



# Theatre for Youth Letter

Fellow Directors,

It's time to mark your calendar for this year's MTA Festival to be held January 15-18, 2026 at Ole Miss in Oxford, MS. This year's festival is planned to be live and quickly approaching! As the chairpersons for the Theatre for Youth Festival, we encourage you to register your students to be a part of this richly rewarding event.

The Theatre for Youth Festival is intended for theatre troupes who wish to perform for an elementary school audience. As such, we request that the material you wish to produce be appropriate for grades K-6 and adhere to a time limit of only thirty minutes. This is a one-day festival so limited entries will be accepted, on a first-come-first-served basis only. The deadline for registering for this festival is November 15, 2025. Entry spots fill up quickly, so we encourage you to sign up early. Registration will open on September 23, 2025.

The Theatre for Youth division would also like to broaden access to theatre for youth in schools, daycares, and community youth organizations across Mississippi by providing a digital education package available upon request following the festival. MTA will ask for permission for original productions and plays in the public domain to be recorded at MTA 2026. The productions will then be shared with young educational institutions across the state to increase theatre education and accessibility to theatrical productions.

Written feedback will be provided after the conclusion of the festival. Awards will be given for Runner-Up and Best Play, two Outstanding Performer awards will be given, and each participating production will receive at least one All-Star Cast member award, additional recognition to highlight notable technical or performance achievement may be given at the adjudicator's discretion. Awards will be highlighted during the main award ceremony on Sunday.

Any group, of any age, may enter, and the entry fee is \$50 if you are registered for the full weekend. If not, the entry is \$75. We look forward to seeing you there. It's important to remember that as we gear up for the big competition we do not forget about the younger audiences that will one day fill our troupes with talent!

If there is a decision, due to COVID restrictions, to move this festival to a virtual format, MTA will let you know by November 1, 2025. If MTA must move to a virtual format, MTA will utilize the Streaming Platform – ShowTix4U. Please make sure that you have the appropriate licensing needed for your production.

It is the director's responsibility to contact the publishing company, notify them of our festival requirements, and obtain performance and recorded live streaming or virtual rights. As always, titles in the public domain and original works are welcome and encouraged.

All students will need to sign the Consent to Broadcast form, located in the MTA Registration packet.

REGISTRATION WILL BE LOCATED [HERE](#).

Thanks in advance,

[Garrett Torbert](#)

Theatre for Youth Chair

Executive Director of Golden Triangle Theatre

[Rachel-Kate Thaggard](#)

Theatre for Youth Vice-Chair