



WASHINGTON STATE THESPIANSSM

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

September Newsletter

Dear Theatre Educators and Friends,

WELCOME BACK! Usually I would mention my hopes that you all had a restful and rejuvenating summer, but I know that many of us spent this summer wondering what school is going to look like, how to approach theatre online, and living with the incredible stress of the pandemic and social unrest. I've been hard at work educating myself on virtual teaching and anti-racist practices. I encourage you all to remember self care and to extend grace to yourself and your students! (I write this to remind myself as well). The good news is that we are not alone and there are a LOT of resources available.

Theatre Educator Pro - If you have not spent time in [Theatre Educator Pro](#) - you are missing out. This resource offers abundant curriculum options - some click and teach - crafted by amazing theatre educators throughout the country. Our very own Suzanne Maguire and Julie Olson have both been instrumental in contributing to this resource. You do need to be current in your EdTA Membership to utilize Theatre Educator Pro. In addition, EdTA is offering their Virtual [National Teacher Conference](#) FOR FREE to all members.

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, September 29 at 7 p.m. [Here is the Zoom link.](#) A reminder will be sent out beforehand!

Teaching Artist Alliance - As many of you know, we have friends in the industry who continue to be out of work. Some talented teaching artists have come together to form this organization to offer workshops and to be available to come to our classrooms (virtually). There is a cost; this is how they are surviving. If you are interested in bringing in guest artists in your classroom, this is a great way to go. Also consider looking at grant opportunities. [EdTA offers some grants](#), and sometimes our districts or parent groups can help with this as well. To sign up for their newsletter, fill out this [Google Form](#) Here is a [link to their website](#).

COLLEGE AUDITIONS

The 2020 Washington Unified College Auditions will be going online in joint-state partnership with Oregon Thespians! We anticipate an increase of participating colleges and universities who are eager to see the class of 2021 talent in the PNW! Registration costs will be lower so more of your performers, directors, designers, playwrights, and technicians can participate. Have your seniors start preparing their portfolio presentations or performance auditions now! More details to come!"

<http://www.washingtonstatethespians.com/College-Auditions.php>

TEACHER IN-SERVICE & STUDENT MASTERCLASSES

I look forward to this event every year, but this year's virtual event is going to be AMAZING! We are bringing in Idris Goodwin for our keynote, and workshops with SIMON BELL all the way from England! [OPEN this flyer for detailed information.](#) Registration links will be available soon. In the meantime, visit our website for the schedule of the day.

<http://www.washingtonstatethespians.com/Teacher-Inservice-and-Student-Masterclasses.php>

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SAVE THE DATE

**WA THESPIAN TEACHER IN-SERVICE
STUDENT LEADERSHIP & THEATRE WORKSHOPS**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2020 TEACHERS \$25 / STUDENTS \$5

PEOPLE, PROCESS & PERFORMANCE - VIRTUALLY 3.0

Processing Today's Social Issues Through Theatre, Devising Original Works and Teaching Theatre in the Virtual Classroom

Keynote - Matters Into Action
Turning matters into actionable steps to meaningful change, personal and community growth.



Idris Goodwin,
Award-winning playwright, Break Best poet, director, educator, and organizer.

Action has disabled into Goodwin has forged a multi-faceted career as an award-winning playwright, Break Best poet, director, educator, and organizer.

Best Practices for Self-Taping Auditions and Thespians (TEs) & Improv for Zoom



Tom Smith,
Chair of Theatre and Dance Pacific Lutheran University

Tom Smith is a Professor and Chair of Theatre and Dance at Pacific Lutheran University. His areas of scholarship include playwriting and improvisation. He has written articles and reviews in Theatre Journal, Theatre Topics, JCCC Journal and others and his plays have been produced in over 15 countries. Tom is a member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and Dramatic Guild.

Devising Toolbox
Part 1 & Part 2



Simon Bell,
Theatre Practitioner, Educator and Artist EdTA Creative Director

Simon Bell served as an actor at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and Ecole Jacques-Lecoq. He has worked professionally as an actor, director and movement director and has a specialism in physical acting and devised theatre.

He has worked with several leading collaborative theatre companies including Complicité, Plastic Productions and Theatre Forum.

He critically acclaimed plays like *And In This Corner*, *Crash City*, *How We Got On*, and *Type Men: A Diner Story* they are widely produced across the country at professional theatres, college campuses, and non-traditional spaces alike. He's been honored to receive developmental support from institutions like The Kennedy Center, The Eugene O'Neill Conference, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, and The Playwrights Center.

In addition to his recently released poetry collection *Capri Kula 07*, he's had several publications from international books including *Intrepidator* in writer with comic author, *Planet Highlight: On To Dinosauria*, *Believe*, and the play *Pin to Market Art* in written with Kevin Cross. He's appeared on HBO *Def Poetry*, *Deuce Street*, *WHR*, *WBC Radio*, and the Discovery Channel.

Passionate about cultivating new audiences in the arts, Goodrich served two seasons as Producing Artistic Director of StageOne Family Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky. He actively serves on both the advisory board of Theatre for Young Audiences USA and Children's Theatre Foundation Association.

A catalyst for culture, Goodrich uses his full creative powers to galvanize people to the community square. This is a creative voice for change, empowered to get to social good.



Sarah Seider
Resident Assistant Professor of Dance
Pacific Lutheran University

Sarah Seider is the Resident Assistant Professor of Dance at PLU. Previously, she taught dance at Smith College (MA), Mount Holyoke College (MA), and at numerous studios in the greater Seattle area. Seider co-founded Seattle-based Ensemble Dance Collective in 2003 and co-edited the company until 2016. With CDC she choreographed numerous original contemporary works, two-practice annual evening length performances, performed extensively throughout the Pacific Northwest (found in New York, Mexico's Vineyard, and Vancouver). Her choreography has been seen at On The Boards (Seattle), Moore Hall (Seattle), and Mendocott (Northampton, MA) to name a few. Seider has choreographed music for Taproot Theatre's *Walking Studio*, *Evening Village Theatre's* *POETRY*, and *Harbor High School*.

He now works as a freelance artist and international education specialist. Simon trains teachers in the US Theatre program and delivers workshops in a variety of aspects of physical theatre to all ages of young people teachers and professional actors. He works for the International School Theatre Association as a Creative Director and Ensemble Leader as well as a training workshop as part of their professional development program.

Scenic and Lighting Projects for a Virtual Classroom



Amanda Sanger
Resident Assistant Professor of Theatre
Pacific Lutheran University

Amanda Sanger, Lighting Designer is a lighting and scenic designer who has been based in Seattle, Chicago, Nashville and Philadelphia. She received a BFA from Northwestern University in 2011 and a MFA from Webster University in 2004. She is currently holds the role of Assistant Professor of Pacific Lutheran University. She is proud to have designed with companies such as The Second City, Third Line Theatre, Tenor Lake Playhouse, Seattle Theatre Group, and continues to be deeply fulfilled by her collaborations with Taproot.



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY THEATRE & DANCE
IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF WA THESPIAN TEACHER IN-SERVICE 2020

**Viewpoints:
A Checklist for Directors
with Jeff Clapp**



Jeff Clapp
Associate Professor of Theatre
Pacific Lutheran University

Jeff Clapp (He, Him, His) is an Associate Professor of Theatre and Director at Pacific Lutheran University. Jeff has been a member of the faculty at PLU since 1995, and served as the Artistic Director of Theatre from 2001 to 2015. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Recent Operating credits include: *Songs of Fear*, *Dead Dog*, *Master Harold and the Boys*, *Mojo*, *Ghost*, *Amadeus* and *The Curious Incident of the Boy in the Bathroom*. Some of the production work Jeff is most proud of while at PLU is *The Curious Incident of the Boy in the Bathroom*, *Touch*, *La Bohème*, *Barbaric* of Seattle, and *An Evening with Kurt Weill*. While not working in theatre, Jeff enjoys reading and fly-fishing northwest rivers with his wife, son and Pegasus the Golden Retriever.

THESPYs are going VIRTUAL this year!

More information is coming! Go ahead and have your students start selecting and preparing their favorite material.

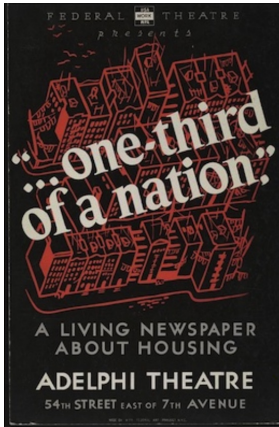
ARTS ARE ESSENTIAL

We already know this, but OSPI is helping us get the word out. If you are having concerns in your building or district, feel free to share this document and let your administration know that YOU ARE CORE! A special shout out to our members who worked this summer to help draft this document: Gretchen Nordleaf-Nelson, Sara Coiley, Sydney Baird, and Dallas Myers. [LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

THEATRE FOR SOCIAL ACTION - CREATING A LIVING NEWSPAPER

Our colleague and board member Gretchen Nordleaf-Nelson has put together another incredible opportunity for us to explore social action through theatre. This year's focus will be exploring Augusto Boal's use of transforming non-literary texts into performance. Here are some links to reference and supporting materials to get you started!

- [Theatre for Social Action - Information Packet](#)
- [12 Techniques of Newspaper Theatre](#)



Dates of Virtual Events

- College Auditions:** Tentative submission window: **September 23 - October 14, 2020** / Callback Notification by **October 23, 2020**
- Teacher In-service / Student Leadership Training:** **October 10, 2020**
- Thespy's (All regions):** Registration Deadline - **December 11, 2020** / Submissions Deadline - **January 9, 2021**
- 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 - @washingtonthespians?

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: Make sure your information is up to date with EdTA. You'll want to pay your annual dues so you can participate in the National Conference for Teachers! Free with your membership to EdTA!

Truly,

Kristina Cummins
Co-Director, WA State Thespians

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