



Mississippi High School Regional Drama Festival Information

Thank you for your interest in MTA's Mississippi High School Regional Drama Festival! The Regional Drama Festivals (North DramaFest & South DramaFest) are two-day one-act play competitions that bring schools from across the North and South regions together to share their hard work and their love of theatre.

The state is separated into North (above I-20) and South (below I-20) regions for the regional festivals. North DramaFest is held at Mississippi State University in McComas Hall. South DramaFest is held at the University of Southern Mississippi in the Mannoni Performing Arts Center.

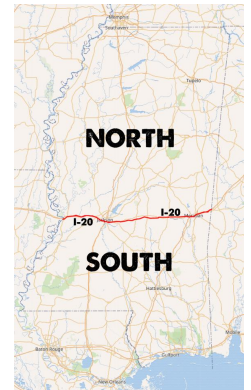
The Regional DramaFests are the qualifying festivals for the MTA Secondary One-Act Festival held during the annual festival in January (MLK Weekend) every year.

The DramaFest host schools work with the MTA Board of Directors and staff to provide the best theatrical experience possible.

Observing schools are welcome at DramaFest! This is a great opportunity to see what the festival has to offer. See the registration costs section of this document for pricing information.

We look forward to celebrating the great theatre that you are creating! We hope this experience is one that you and your students will be proud of now and for years to come.

A full list of secondary DramaFest guidelines, expectations, and rubrics can be found on pages 33-50 of the [MTA Handbook](#).



DramaFest 2023 will be held on December 1-2, 2023

North Regional DramaFest

- Tonya Hays, Festival Coordinator; THays@comm.msstate.edu
- Festival Site: McComas Hall, Mississippi State University
- Make checks payable to **Theatre MSU**
- Mail payments to:
Mississippi State University
Department of Communications
Attn: Tonya Hays
216 President's Circle PO Box PF
Mississippi State, MS 39762
- Direct rules questions to Secondary Vice Chair, Sarah Hankins; Secondary@mississippitheatre.org

South Regional DramaFest

- Camille Colley, Festival Coordinator; Camille.Colley@usm.edu
- Festival Site: Mannoni Performing Arts Center, University of Southern Mississippi
- Make checks payable to **USM Theatre**
- Mail payments to:
University of Southern Mississippi
Theatre and Dance Department
Attn: Camille Colley
118 College Drive Box 5052
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
- Direct rules questions to Secondary Chair, Olivia Dunwoody; Secondary@mississippitheatre.org

DramaFest Registration Process

There are THREE (3) steps to the DramaFest registration process. 1.) DramaFest Letter of Intent Jotform; 2.) Registration Jotform; 3.) Supporting Materials Jotform. Instructions and information are below.

Save all documents as: [name of school]-[name of festival]-[name of document]

CentralHS-South-PerformanceRights.pdf

SmallTownHS-North-PermissionCut.pdf

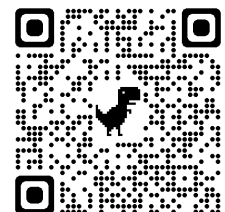
1.) Letter of Intent

- a.) **Open for Submission: September 15, 2023, 8:00 a.m.**
- b.) **Secures a performance spot for the festival**
- c.) Each region can accommodate up to 16 performing schools
- d.) Performance spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis
- e.) If a region reaches capacity, additional schools will be placed on a waiting list
- f.) Observing schools DO NOT need to complete the Letter of Intent



2.) Registration Jotform

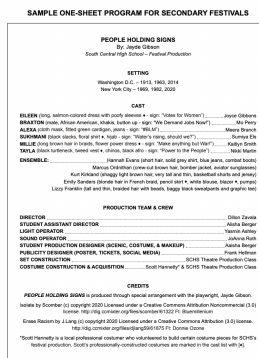
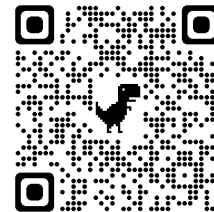
- a.) **Registration Deadline: November 1, 2023, 11:59 a.m.**
- b.) **Performing schools** must provide all information below
- c.) **Observing schools** must complete the registration form but will not have to provide production information
- d.) **Demographic information**
 - i.) Demographic information assists MTA gain insights into the diversity of student participants
 - ii.) Provide race/ethnicity information of participating students
 - (1) White/Caucasian
 - (2) Black/African American
 - (3) Hispanic/Latino
 - (4) Asian
 - (5) Native American/Alaskan Native
 - (6) Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander
- e.) **Required play information**
 - i.) Title
 - ii.) Author(s)
 - iii.) Publisher
- f.) **Proof of rights and royalties**
 - i.) Contract (or equivalent proof) for play performance (.pdf)
 - ii.) Proof of permission to cut (if applicable) (.pdf)
 - iii.) Proof to use any other published materials (music, videos, etc., if applicable) (.pdf)
- g.) **Festival program information**
 - i.) Cast/crew information as a **ONE PAGE** editable word document (.doc, .docx)
 - ii.) Title of play
 - iii.) Author of play
 - iv.) Publisher/royalty agent & required attribution text
 - v.) Cast of characters (including character names and actor names)
 - vi.) Production team (including director[s], crew, and other support)
 - vii.) Other information to be included in the festival program, space permitting (e.g., setting, special thanks, etc.)
 - viii.) Social media handle & hashtags (as applicable)
- h.) **Special advisory information**
 - i.) If your production contains potentially sensitive material, please indicate it in this section.
 - ii.) See the MTA handbook (p. 37) for a list of recommended advisory warnings.



PEOPLE HOLDING SIGNS	
By: Jayde Gibson	
South Central High School - Festival Production	
SETTING	
Washington D.C. - 1913, 1963, 2014	
New York City - 1969, 1982, 2020	
CAST	
EILEEN	Joyce Gibbons
SHARON	Ma Perry
ALEXA	Meredith French
SUBRAMAN	Suzanne Eln
HELLE	Kathryn Smith
TAYLA	Nikki Martin
ENSEMBLE	Hannah Evans, Marissa Ostrander, Kurt Kirkland, Emily Sanders, Lezly Franklin
PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW	
DIRECTOR	Dillon Davis
STUDENT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Alaina Berger
LIGHT OPERATOR	Yaelin Isahay
SOUND OPERATOR	Ja'Anna Roth
STUDENT PRODUCTION DESIGNER (SCENE, COSTUME, & MAKEUP)	Alaina Berger
PUBLICITY DESIGNER (POSTER, TICKETS, SOCIAL MEDIA)	Frank Helms
SET CONSTRUCTION	SOHS Theatre Production Class
CUSTOMER CONSTRUCTION & ACQUISITION	SOHS Theatre Production Class
CREDITS	
PEOPLE HOLDING SIGNS is produced through special arrangement with the playwright, Jayde Gibson.	
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Erase Random by J. Lane (c) copyright 2020 Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution (3.0) license. http://img.com/licenses/by/3.0/	

3.) Supporting Materials Jotform

- a.) **Supporting materials deadline: November 27, 2023; 10:00 a.m.**
- b.) Statement of Circumstance & Declaration of Work
 - i.) Document how work on your production was completed
 - ii.) Adjudicators will receive this document
 - iii.) Download fillable .pdf, complete on the computer, save, and upload to the Supporting Materials Jotform
- c.) **One-sheet program**
 - i.) The one-sheet program is given to adjudicators to help them identify specific performers during deliberation (.pdf)
 - ii.) List characters with a sufficient description of their appearance to help adjudicators accurately identify the performers
 - (1) Example 1: "BJORIA: dark red pants, combat boots, green army-style jacket, dreadlocks - Zoë Panlener"
 - (2) Example 2: "ENSEMBLE: blonde wig, purple pants - Chance DeLacey"
- d.) **Labeled cast photo**
 - i.) Submit a clearly labeled, staged production photo (.pdf or .jpg).
 - ii.) Label the photo with performers' and characters' names
 - iii.) All performers should be in costume and labeled with the name of the character and the performer
 - iv.) This photograph will assist the adjudicators in accurately identifying performers
 - v.) This photo should not exceed 8x10" or 2400x3000 px



4.) **Registration Costs**

- a.) Competing school fee - \$100
- b.) Observing school fee - \$0
- c.) Student fee - \$15 each
- d.) Chaperone - 1 **free** per 5 students
- e.) Additional chaperones or observers - \$10 each

Production Selection Information

MTA prohibits schools from bringing a selection that was produced at a regional festival in the three years prior to the current festival year. Refer to the Banned Productions lists below when selecting a festival piece. The productions marked with an asterisk (*) were MTA State Festival productions and cannot be performed at either regional festival (North or South).

Banned Productions 2020-2023		
Year	North Region (MSU)	South Region (USM)
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Crucible</i> by Authur Miller * <i>Babette's Feast</i> Conceived and developed by Abigail Killeen. Written by Rose Courtney. Adapted from the short story by Isak Dinesen* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Inexplicable Chaos Factor of Mia Gregory</i> by Emily Hageman* <i>Pains, Twains, and Something Surreal</i> by Jordan West*
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Aunt Leaf</i> by Barbara Wiechmann * <i>We Shall by Morning</i> by Kerri Sanders * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A Breach in the Darkness</i> by Suzanne Allmon* <i>¡Bocón!</i> By Lisa Loomer*
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Digging Up the Boys</i> by Laura Lundgren Smith <i>The Prisoner's Hands</i> by E. Jack Williams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Nina Simone: Four Women</i> by Christina Ham <i>I Don't Want to Talk About It</i> by Bradly Hayward
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Laughing Stock</i> by Bradley Hayward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Just A Stage He's Going Through</i> by Pat Cook
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The New Margo</i> by Stephen Gregg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sorry, Wrong Number</i> by Lucille Fletcher

0 2 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ashes, Ashes, We All Fall Down</i> by Elizabeth Thomas-Hines • <i>It Was Never Designed with Negros in Mind (The Slaughter of Mary Turner)</i> by Randy Ferino 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Two Hands on the Indigo Flower</i> by Theresa Geboy • <i>4 AM</i> by Jonathan Dorf • <i>Eurydice</i> by Sarah Ruhl • <i>Tuesdays and Sundays</i> by Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn • <i>The Election</i> by Jonathan Turner Smith
Year	North Region (MSU)	South Region (USM)
2 0 2 1 - 2 0 2 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strangers on a Train</i> by Craig Warner* • <i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i>, Adapted by Dwayne Hartford from the book by Kate DiCamillo * • <i>Icarus</i> by Jessica Chipman* • <i>Decoration Day (The Annihilation Of Black Wall Street)</i> by Randy Ferino* • <i>The Tricks of Scapin</i> by Aurand Harris • <i>A Game</i> by Dennis Noble • <i>Declaration</i> by Jonathan Dorf • <i>The Girl in the White Pinafore</i> by Jiggs Burgess • <i>The 146 Point Flame</i> by Matt Thonmpson • <i>Bippity, Boppity, Billy Shakes</i> by Elizabeth Thomas-Hines • <i>The Civility of Those Who Wait</i> by Louis Codling • <i>Peter/Wendy</i> by Jeremy Bloom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Check Please</i> by Jonathan Rand* • <i>Brian the Comet</i> by Emily Hagerman* • <i>The Old Man and the Old Moon</i> by PigPen Theatre Co.* • <i>I and You</i> by Lauren Gunderson* • <i>The Green Bird</i> by Hillary DePiano • <i>Crimson</i> by Chris Permenter and Amanda Walley • <i>Dreamwalk</i> by Eddie Kennedy • <i>War, Peace, and Cookies</i> by Aaron Shepard • <i>The Monster</i> by John Haman • <i>Scenes from Argonautika</i> by Mary Zimmerman • <i>We Are the Sea</i> by Laura Lundgren Smith • <i>Gothic Ghost Stories</i> by Lindsay Price
Year	North Region (MSU)	South Region (USM)
2 0 2 0 - 2 0 2 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Crushed</i> by Don Zolidis* • <i>Meeting the Antagonist</i> by 2020 Competition Play Cast* • <i>Smoke on the Mountain</i> by Connie Ray* • <i>Amelia Earhart: Flights of Fancy</i> by Will Huddleston* • <i>No Child</i> by Nilaja Sun • <i>The Last Illusion</i> by B. Dwayne Craft • <i>Almost, Maine</i> by John Cariani • <i>Emotional Baggage</i> by Lindsay Price • <i>Roomers</i> by Jerome McDonough • <i>Sillyheart</i> by Billy Boone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>And</i> by Alan Haehel* • <i>Our Place</i> by Terry Gabbard* • <i>Arabian Nights</i> by Dominic Cooke* • <i>War of the Worlds: The Radio Show</i> by Howard Koch* • <i>Desdemona in the Afterlife</i> by Nelly Cuellar-Garcia* • <i>Makin' Up Midsummer in the Mountains</i> by Stone High School Drama Team • <i>Mrs. Pinwiffle's Big Day</i> by the St. Patrick Drama Guild • <i>The Terrible Infants</i> by Oliver Lansley • <i>Dear Diary</i> by The Blue Maskers Drama Team • <i>Bend in the River: Louisiana's Secret People</i> by Tonya Sanders Hays