



WASHINGTON STATE THESPIANSSM

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

November Newsletter

Dear Theatre Educators and Friends,

November is the month that gets me thinking about gratitude. There is a lot of research that states that expressing gratitude helps improve both our mental and physical health. With all the chaos and worry going on around us, I encourage each of you to take a moment and count those blessings. One of the many blessings that I cherish is the opportunity to be a theatre educator and work with incredible colleagues. I'd love to take this moment to send a special "shout out" to my colleagues on the State Thespian Board. They work so hard behind the scenes to give us the events that make our organization flourish. You may not realize this, but Washington State Thespians is widely respected within the International Educational Theatre Association community. This is due to the work of our State Board and the involvement of theatre educators, teaching artists, and supportive friends such as yourself.

Thank you for all the work you do for students, and to keep our artform moving forward against all odds! As always, remember that Washington State Thespians is here to support you and encourage you along the way!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR STO -

This November we are looking forward to continuing the Instagram lives every other Wednesday. We also want to see all of your virtual performances this year! Please share them with us on Instagram. Instagram = [@WashingtonThespians](#)

Monthly Zoom Hangouts

If you'd like to connect with your theatre colleagues throughout the state, we are hosting Zoom Hangouts on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. This is a time to collaborate, share ideas, problem solve, and just enjoy the company of theatre people! As we move further into the year, we may offer specific topics / themes to our gathering. This month's meeting is on Tuesday, November 23rd at 7 p.m. A reminder will be sent out beforehand!

THE THESPYS ARE COMING! THE THESPYS ARE COMING!

This year the International Thespian Excellence Awards (Thespys) will be a Virtual Event. All registrations and submissions will be through a new program to us called "Open Water". It is very easy to use and I think you will like it.

Now is the time to start the process of selecting your pieces for this year's Thespys. You can find the updated 2020 - 2021 Thespy Program Guide, Summary of Changes for 2020 - 2021, Category Summary Guide, and all Event Rubrics on the Washington Thespian Website <http://www.washingtonstatethespians.com/virtual-thespys-20-21.php>. These documents will help you in your selections.

We will also be providing a guideline for filming your selections (forthcoming). To film your selections you will need to follow the National guidelines and the Washington State guidelines for Coronavirus County Safe Start. <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/county-status-and-safe-start-application-process>.

We hope to open registration sometime in the next week, with a separate email with a HOW TO guide to registration and submission. The last date for submission will be February 12, 2021!

TAA (Teaching Artist Alliance)

If you are looking for any additional support or fun activities/lessons for your students, look no further than the [Teaching Artist Alliance](#). The TAA is a growing network of highly skilled, vetted, sought-after, experienced teaching artists, who are all qualified specialists in their respective disciplines. TAA teaching artists offer both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities. Please check out the website for information about what [types of workshops](#) they offer. WA State Thespian board members Suzanne Maguire and Ruben VanKempfen are both members of TAA and would be happy to answer other questions you might have!

SURVEY - Seeking input from WA Arts Educators

Dr. AnnRené Joseph, arts educator, researcher and WAEA Retired Division Representative, would love your input on a short survey titled "what is the future of arts education?" This survey is a follow up to one initially done during the early months of Covid. She would love to know about your current reality, thoughts, vision, concerns, hopes, and dreams regarding arts education now and for the future.

Please respond to this anonymous qualitative ten-question survey by November 30, 2020. [LINK TO SURVEY](#)

If you have questions please contact

Dr. AnnRené Joseph Ed.D.

moreartsannrene@gmail.com

VIRTUAL ITF -

It is OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED - ITF will be Virtual again this year. You can get information from <https://www.schooltheatre.org/itf/home>

COOL STUDENT ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY/OPPORTUNITY:

The [Manhattan Theatre Club](#) in New York has launched this challenge this past spring when schools across the country moved to remote learning, and were overwhelmed by the sheer talent and diversity of thought shared with us by hundreds of students from across the country. They've recently launched their second round which is based upon the prompt "You have no idea..." Here's how the challenge works:

- 1) Students visit the [Student Monologue Challenge webpage](#) where they can learn about the challenge, view a video with helpful tips on getting started, and submit their entry. There is no cost involved and students may submit multiple entries.
- 2) MTC staff will read all of the entries on a regular basis throughout the fall and into the winter.
- 3) Outstanding entries will be published on the Student Monologue Challenge webpage and promoted on MTC's social media channels.
- 4) **During late fall and into winter, the most exceptional entries will be selected for performance by actors who've performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, and in film and television.** We then promote these performance recordings on MTC's social media channels.

Actors performing monologues from the first round of submissions included Tala Ashe (The CW's "DC's Legends of Tomorrow"), Gaten Matarazzo (Netflix's "Stranger Things"), Marquis Rodriguez (Netflix's "When They See Us"), Taylor Trensch (*Dear Evan Hansen*), and Ana Villafañe (*On Your Feet*). You can [click here](#) to view the performances of these exceptional student-written monologues and to read some of the many outstanding submissions we received.

Dates of Virtual Events

Thespy's (All regions): REGISTRATION INFO COMING SOON - Deadline February 12, 2021 - Note: this is updated information

Virtual State Thespian Festival: March 17 - 20 (More information to come)

A Note from our Webmaster:

Do you want a photo of your students or one of your productions featured on the WA State Thespians website? The website is undergoing updates often, and we are in need some new photos for each page. We're looking for production photos, photos from troupe meetings or photos from Thespian events. Please send to sullivanbp@mukilteo.wednet.edu.

Best,
Bryan

COMMUNICATIONS

We have several ways for you to keep up to date on all our upcoming events. Have you joined our Facebook Page: Washington State Thespians - @washingonthespians?

WEBSITE is continually being updated for the 2020 - 2021 school year; we encourage you to see what all we are offering- <http://washingtonstatethespians.com/>

REMIND text @wathespian to 81010 to join the free Washington Thespian text remind system. We will send you reminder texts about upcoming due dates and other helpful reminders throughout the year!

EdTA COMMUNITY GROUP just for Washington State Thespian and theatre teachers. You should have received an email from our home office regarding our new communication tool. Please join us in sharing your questions, thoughts, resources, etc. with our Thespian (and theatre educator) community. If you have not been contacted or you need information on how to join, please contact me to get set up.

UPDATED TROUPE / TEACHER LIST: [Current Active Troupe List](#) - as of November 8, 2020. This information is taken from our EdTA Data Center. If there is anything incorrect, be sure to check with membership@schooltheatre.org.

Truly,

Kristina Cummins
Co-Director, WA State Thespians

"Our teatro was silent, with no public performances. But I've looked back on theatre history, and that history offers me hope. Shakespeare was born into the plague during the outbreak of 1564-65 and lived his entire life through outbreaks of plague. During his most active theatre years, London experienced at least five severe outbreaks of plague, between 1603 & 1610. The London theatre was shuttered on order of health authorities much, much more frequently than it was operating. Beyond the theatre, Thomas Hobbes wrote in 1651, "In such condition, there is ... no account of time; no arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Yes, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short might describe the current social order. But the good news implicit in both of these stories is that the plague passes, and that artists keep doing their art even in times of plague. So Teatro La Fragua is now doing theatre in times of plague."

Jack Warner, sj
Artistic Director Teatro La Fragua
El Progreso, Honduras