



## 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 Oak Grove High School.

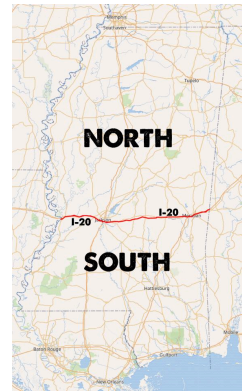
The Regional DramaFests are the qualifying festivals for the MTA Secondary One-Act Festival held during the annual festival in January (MLK Weekend) every year.

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 in the [MTA Handbook](#).



### DramaFest 2025 will be held on December 5-6, 2025

#### North Regional DramaFest

- Tonya Hays, Festival Coordinator;  
[THays@comm.msstate.edu](mailto:THays@comm.msstate.edu)
- Samuel Somerville, Festival Intern:  
[scs896@msstate.edu](mailto:scs896@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](mailto:Secondary@mississippitheatre.org)

#### South Regional DramaFest

- Tim Matheney, Festival Coordinator;  
[mathenyemail@gmail.com](mailto:mathenyemail@gmail.com)
- Festival Site:  
Oak Grove High School  
5198 Old Why 11 Hattiesburg, MS 39402
- Make checks payable to **William Carey Theatre**
- Mail payments to  
**William Carey Theatre**  
Theatre Department  
Attn: Tim Matheney  
710 William Carey Pkwy – Box 18  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Phone: 601.318.6218
- Direct rules questions to Secondary Chair,  
Olivia Carson; [Secondary@mississippitheatre.org](mailto: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.

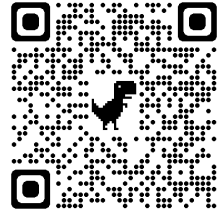
**Save all documents as: [name of school]-[name of festival]-[name of document]**

*CentralHS-South-PerformanceRights.pdf*

*SmallTownHS-North-PermissionCut.pdf*

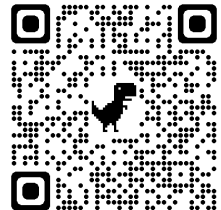
### 1.) Letter of Intent

- a.) **Open for Submission: September 13, 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

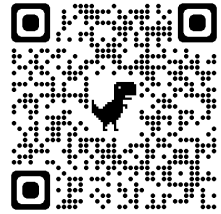
- a.) **Registration Window: October 1 - November 1, 11:59 p.m.**
- b.) **Performing schools** must provide all the information below
- c.) **Observing schools** must complete the registration form but will not have to provide production information
- d.) **Demographic information**
  - i.) Demographic information assists MTA in gaining 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 check the [MTA Handbook](#) for recommended advisory warnings.



PEOPLE HOLDING SIGNS	
By: Jayla Gibson	
South Central High School - Festival Production	
SETTING	
Washington D.C. - 1913, 1963, 2014	
New York City - 1969, 1982, 2020	
CAST	
ELLEN	Alyce Gibbons
SEARSON	Max Henry
ALEXA	Melissa Branch
SHERRILL	Samira Eke
MILLIE	Kathryn Smith
PAULA	Isabel Smith
ENSEMBLE	Hannah Evans, Marcus Christensen, Kurt Kirkland, Emily Sanden, Lizzy Franklin
PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW	
DIRECTOR	Dillon Zavala
STUDENT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Ashley Berger
LIGHT OPERATOR	Yasmin Anthony
ROUND OPERATOR	Johnna Roth
STUDENT PRODUCTION DESIGNER (SCENE, COSTUME, MAKEUP)	Ashley Berger
PUBLICITY DESIGNER (POSTER, TICKETS, SOCIAL MEDIA)	Frank Holman
SET CONSTRUCTION	SOHS Theatre Production Class
COSTUME CONSTRUCTION & ACQUISITION	SOHS Theatre Production Class
CREDITS	
PEOPLE HOLDING SIGNS is produced through special arrangement with the playwright, Jayla Gibson.	
Isolate by Scimitar (c) copyright 2020 Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial (3.0)	
Source: <a href="http://img.com/consider/griffins/courtesy/1322/P1/Blumstein.com">http://img.com/consider/griffins/courtesy/1322/P1/Blumstein.com</a>	
Erase Random by J. Lang (c) copyright 2020 Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution (3.0) license.	
<a href="http://img.com/consider/griffins/courtesy/1322/P1/Blumstein.com">http://img.com/consider/griffins/courtesy/1322/P1/Blumstein.com</a>	

### 3.) Supporting Materials Jotform

- a.) **Supporting materials deadline: November 21, 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



**SAMPLE ONE-SHEET PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY FESTIVALS**

**PEOPLE HOLDING SIGNS**  
By: Jayne Gibson  
South Carolina High School - Festival Production

**SETTING**  
Washington D.C. - 1975, 1983, 2014  
New York City - 1965, 1968, 2020

**CAST**

**ENSEMBLE** (10), various colored dress with curly wavy hair - age 16-18 (all female)  
**BJORIA** (1), black leather jacket, black pants, age 18 (female)  
**ALISA** (1), black leather jacket, black pants, age 18 (female)  
**ENSEMBLE** (10), various colored dress with curly wavy hair - age 16-18 (all female)  
**ENSEMBLE** (10), various colored dress with curly wavy hair - age 16-18 (all female)  
**ENSEMBLE** (10), various colored dress with curly wavy hair - age 16-18 (all female)

**PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW**

**CREDS**

PEOPLE HOLDING SIGNS is produced through special arrangement with the playwright, Jayne Gibson.  
Script by Jayne Gibson (© Copyright 2020) Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial (CC BY-NC) license. All rights reserved. No part of this script may be reproduced without written permission from the playwright.



### 4.) **Registration Costs**

- a.) Competing school fee - \$100
- b.) Observing school fee - \$0
- c.) Student fee - \$15 each, whether competing or not
- 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).

## MTA Secondary Ineligible Productions 2022-2025

Year	North Region	South Region
2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Velveteen Rabbit: A Toy Story</i> by Patrick Flynn; based on the book by Margery Williams*</li> <li>• <i>Wiley and the Hairy Man</i> by Suzan Zeder*</li> <li>• <i>no fury</i> by Kerri Sanders*</li> <li>• <i>And at 10:22 Time Stopped (The Bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church)</i> by Randy Ferino Wayne Jr.*</li> <li>• <i>Silent Sky</i> by Lauren Gunderson*</li> <li>• <i>Door to Door</i> by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus</li> <li>• <i>Sleepy Hollow</i> by Christopher Cartmill</li> <li>• <i>The Green</i> by Jessie Palmer</li> <li>• <i>Still Life</i> by Noël Coward</li> <li>• <i>King of Purple and Gold</i> by Louis Codling</li> <li>• <i>Tracks</i> by Peter Tarsi</li> <li>• <i>Whispers of Darkness</i> by Elizabeth Hines</li> <li>• <i>Grey Gardens</i> by Doug Wright</li> <li>• <i>A Murdered Mystery</i> by Karl Garner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Lost Boy</i> by Ronald Gabriel Paolillo*</li> <li>• <i>This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing</i> by Finegan Kruckmeyer*</li> <li>• <i>The Diviners</i> by Jim Leonard Jr.*</li> <li>• <i>Where the Sea Meets the Sky</i> by Mandy Conner*</li> <li>• <i>Everyman in the Circus of Life</i> by Travis Tyre*</li> <li>• <i>Childhood</i> by Thornton Wilder</li> <li>• <i>Peter/Wendy</i> by Jeremy Bloom</li> <li>• <i>Scenes from Bob: A Life in Five Acts</i> by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb</li> <li>• <i>Marian, Or The True Tale of Robin Hood</i> by Adam Szymkiewicz</li> <li>• <i>The Amazing Lemonade Girl</i> by James DeVita - Inspired by the life of Alexandra Flynn Scott</li> <li>• <i>Ridiculous By Proxy</i> by Dwayne B. Craft</li> <li>• <i>The Love Of Three Oranges</i> by Hilliary DePaino</li> <li>• <i>Through the Chromatic Mist of Mercy</i> by TD Cyrus</li> </ul>

Year	North Region	South Region
2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Eurydice</i> by Sarah Ruhl*</li> <li>• <i>Girls in the Boat</i> by Alice Austen*</li> <li>• <i>The Night Witches</i> by Rachel Bublit*</li> <li>• <i>Sunday in the Park with George</i> by Stephen Sondheim, James Lapine*</li> <li>• <i>Skinflints and Scoundrels: Moliere's Miser</i> Translated, adapted, and arranged by Susan L. Zeder; From J.B.P. Moliere's <i>The Miser</i>*</li> <li>• <i>Red Summer: The Murder of Eugene Williams</i> by Randy Ferino Wayne Jr.</li> <li>• <i>Monsters</i> by Thomas Easterling</li> <li>• <i>Unclaimed Baggage</i> by Elizabeth Thomas-Hines</li> <li>• <i>Guys and Dolls Jr.</i> by Frank Loesser, Jo Swerling, Abe Burrows</li> <li>• <i>Three Strangers</i> by Burton Bumgarner</li> <li>• <i>Property Rites</i> by Alan Haehnel</li> <li>• <i>Ernest and the Pale Moon-Abridged</i> by Oliver Lansley</li> <li>• <i>The Empty Chair</i> by Tim Kelly</li> <li>• <i>Fin and Euba</i> by Audry Cefaly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Jungalbook</i> by Edward Mast*</li> <li>• <i>Lafayette No. 1</i> by Mandy Conner*</li> <li>• <i>The Trial of Existence</i> by Brent Holland*</li> <li>• <i>Through the Depths</i> by S.Allmon*</li> <li>• <i>A Monster Calls</i> by Patrick Ness*</li> <li>• <i>Pandora and the Sickle Moon</i> by Jessica Chipman*</li> <li>• <i>Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind</i> by Greg Allen</li> <li>• <i>Selkie</i> by Laurie Brooks</li> <li>• <i>Voodoo Macbeth</i> by Tonya Hays</li> <li>• <i>The Actor's Nightmare</i> by Christopher Durang</li> <li>• <i>The Search for Delicious</i> Adapted by Mark Frattaroli from the novel by Natalie Babbitt</li> <li>• <i>Boxes</i> by Kendra Thomas</li> <li>• <i>Somebody's Children</i> by Jose Casas</li> <li>• <i>It Didn't Feel Like the First Time</i> by Theresa Geboy</li> </ul>
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Crucible</i> by Authur Miller *</li> <li>• <i>Babette's Feast</i> by Rose Courtney *</li> <li>• <i>Aunt Leaf</i> by Barbara Wiechmann *</li> <li>• <i>We Shall by Morning</i> by Kerri Sanders *</li> <li>• <i>Digging Up the Boys</i> by Laura Lundgren Smith</li> <li>• <i>The Prisoner's Hands</i> by E. Jack Williams</li> <li>• <i>Laughing Stock</i> by Bradley Hayward</li> <li>• <i>The New Margo</i> by Stephen Gregg</li> <li>• <i>Mythical Creatures and How to Approach Them</i> by Travis Greisler</li> <li>• <i>Ashes, Ashes, We All Fall Down</i> by Elizabeth Thomas-Hines</li> <li>• <i>Hotline</i> by Cheryl Navo</li> <li>• <i>It Was Never Designed With Negros In Mind: The Slaughter of Mary Turner</i> by Randy Ferino</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Inexplicable Chaos Factor of Mia Gregory</i> by Emily Hageman*</li> <li>• <i>Pains, Twains, and Something Surreal</i> by Jordan West*</li> <li>• <i>A Breach in the Darkness</i> by Suzanne Allmon*</li> <li>• <i>¡Bocón!</i> By Lisa Loomer*</li> <li>• <i>Nina Simone</i> by Christina Ham</li> <li>• <i>I Don't Want to Talk About It</i> by Bradly Hayward</li> <li>• <i>Just A Stage He's Going Through</i> by Pat Cook</li> <li>• <i>Sorry, Wrong Number</i> by Lucille Fletcher</li> <li>• <i>Two Hands on the Indigo Flower</i> by Theresa Geboy</li> <li>• <i>4 AM</i> by Jonathan Dorf</li> <li>• <i>Eurydice</i> by Sarah Ruhl</li> <li>• <i>Tuesdays and Sundays</i> by Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn</li> <li>• <i>The Election</i> by Jonathan Turner Smith</li> </ul>