



REGISTER FOR MTA 2026

The 2026 Mississippi Theatre Association State Festival will take place on January 15-18 on the University of Mississippi Campus in Oxford, MS. The MTA State Festival offers multiple opportunities for student and adult theatre makers to engage in a variety of theatre activities. Follow the instructions on this page to complete your registration for MTA 2026.

1. Before Registering

a. Secondary Organizations:

- [READ THIS FIRST](#) and review the checklist tab on the MTA Registration Worksheet for required action items and deadlines.
- Visit mississippitheatre.org/registration for our “How to Register for MTA” videos.
- Complete the **MTA Registration Worksheet**; find your copy of this document in your organization’s Google folder.
- Collect required items and documents.
- Email MSTheatreReg@gmail.com with questions.

b. Community Theatre Organizations:

- Visit mississippitheatre.org/registration for our “How to Register for MTA” videos.
- Determine the required number of adult memberships.
- Collect names and email addresses of adults and secondary students registering for the festival.
- Email MSTheatreReg@gmail.com with questions.

c. College & University, Vendors, Professional Theatre Organizations:

- Visit mississippitheatre.org/registration for our “How to Register for MTA” videos.
- Determine the required number of included representatives, additional representatives, and college students.
- Collect names and email addresses of adults and college students registering for the festival.
- Email MSTheatreReg@gmail.com with questions.

d. Individuals:

- Visit mississippitheatre.org/registration for our “How to Register for MTA” videos.
- Determine the required number of adult memberships.
- Collect name(s) and email address(es) of adult(s) registering for the festival.
- Email MSTheatreReg@gmail.com with questions.

2. Register: Visit mississippitheatre.ludus.com to register.

3. Choose Fees:

- Organizations:** Choose the number of memberships needed for the festival participants in your organization.
- Individuals:** Participants registering as individuals should choose the Adult Membership option.

4. Additional Items: Check the icons for available add-on items.

- Organizations:** Choose any additional items that pertain to your group.
- Individuals:** Choose any additional items that pertain to you.

5. Complete **Payer Information** and click **Add to Cart**.
6. Fill out **Required Information** and click **Continue**.
7. **Review everything**, adjust your cart if necessary, and click **Proceed to Payment**.
8. Enter **Payment Details**
 - a. For organizations paying by cash, check, or purchase order:
 - Click the **PAY LATER** option checkout.
 - An invoice will be sent to the organization's primary contact (this should be the director/lead teacher).
 - Click **Confirm and Purchase**.
 - b. For organizations and individuals paying by credit card:
 - Enter payment information.
 - Click **Confirm and Purchase**.
 - **NOTE: Individuals must pay by credit card at time of registration.**

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR MTA 2026 REGISTRATION!

MTA 2026 OFFERINGS

The MTA State Festival offers multiple opportunities for student and adult theatre makers to engage in a variety of theatre activities. Check out how you and your organization can be involved in MTA 2026!

PERFORM & WATCH

Secondary Festival

January 15-16, 2026 – Gertrude Ford Center Stage – University of Mississippi

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 2026 participants; day and block passes are also available.

Community Theatre Festival

January 16-17, 2026 – Meek Auditorium – University of Mississippi

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. Admission is open to all MTA 2026 participants; day and block passes are also available.

Theatre for Youth Festival

January 16, 2026 – Gertrude Ford Center BlackBox Theatre – University of Mississippi

The Theatre for Youth Festival is an adjudicated showcase 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 free and open to the public.

10-Minute Play Festival

January 17, 2026 – Gertrude Ford Center Stage & BlackBox Theatre – University of Mississippi

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 MTA 2026 participants, block passes are also available.

Secondary Individual Events Festival

January 17, 2026 – Lamar Hall – University of Mississippi

The Secondary Individual Events Festival offers 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 all MTA 2026 participants, though space is limited. Final round interviews in design/technology events are closed to spectators.

Adult Individual Events Festival

January 16-17, 2026 – Lamar Hall – University of Mississippi

The Adult Individual Events Festival offers 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. Admission is open to all MTA 2026 participants, though space is limited.

MTA Auditions & Scholarships

January 15, 2026 – Gertrude Ford Center BlackBox Theatre – University of Mississippi

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 from 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. Participating students must complete the online application in the Acceptd platform. MTA offers up to two \$500 scholarships to deserving seniors planning to pursue theatre at a Mississippi college or university. To apply, students must participate in the MTA auditions and complete the scholarship section of the online Acceptd application.

Playwriting Festival

January 17, 2026 – Location (TBD) – University of Mississippi

The 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 2026 participants.

LEARN & EXPLORE

College & University Expo

January 15-17, 2026 – Gertrude Ford Center Lobby – University of Mississippi

Colleges and universities from across the South are encouraged to attend MTA 2026. 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 student memberships. See the Program Advertisement and Sponsorship sections for more ways to promote your institution.

Vendor Expo

January 15-17, 2026 – Gertrude Ford Center Lobby – University of Mississippi

Vendors are encouraged to attend MTA 2026. 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 16-17, 2026 – Lamar Hall – University of Mississippi

A variety of theatre-related workshops will be offered throughout the MTA 2026 State Festival. 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, submit a [Workshop Application](#) by December 1.

SOCIALIZE & CELEBRATE

Youth Social

January 17, 2026 – TBD – University of Mississippi

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

Adult Social

January 17, 2026 – TBD – Oxford, MS

Join us following the close of the Community Theatre Festival for a celebration of a successful MTA 2026! Refreshments will be provided.

Awards Ceremonies

January 18, 2026 – Gertrude Ford Center Stage – University of Mississippi

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

PROMOTE & SUPPORT

Program Advertisements

Program advertisements for the MTA Festival program support Mississippi's vibrant theatre community and promote your business or organization. Program Ads reach a diverse and engaged audience, and contributions directly the success of the MTA State Festival. For more information, visit mississippitheatre.org/ad-sales. Submit [Program Advertisements](#) by December 18.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships for the Mississippi Theatre Association directly support and enrich the vibrant world of theatre in Mississippi. By becoming sponsors, individuals and organizations contribute to the growth of local theatre and enjoy exclusive benefits. For more information, visit mississippitheatre.org/sponsors. Submit [MTA Sponsorships](#) by December 18.

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, and 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 a nomination for [Outstanding Contribution to Theatre Award](#) by December 1.

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's brochures at the MTA 2026 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 2026 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](#) by October 31.

Waymaker Grant

As a way to provide opportunity and access to the MTA Festival, the Waymaker Grant provides MTA membership (including full MTA 2026 State Festival passes) to up to 12 theatre-makers with diverse talents and backgrounds who meet qualifying criteria. Apply for the [Waymaker Grant](#) by November 1.

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[#MTA2026](#)



MTA 2026 FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

MTA 2026 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Afternoon

- Registration opens
- Vendor load-in
 - » College & University set-up
 - » Vendor set-up
- Secondary Festival – Preparation
 - » Directors meeting
 - » Block 1 & 2* load-in
 - » Block 1 rehearsals

Evening

- MTA Auditions
 - » Performance auditions
 - » Tech interviews
- Secondary Festival
 - » Block 1 performances (2 shows)
 - » Block 2* load-in

**exact schedule to be determined.*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Morning

- Theatre for Youth Festival
- Secondary Festival

Afternoon

- Boxed lunch pick up (preorder required)
- Theatre for Youth Festival
- Secondary Festival
- Community Theatre Festival Directors Meeting

Evening

- Secondary Festival
- Adult Individual Events
- Community Theatre Festival Load-in

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

Morning

- Secondary Individual Events
 - » Performance Events Finals
 - » Tech & Design Events Finals
 - » Tech Relay
 - » Splash Scenes – Preliminary Round
- 10-Minute Play Festival – Preparation
- Community Theatre Festival

Afternoon

- Boxed lunch pick up (preorder required)
- Secondary Individual Events
 - » Performance Events Finals
 - » Tech & Design Events Finals
 - » Tech Relay
 - » Splash Scenes – Final Round
- Adult Individual Events
- Open Doors Performance
- 10-Minute Play Festival – Preparation
- Playwriting Festival Staged Readings
- Community Theatre Festival

Evening

- 10-Minute Play Festival – Performances
- Community Theatre Festival
- Youth Social
- Adult Social

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Morning

- MTA Annual Membership Meeting
- MTA Contribution to Theatre Awards
- Community Theatre & Adult IEs Awards
- Secondary Theatre Awards
 - » Secondary Festival
 - » Secondary Auxillary Festivals
 - Theatre for Youth Festival
 - 10-Minute Play Festival
 - Secondary IEs