



MINNESOTA THESPIANS

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

MN Thespian Chapter Conference 2015

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 [mntthespianchapter@gmail.com](mailto: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 at East Ridge High School on Sunday, February 15th at 10:00, 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 participate in workshops, see or participate in Freestyle One Acts, 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 the end of the day, we'll all move into the theater to watch the show, which is being performed by students from several schools. After the show, you'll leave with your school. If you are from greater Minnesota, you may be staying at a hotel. 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 one acts, 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...

- **One Acts:** Our annual Chapter Select Showcase performances will take place throughout the day. See great one acts performed by students from participating schools.
- **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 15th, 2015

Location: East Ridge High School, 4200 Pioneer Drive, Woodbury MN 55129

9:00-10:00 - Registration

10:00 - Student Welcome & Adult Meeting

11:00 - 5:00

- Workshops
- One Acts
- Lunch Ala Carte in Commons
- NIES (Musical Entries)
- Tech Challenge
- Tech Vendors
- Freestyle Performances (On Proscenium Stage)

5:00 Dinner Workshop (Pizza and *Spring Awakening* Preshow Discussion)

6:30 All State Show: *Spring Awakening*

8:30 Catch your Bus!

Monday, February 16th, 2015

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

8:30 - Welcome

9:30 - 4:30

- Chapter Select One Acts (On Mainstage)
- All State Auditions
- Workshops
- College Auditions
- Scholarship Interviews
- NIES (Tech, Acting, Other)
- Panel Discussions
- Guthrie Tours
- Box Lunch on 4th Floor from 11:30-1:30

4:45 - Awards (On Proscenium)

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, 2015.

ONE ACT 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!

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** and return it by December 30th.
2. We will hold a lottery the first week of January to determine the six schools who will perform.
3. Performances will take place at The Guthrie on Monday, February 16th.
4. On February 16th at the Awards Ceremony, we will announce the school whose One Act is being recommended for the 2015 International Thespian Festival Chapter Select Showcase as the representative of MN Thespians..

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT THE REQUEST FOR THE LOTTERY IS DECEMBER 30TH.

Freestyle One Act Performances

Any attending schools who wish to perform a one act on Sunday in the black box at East Ridge High School may request one of the available slots (by lottery on January 1st and first come, first served after the lottery). Submit your request by January 1st. There may be up to five slots available. Schools will be notified on January 6th.

ALL STATE SHOW: *SPRING AWAKENING*

This year, our All State Show is the challenging musical, *Spring Awakening*. The show includes students from MN high schools and will perform on Sunday at the conference at 6:30. Please note that the show deals with mature content.

COLLEGE AUDITIONS

Juniors or Seniors who attend the 2015 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 1ST, 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 16th.)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors who attend the 2015 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, 2015.

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 2015 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.

New for 2015: Advanced Workshop Track

For the 2015 conference, students who are Juniors or Seniors may apply to be included in the new Advanced Workshop Track. This track includes four two-hour workshops focused on Stage Combat, Auditioning, Vocal Work, and Musical Theatre. If you select this track we will forward an application to you that must include a recommendation from your director. This track is appropriate for students who have already received basic training in at least two of the four track areas. Make sure you get your Student Registration form submitted soon if you wish to participate in the Advanced Workshop Track.

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 2015 Guidebook is published (we anticipate an early version in late January) 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 2015 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).

School Registration

To start the registration process, the theatre director should visit our web site and follow the links to the pre-registration form. This must be done before any student can register.

Student Registration Process

Each student will register themselves for the conference using our online registration form. Jr. Thespian Troupes may choose to bypass the individual student registration process. Details regarding student registration will be sent to the directors after completing the School Registration form at the web site.

In order to register, students need the following information:

- Name
- Email Address
- School Name
- Year of Graduation
- T-Shirt Size (if ordering t-shirt)
- Thespian Membership # (If applicable.)

To receive the Thespian Troupe discount, students must be inducted by January 1st, 2015.