



The 2024 Mississippi Theatre Association State Festival will take place on January 11-14, 2024, at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Harrison County Campus (MGCCC). The MTA State Festival offers multiple opportunities for student and adult theatre makers to engage in theatre activities. Check out how you and your organization can be involved in MTA 2024!

MTA 2024 OFFERINGS

PERFORM & WATCH

Secondary Festival

January 12, 2024 – IMPAC Center – MGCCC Campus

The Secondary Festival is a competitive one-act play festival featuring the top five productions from each of Mississippi's two regional drama festivals (which occur in Starkville and Hattiesburg in December). MTA advances a winning production and a runner-up production to the annual Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) Secondary Festival. Admission is open to all MTA 2024 participants; day passes are also available.

Community Theatre Festival

January 12-13, 2024 – Harrison County Fine Arts Auditorium – MGCCC Campus

The Community Theatre Festival is a competitive one-act play festival featuring amateur community theatre companies from across Mississippi. MTA advances two winning productions to the annual Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) Community Theatre Festival. Every other year, SETC sends its top two productions to the American Association of Community Theatres' national festival (AACTFest). Admission is open to all MTA 2024 participants; day passes are also available.

Theatre for Youth Festival

January 12, 2024 – Central Elementary School

Theatre for Youth is a festival of short plays focused on K-6th grade audiences and is open to any organization wishing to perform for an elementary school audience. Performance pre-registration is required. Admission is open to the public.

10-Minute Play Festival

January 13, 2024 – Arena Theatre – MGCCC Campus

The 10-Minute Play Festival is designed to provide a low-stress atmosphere for young artists to experience the theatrical production process, cultivate their collaborative skills, and devise brand new work. Participants are secondary students who want to express themselves through theatre. Admission is open to all participants of MTA 2024, though space is limited.

Secondary Individual Events Festival

January 13, 2024 – S-Building & IMPAC Center BlackBox – MGCCC Campus

Secondary Individual Events offer competitive events in solo/small-group theatrical performance and design/technology to students in grades 9-12. Live performances at MTA will be by students whose virtual preliminary entry has earned them a slot in the final round of their event. Final performance rounds are adjudicated and open to spectators, though space is limited. Design/technology adjudication interviews include all entrants in these events and are closed to spectators.

Adult Individual Events Festival

January 12, 2024 – S-Building – MGCCC Campus & January 13, 2024 – S-Building – MGCCC Campus

Adult Individual events offer competitive acting and musical theatre performance opportunities to festival participants who are over the age of 18 and have graduated from high school. Adult Individual Events competition will be on Friday evening and Saturday during workshop blocks at the MTA State Festival. These rounds are adjudicated and open to spectators.

Auditions & Scholarships

January 11, 2024 – Arena Theatre – MGCCC Campus

High school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing theatre after high school may participate in cattle-call style auditions (for performers) and interviews (for designers and technicians) with representatives from colleges and universities across the South. These institutions post callback lists, and participating students are invited to visit with representatives at their booths. Auditions are closed to the public.

MTA offers up to two \$500 scholarships to deserving seniors planning to pursue theatre at a Mississippi college or university. To apply, students must complete the MTA auditions and [submit a scholarship application here](#).

Playwriting Festival

January 13, 2024 – Harrison Central Fine Arts Gallery – MGCCC Campus

MTA's Playwriting Festival is designed to recognize and promote the works of Mississippi playwrights and is open to all Mississippi-based writers. The festival is divided into secondary and adult contests. Submissions for the playwriting festival are due on October 1, and the winning submissions for both contests receive staged readings during the MTA State Festival in January. Admission to the staged readings of the winning plays is open to all MTA 2024 participants. Space is limited.

LEARN & EXPLORE

College & University Expo

January 12, 2024 – IMPAC Center Lobby – MGCCC Campus

January 13, 2024 – Arena Theatre Grounds and/or Lobby – MGCCC Campus

Colleges and universities from Mississippi and surrounding states are encouraged to attend MTA 2024. The \$130 College & University registration fee includes two full festival passes, two seats in the MTA audition rooms, a festival booth, and a discount on additional College & University memberships. See the Program Advertisement and Sponsorship sections for more ways to promote your institution.

Vendor Expo

January 12, 2024 – IMPAC Center Lobby – MGCCC Campus

January 13, 2024 – Arena Theatre Grounds and/or Lobby – MGCCC Campus

Vendors are encouraged to attend MTA 2024. The \$130 Vendor registration fee includes two full festival passes and a festival booth. See the Program Advertisement and Sponsorship sections for more ways to promote your organization.

Workshops

January 12-13, 2024 – S-Building – MGCCC Campus

Workshops will be offered throughout the MTA 2024 State Festival on a variety of theatre-related topics. MTA is currently seeking presenters for workshops! If you have expertise that would benefit the MTA membership and would like to volunteer to present a workshop at the State Festival, [apply here](#).

SOCIALIZE & CELEBRATE

Youth Social

January 13, 2024 – Lynn Meadows/Wings Performing Arts – Gulfport, MS

Join us following the 10-Minute Play Festival performances for a "cast party" style social with karaoke, trivia, a costume contest, and games. Pizza will be provided.

Adult Social

January 13, 2024 – Location TBA – Gulfport, MS

Join us following the close of the Community Theatre Festival for a celebration of a successful MTA 2024!

Award Ceremonies

January 12, 2024 – IMPAC Center – MGCCC Campus

The MTA Awards Ceremonies recognize excellence from throughout the festival and the year. Each division recognizes outstanding work, the productions that advance to compete at SETC are announced, and awards are distributed. Admission is open to the public.

PROMOTE & SUPPORT

Program Advertisements

Purchasing program advertisements for the MTA Festival program is a powerful way to both support Mississippi's vibrant theatre community and gain exposure for your business or organization. Your ad reaches a diverse and engaged audience, and your contribution directly bolsters the success of the MTA State Festival. For more information and to purchase your ad, visit mississippitheatre.org/ad-sales.

Sponsorships

Purchasing sponsorships for the Mississippi Theatre Association serves the vital purpose of supporting and enriching the vibrant world of theater in Mississippi. By becoming sponsors, individuals and organizations contribute to the growth of local theatre and enjoy exclusive benefits. For more information and to become a sponsor, visit mississippitheatre.org/sponsors.

Outstanding Contributions to Theatre Awards

MTA seeks to recognize individuals who provide exemplary service to the organization and to theatre in Mississippi. Outstanding Contribution to Theatre Awards may recognize excellent work in community theatre, secondary theatre, theatre for youth, college and university theatre; they also may recognize MTA members, school administrators, or community officials who demonstrate a commitment to supporting theatre in our state. [Submit your Outstanding Contribution to Theatre nomination here](#).

Arts Day at the Capitol Brochures

MTA represents theatre makers from across Mississippi at the annual Arts Day at the Capitol in February. Each member organization is encouraged to bring 20-25 brochures promoting their organization for MTA to share with our state officials. Turn in your organization brochures at the MTA 2024 registration table.

VOLUNTEER & APPLY

Dream Team

The MTA State Festival depends on dedicated college and university student volunteers who support the division chairpeople with the orchestration of festival events. MTA is currently seeking undergraduate theatre students to be on the MTA 2024 Festival Dream Team. Dream Team members receive MTA membership, meals, and hotel accommodations for the MTA State Festival. [Apply to be on this year's Dream Team here](#).

Waymaker Grant

As part of MTA's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiative, the Waymaker Grant provides MTA membership (including full MTA 2024 State Festival passes) to up to 12 theatre-makers with diverse talents and backgrounds who meet qualifying criteria. [For more information and to apply for the Waymaker Grant, click here](#).