcoming regional 10-Minute Festivals in October 2023!

10 Minute South Regional Chair

Carrie Ferguson-Bellew

Host Site

Long Beach High School

Respondents

Wayne Catlett & Dr. Justin Greer

Directors

Sarah Bartos, St. Martin HS Jordan West, Stone HS Bryan Vonderbruegge, Harrison Central HS

Long Beach School District Long Beach Administration

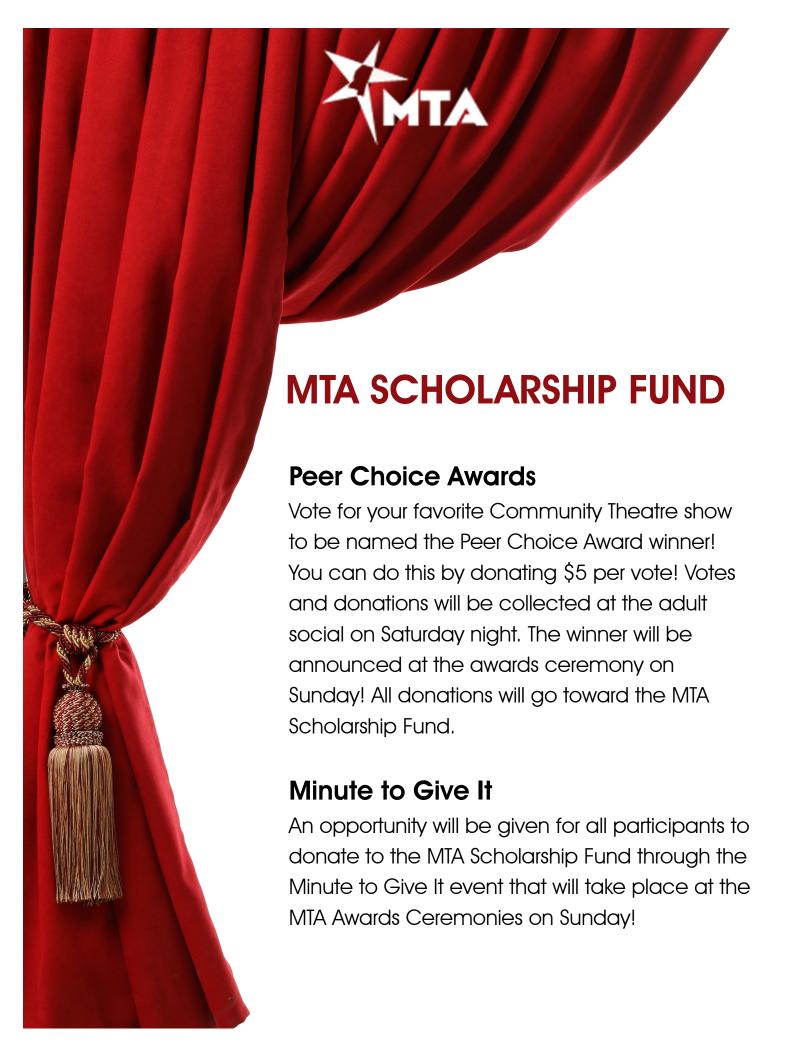
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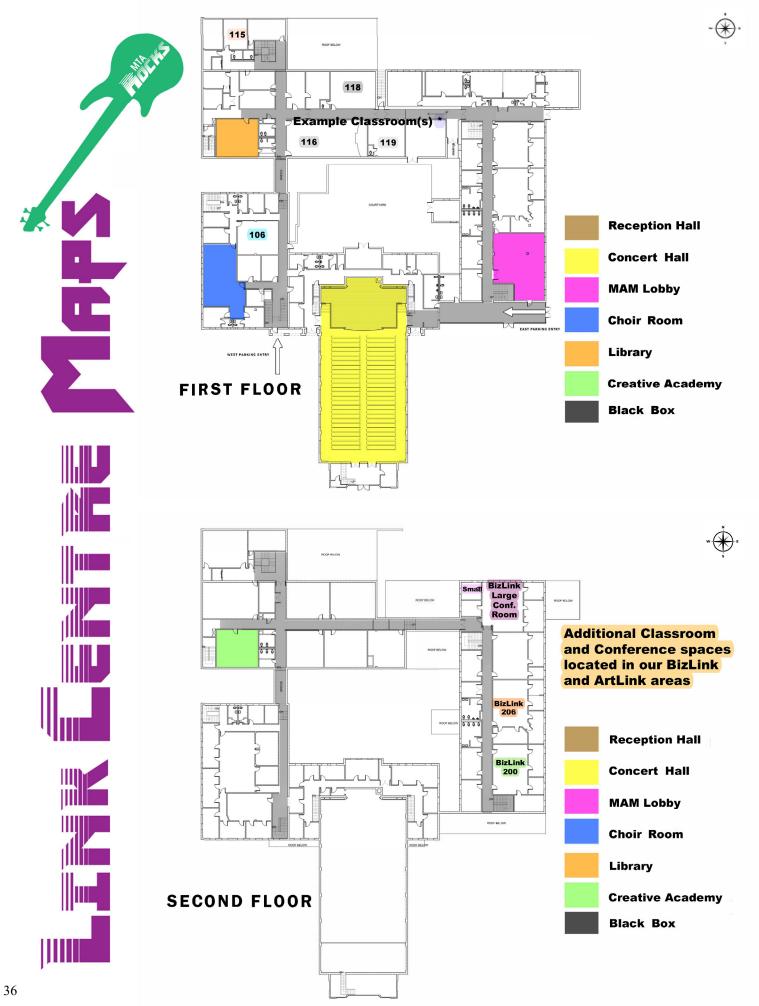


Student Technical and Facility Crew

Maddy Badeaux, Ariyonna Daniels, Mia Ellis, Abigail Glass, Caleb Haber, Grey Kennedy











Youth Social

High School students are invited to attend this year's Tupelo Rocks Youth Social at the the Link Centre in the Blackbox Theatre and Reception Hall at 8:00 pm on Saturday, January 14. Join us for a fun and relaxing evening of trivia, movies, board games, theatre games, a costume contest and more! Students will have the opportunity to make new friends from other schools as they spend time bonding over some of their favorite board games and activities! Be sure to bring your A-game! Pizza provided!

