



# Community Theatre Letter

August 1, 2025

Dear Community Theatre:

Are you proud of what your community theatre is doing? Are you proud of the work that you and your Officers, Board and volunteers do on behalf of your community theatre? If so, then you owe it to yourself and your theatre to attend the annual MTA Theatre Conference and Festival, January 15-18, 2026 in Oxford, MS. The Festival brings community theatres together for an opportunity to see a wide variety of productions, to network, to learn from one another, and to renew old friendships and start new ones. If you haven't been to the Festival we hope that you will join us this year even if only to watch productions and network with your peers from around the state. You will be able to see community theatre and high school productions, staged readings, participate in Individual Events Festival (aka Mississippi's Got Talent) and participate in socials and workshops. There is something for everyone. MTA's Community Theatre Division has made a name for itself in regional and national festivals over the years, and we want to encourage all theatres in the State of Mississippi to support your state theatre organization by sending representatives to the festival regardless of whether your theatre is competing.

This year's festival is scheduled to take place on January 15-18, 2026 in Oxford, MS. The registration will open for community theatres on December 1, 2025 and the deadline to register for organizations to register for the one-act festival will be on December 15, 2025. The tech specifications and a list of festival hotels will be posted to the MTA website by December 2025.

MTA is excited to invite you to participate in the in-person MTA 2026 Community Theatre Festival this year. This is an exciting way to present your work, have it adjudicated by three out-of-state judges, and have the chance to receive recognition and awards for your work. The Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) is planning to have a community theatre competition

in 2026, and the top 1 - 2 community theatre productions will have the opportunity to advance to the SETC in Chattanooga, TN in March.

The MTA registration and other forms will be available on December 1, 2025. The deadline to register is December 15, 2025. Please remember, we have limited slots so you need to register ASAP. A complete registration is required for MTA to hold a slot for your theatre. A complete registration means you have completed the MTA forms and submitted your theatre and cast/crew festival fees.

Visit the [Mississippi Theatre Association website](#) to download the festival rules, forms, registration, and for more information on the festival venues. Please note the newly added Community Theatre Code of Conduct on the Community Theatre page under MTA Annual Festival.

Do you have someone in your theatre that you want to recognize on the state level? Nominate them for the [Outstanding Contributions to Theatre](#).

If you do not plan to compete in the 2026 Festival, please renew your [MTA Membership Dues](#) for both organizations and individuals. Please make sure that MTA has your most up-to-date information and that you are a current member.

Finally, we ask that you share this information with your members and encourage them to become members of MTA and to attend the festival! We look forward to seeing you in Meridian in January. If you need assistance with the registration process, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of your division chairs.

Sincerely,

[Lindsey Eubanks](#)

Executive Director

[Sherri Marengo](#)

Chair, Community Theatre Division

[Gabe Smith](#)

Vice-Chair, Community Theatre Division