



MINNESOTA THESPIANS

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

MN Thespian Chapter Conference 2014

Registration and Opportunities Packet

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The MN Thespian Chapter Conference has lots of activities and events. If it's your first time attending, you can show up and watch...or you can bring a performance to present. It's up to you!

Questions: Email us at mnthespianchapter@gmail.com and check out our website:

www.mnthespians.org

Just what is a MN Thespian Chapter Conference and what will happen to me if I go there?

The MN Thespian Chapter Conference is a gathering of high school students from across Minnesota where participants watch, do and learn. Our primary purpose is to help foster a statewide community of students who are being prepared for their journey into theater...whether as a patron, performer, producer, administrator or technician. Here's what your two-day conference experience will look like...

Day One: Arriving on Sunday, February 16th at 9:00, you'll get your Conference Registration Packet, filled with interesting information about the conference. We'll all gather in the theater and have a short welcome and then the day's events will begin. You'll be able to watch one acts, participate in workshops, do the Tech Challenge, and hang out and meet folks. You'll emote, run, hide, sing, gesture, listen, and otherwise express yourself in interesting ways in a series of workshops related to the performance of our All State Show. At 6:30, we'll all move into the theater to watch the show, which is being performed by students from several schools. After the show, we'll have a short talkback and some social time. Then, around 9:30 you'll leave with your school. If you are from greater Minnesota, you may be staying at a hotel or with host Thespians. If you're local, you're probably going home!

Day Two: The next morning, you'll bus over to The Guthrie Theater to start your day of workshops, performances, socializing, and generally enjoying the experience of being at Conference. After a short opening meeting in one of the theaters, you are free to seek out and enjoy the activities that you like best. If you want to do any of the performances or auditions, you'll want to sign up when you register. Here are some of the things you might do...

- **Workshops:** *Learn great stuff in a workshop.* There will be a wide range of workshops for performance and production. Workshops are located in Guthrie classrooms and rehearsal rooms, with a few demonstration/tour opportunities in the Guthrie tech shops. Workshops are led by Guthrie Teaching Artists as well as other professionals and educators from around the state.
- **NIES Performances:** *Watch (or perform) monologues, songs or costume design presentations.* Throughout the day, students will be participating in the National Individual Events Showcase program. In this program, students can prepare presentations in a wide range of categories, which they then present to a panel of judges for feedback. Other students can watch the sessions and cheer on students from lots of different schools. Spend an hour watching amazing duet musical numbers, monologues, or other categories of NIES performances.
- **Guthrie Tours and Demonstration Workshops:** *See the backstage areas of The Guthrie!* Take a general tour of the building, or get a special tour to the costume shop or the scene shop.
- **Freestyle Performances** - Schools will be performing thirty minute freestyle performances on the Wurtle Thrust stage!
- **Take A Break and Eat With New Friends:** We provide a great box lunch, and there are snacks and beverages available at the Guthrie coffee bar all day.
- **College Scholarships:** Present an audition piece and you may be selected to win one of several \$1,000 college scholarships. Available for any students graduating with the class of 2014.
- **Discover New Colleges:** Meet with college reps at their tables, or present an informal college audition. It's a great way for Juniors to start that college search.

We wrap up Day Two with an Awards Ceremony and then put you back on your bus and off to your homes. Exhausted but happy, that's the plan!

THE SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 16th, 2014

Location: Chanhassen High School, 2200 Lyman Blvd, Chanhassen, MN 55317

8:00-9:30 - Registration

9:30 - Student Welcome & Adult Meeting

10:00 - 6:00

- Workshops
- Lunch Ala Carte in Commons
- NIES (Musical Entries)
- Tech Challenge
- Tech Vendors
- Chapter Select One Acts (On Mainstage)

6:00 Dinner (Senior Showcase Cabaret in Commons)

6:30 All State Staged Reading (On Mainstage)

8:30 Social Time (Details TBD...something wonderful!)

Monday, February 17th, 2014

Location: The Guthrie Theater, 818 S 2nd St, Minneapolis, MN 55415

8:30 - Welcome

9:00 - 4:30

- Freestyle Performances (On Thrust Stage)
- All State Callbacks
- Workshops
- College Auditions
- Scholarship Interviews
- NIES (Tech, Acting, Other)
- Panel Discussions
- Guthrie Tours
- Box Lunch on 4th Floor from 11:00-1:00

5:00 - Awards (On Thrust)

THE COST

Student Registration Fee: \$60

Includes dinner on Sunday, lunch on Monday, and all events and workshops.

Inducted Thespian members receive a \$10 discount.

Adult directors and chaperones are free and are encouraged to provide some limited time as volunteers for the event.

Schools who are traveling a distance to attend may arrange local hotel accommodations or may request hosting support from MN Thespians.

The registration deadline is January 15th, 2014.

ONE ACTS AND FREESTYLE PERFORMANCES

Each year several schools present one acts at the MN Thespian Conference. Participants receive feedback and one school is invited to perform at the International Thespian Festival Chapter Select Showcase in June. Everyone who attends conference can watch these shows, but if you would like to present a show, read on!

For 2014, we are supporting two categories of short theatre performances.

Freestyle Theatre

Freestyle Theatre is an opportunity for any Minnesota school to present a performance of thirty minutes or less from any genre (improv, one act, musical, etc.) The performance slot includes a ten minute setup, thirty minute performance, and five minute strike. Freestyle performances will take place between 9:30 and 4:30 on Monday the 17th on the Wurtle Thrust at The Guthrie Theatre...that's right, on the Guthrie stage!

Schools who wish to participate in the Freestyle Theatre will need to submit their application using the link on the website. Applications will be prioritized in a first come, first served order (except as described in the Chapter Select Process below). Participant schools will be announced on January 20th. These will fill up, so sign up soon!

Chapter Select One Act Regional Showcase

Thespian Troupes that wish to submit a one act for consideration as the MN Thespian Chapter Select One Act may do so using the following process. **(School must have an active Thespian Troupe as of December 1st, 2013.)**

1. Complete the Chapter Select MN Regional Application at the link on the website.
2. Our screeners will view your performance sometime between December 1st and January 13th.
3. On January 13th, eight schools will be invited to participate in the February 16th Chapter Select Regional Showcase at the MN Thespian Conference on the Mainstage at Chanhassen High School.
4. On February 17th at the Awards Ceremony, we will announce the school whose One Act is being recommended for the 2014 International Thespian Festival Chapter Select Showcase as the representative of MN Thespians.

Troupes who are screened for the MN Conference but who are not one of the eight schools invited to perform on February 16th will have first right of refusal to perform in the February 17th Freestyle Performance schedule.

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT THE REQUEST FOR SCREENING IS NOVEMBER 10TH.

COLLEGE AUDITIONS

Juniors or Seniors who attend the 2014 MN Thespian Conference are eligible to audition for colleges and universities. These auditions are introductory auditions which give you a first chance to get used to the college audition process as well as an opportunity to begin connecting with schools that offer performing arts degrees.

To audition, you will need to complete the form on the website. This will get your name in the list of auditioning students and get basic information about your experience to the schools.

Performance auditions consist of two contrasting or complimentary monologues or a song and monologue. Your total audition may not exceed two minutes. If you plan to sing, an accompanist will be provided and you will need to bring sheet music.

On Monday of conference, you will present your audition during the morning audition slots (9:30-11:30). After the audition, you will find out which schools are interested in talking with you further, at which point you can visit their tables during the afternoon. Students are free to visit with schools who have invited them to meet as well as those who have not.

ATTEND THE AUDITION WORKSHOP: On Sunday, February 2nd, we will be holding a workshop for students participating in the NIES and college auditions. Details about this workshop will be sent to registered students after January 15th.

If you wish to participate in college auditions, complete the form on the website. (You must be a Junior or Senior as of February 17th.)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors who attend the 2014 MN Thespian Conference are eligible to interview for one of several \$1,000 scholarships.

Each school that participates in the MN Thespian Conference may recommend up to three students to participate in the scholarship interview. Those students are then invited to complete the scholarship application and interview with the scholarship panel at the conference. The application includes a basic resume and statement of educational purpose. The interview includes a presentation of performance or portfolio and questions from the panel (total of 10 minutes per applicant).

Scholarship participants must be Seniors with a GPA of 2.75 who are inducted Thespians as of January 1st, 2014.

The deadline for recommending scholarship participants is January 15th. The student recommendation must come from the troupe or theatre program director at the school.

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL EVENTS SHOWCASE (NIES)

The National Individual Events Showcase (NIES) is an educational program that offers Thespian Festival delegates the opportunity to receive constructive feedback on prepared theatrical material and technical designs. Students who attend our conference can choose to just watch NIES performances or, if you wish, you can participate and present in up to two categories.

The performance Individual Events include: Monologue, Duet Acting, Group Acting, Solo Musical Theatre, Duet Musical Theatre, and Group Musical Theatre.

The technical Individual Events include: Costume Construction, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Short Film, Sound Design, Stage Management, and Theatre Marketing.

Students who perform an Accomplished rating at our state conference will be invited to present their performance at the NIES event at the International Thespian Festival in June. You do not need to be an inducted Thespian to participate at the state level, but if you advance and wish to perform at ITF, you will need to become an inducted Thespian member.

Basic Rules for all Individual Events

1. Performance events are limited to five minutes after the introduction. Monologue has a three-minute limit. All technical presentations are limited to ten minutes and up to five minutes for questions. **Any entrant who goes over the time limit—even by one second—will be disqualified.**
2. Material for all performance and technical Individual Events (excluding short film) must be drawn from published scripts written for theatre only. Works from other forms such as poetry, fiction, or film are prohibited. This includes stand-alone monologues found online or in monologue books. In Musical Theatre categories, works from other forms such as film, television, poetry, fiction, or popular song lyrics not interpreted as musical theatre performance are not permitted.
3. Each entrant is permitted to participate in only two events. (This is a state variation. At ITF students are limited to one entry. If you receive two Accomplished ratings at the state level we will inquire with you as to which entry to report to ITF.)
4. Entrants who qualify for Individual Events through participation in a State Chapter Conference/Festival must present exactly the same work at both the state and national levels. Other qualifying entrants are expected to present the works listed on their registration.
5. Substitutions are not allowed. Entrants who qualified at a State Chapter Conference/Festival and who are listed on the registration form are the only ones qualified to perform at Festival. However, in the category of Group Musical and Group Acting, drops will be allowed, but no substitutions are permitted in any category.

Students will indicate their NIES categories (if any) when they register.

Detailed rules and information about the event are on the MN Thespians website.

TECH CHALLENGE

The chance for techies to show us their stuff.

Any school or combination of schools may register a team for Tech Challenge. Each team must have five to seven team members with at least two members of each gender. Each team will participate in challenges at five different stations. The stations could include knot tying, light focus, prop shift, costume change, sound execution, or stage management.

Tech Challenge in 2014 will be on Sunday from Noon to 3:00. No prior experience or registration is needed. Just show up with your team and sign up on site at the Conference!

Although we do keep times as a score and have fun prizes, this is primarily a fun and educational event. Tech Challenge allows team members to demonstrate their abilities to meet challenges encountered in a production environment. Skills in accuracy, speed, and efficiency will be evaluated. Additional discretionary points may be awarded (or subtracted) by the judges for creativity, ingenuity, teamwork, etc. Tech Challenge rules may be found at thespianfestival.org/techchallenge.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Both days of conference are filled with workshops of all types. Acting, tech, improv, arts advocacy, leadership, social justice, and much more are at your fingertips. Workshops are led by local and national teaching artists as well as by your student leader peers.

Two weeks prior to conference, your director will receive your school's workshop tickets so that you can plan your time at conference. Workshop descriptions will be posted on the website by January 1st.

Get workshop details with our online program app: Guidebook!



You can download the Guidebook app at www.guidebook.com/getit/ and when the MN Thespian Chapter Conference 2014 Guidebook is published (we anticipate an early version in November) you'll be ready to grab it so that you have the complete conference program on your phone or iPad. We will also put a pdf version of some program elements on the website.

HOW TO REGISTER

Student registration for 2014 is \$60 and t-shirts are \$10. Students with a Thespian Membership will save \$10. Adult chaperones (including troupe directors) are not charged and will sign up through a separate volunteer management system.

The student registration fee includes:

- Access to workshops and individual performance sessions.
- Access to one act performances.
- Access to Guthrie tours.
- Access to the Tech Challenge.
- Eligible to perform in the National Individual Event Showcase (maximum of two categories per student).
- One ticket to the All State Show.
- Dinner on Sunday and lunch on Monday.
- Juniors are eligible to participate in the college auditions.
- Seniors are eligible to participate in the scholarship interviews (3 per school).

Let Students Handle Their Own Online Registration

This year you can choose to gather registration fees and manage registration yourself, or you can choose to allow your students to register and pay MN Thespians directly. If students register directly, then we will gather payments as well as information about college auditions and NIES categories from them directly. If you register your students as a group, then you will need to manage payments, the college audition and NIES categories. Either way, you control the selection of your scholarship entries (schools are limited to three scholarship entries).

WHICHEVER METHOD YOU CHOOSE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO VIEW AND SUBMIT EDITS TO STUDENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

My Students Will Pay MN Thespians Directly

If you prefer to let students do individual registration directly, then pre-register NOW on our website, and then forward the link below to your students.

Student Registration Link:

<http://mnthespianconference2014.eventzilla.net>

In order to register, students need the following information:

- Name
- Email Address
- Cell Phone (Use director's cell if student has none.)
- School Name
- Year of Graduation
- T-Shirt Size (if ordering t-shirt)
- Name of Director (Must be attending as Chaperone) or Chaperone
- Thespian Membership # (If applicable.)

To receive the Thespian Troupe discount, students must be inducted by January 1st, 2014.

I will Register My Students as a Group

If you prefer to collect your student's payments and registration information and forward them to us, then you will want to follow these steps.

1. Pre-register NOW using link on our website.
2. Gather a spreadsheet with student data:
 - Name
 - Email Address
 - Cell Phone (or provide yours)
 - Year of Graduation
 - NIES Categories (Up to 2 per student)
 - College Audition Participant (Yes or No)
 - Scholarship Participant (Yes or No; up to 3 per school)
 - Thespian Membership # (If applicable for \$10 discount.)
 - T-Shirt Size (or no t-shirt)
3. Send the spreadsheet to us by email BEFORE January 15th.
4. Forward the payment so it ARRIVES before February 1st.