



GEORGIA THESPIANSSM

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE



2019 Georgia Thespian Conference
Troupe Director's Handbook

www.gathespians.org

2019 Georgia Thespian Conference

Troupe Director's Handbook



Join us for the best three days of high school theatre in Georgia. The Georgia Thespian Conference features numerous productions presented by high schools from throughout the state. Plus, you and your students will be able to participate in a variety of workshops led by theatre professionals from around the country.

And if that weren't enough, your students can also perform or view individual performance and tech events, audition for scholarships, talk to college representatives from around the country, shop with commercial vendors selling theatre merchandise, and hang out with thousands of other Georgia Thespians.

This handbook contains useful information to help you register for, plan for, and learn more about the 2019 Georgia Thespian Conference. It is as complete and accurate as possible by the publication date. Remember, however, that your primary source of information is the Georgia Thespian website: www.gathespians.org

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Registration

Students who are inducted, registered Thespians can attend Georgia Thespian Conference. Registration opens **September 30, 2018, at 8:00 am**, and closes on **November 14, 2018, at 6:00 pm**, or when the maximum capacity has been reached. Remember, you may “meet the deadline” but not be included if all available registration spots fill up before the deadline.

Troupe Directors are responsible for registering their troupe’s attendees. Parents and students cannot complete the registration process themselves. There is no cap on the number of students and/or adults a troupe can bring. Registered troupe directors and chaperones are able to attend all conference events but should also consider themselves supervisors of students throughout the conference.

Seating at Special Conference Events (Opening, Closing, other unique events) is assigned according to the order of the date your registration status is accepted. The earlier your registration is finalized, the better your seats will be. Troupes whose registrations are finalized (registration status changed to “Accepted”) after the Bill Heard seats are reserved by other troupes will receive tickets to closed-circuit viewing in the Springer Opera House for both the Opening Ceremonies and the Closing Showcase. Troupes registering after both the Bill Heard and the Springer are full will receive no Opening or Closing tickets.

There are no day passes - no a-la-carte registration.

ThesCon 2018 *by the numbers*

5,412
attendees

195
troupes

153
unique workshop titles

444
Individual Events

145
scholarship
auditionees

23
mainstage
one acts

30
colleges/
universities

\$24,500
awarded in Georgia Thespians
scholarships

Who Can Attend Conference?

- Students must be inducted, registered Thespians to attend the conference. EdTA provides updated membership information on their website per troupe for verification. Student status must be “ACTIVE” to be included in your registration (“ELIGIBLE” status does not qualify).
- No unregistered attendees are allowed to remain at conference.
- Chaperones must be 21 years of age or older by **February 7, 2019**.
- Chaperones cannot bring unregistered children or adults with them.
- Chaperones are recommended at a 1-to-10 ratio – 1 chaperone for every 10 Thespians whenever possible. Georgia Thespians reserves the right to determine if the troupe has an appropriate number of chaperones and can delay completion of the registration until that issue is resolved.
- Bus drivers must be registered attendees to eat with us.
- Georgia Thespians reserves the right to determine who can and cannot attend Georgia Thespians events.

STEP 1: Online User Account

- In order to register for conference, you will need to have a website user account. Visit the Members Area of the website (select Login from the Quick Links dropdown in the upper right-hand corner of the homepage) and following the process for creating your own website account.
- If you already have a Georgia Thespians online user account then proceed to the next step.

STEP 2: Troupe's Conference Registration

- Visit the event registration page (select Conference Registration Area from the Quick Links dropdown in the upper right-hand corner of the homepage), select the appropriate event registration link, and then select the "Begin Registration" button.
- Your registration will include your troupe's contact information, the first and last names and t-shirt sizes for all your attendees, and the Thespians ID numbers for your student attendees.
- Submit your troupe's online conference registration.
- Collect completed Conference Agreement Forms from all your attendees
- Mail registration materials and payment to:

Georgia Thespians
2897 North Druid Hills Road
Box 225
Atlanta, GA 30329

Your complete registration packet must include:

- Registration invoice with required signature section completed.
- Payment (see accepted forms of payment) or a copy of the emailed credit card receipt if you paid online.
- Copy of your troupe's registration invoice (printed in "portrait" and not in "landscape") with required signatures.
- Complete Conference Agreement Forms for all your attendees organized in alphabetical order by last name. (Forms received out of alphabetical order will cause a delay in the completion of the registration process.)

Note: if you make attendee changes/substitutions/additions after your initial registration, those changes will not become official until a completed Conference Agreement Form and any **applicable fees are also submitted and received.**

STEP 3: Completing Your Registration

Your troupe is not officially registered until your complete registration packet has been received and verified. At that time, your online registration status will be changed from "Pending Review" to "Accepted". You will also receive an automated email indicating such. A list of all accepted registered troupes will be posted on the website.

TROUBLESHOOTING

ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Students become "Active" once their membership fees are received by the national office. Do not register any students for Thespians Conference whose status is "Eligible."
- Be very careful when inputting the Thespians ID number per student. Make sure the number you input is the correct number for each student.
- Thespians ID numbers are 6 or 7 digit numbers. Each student has a unique number. This is NOT your troupe number.
- If a Thespians transfers into your troupe, you cannot register him/her for Conference until you make the transfer official at the national office.
- Some Thespians are moved to the Alumni status by the national office if their graduation date was missing or incorrect when the student was inducted. If that is the case, you must make that change at the national office before you can register those Thespians for Conference.
- Names on the Conference registration form should match the names on the national office troupe list.
- Do not include Thespians ID numbers for adults/chaperones, even if they are Thespians alums.
- Call the national office for help with membership - (513) 421-3900. Ask for the Membership department.

HELPFUL HINTS AND REMINDERS

- Remember, you may “meet the deadline” but not be included if all available registration spots fill up before the deadline.
- Georgia Thespians does not have a fax machine and cannot accept faxes.
- Hand delivery of the conference registration fees and forms to personal mailboxes/addresses is not permitted.
- **FedEX and UPS are recommended delivery systems.**
- We are not able to honor emailed requests to confirm receipt of materials. If you need to know if your registration materials have been received, please secure tracking when you send the package, especially if using the United States Postal Service
- Avoid extra charges for overnight delivery by sending registration materials early.
- Please do not ask for additional emailed confirmations other than the ones you will receive automatically as part of the registration process
- The mailing address is NOT a P.O. Box. If you put P.O. before the number, your letter/package will be returned.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee for Georgia Thespian Conference is \$125 per attendee. This fee includes all workshops, performances, events, programs, t-shirt, entertainment, social events, conference supplies, and four meals (Thursday dinner, Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday lunch).

Acceptable Forms of Payment:

- Certified checks
- School checks
- School booster club checks
- Money orders
- Credit Cards (Note: A non-refundable service fee applies.)
- Cash

Your registration form is your “Invoice” you give to your bookkeeper. The online change from “Pending” to “Accepted” is your receipt. The webmaster will email you when your registration is accepted and post a list of accepted troupes on the website.

All fees are non-refundable.

CONFERENCE GRANTS

State Thespian Officers raise funds for conference grants each year during Georgia Thespian Conference. A Conference Grant covers conference registration. The number of grants available each year is directly related to the funds raised.

Conference grants are due September 8, 2018. They may be submitted three ways:

- Emailed to kimberly.staples@gathespians.org
- Faxed to the attention of Kim Staples at (770) 932-7570
- Handed to her at LeadCon on September 8 at Baldwin High School before 10:00 am. or between noon and 1:00 pm.

Conference grant paperwork can be found at <http://gathespians.org/sto/conference-grants/>

Helpful Hints & Reminders

- Do not staple checks to paperwork.
- Personal checks and purchase orders will not be accepted.
- A \$50 returned check fee will apply if necessary.
- If your bookkeeper needs a new W-9 form, please email frank.pruet@gathespians.org and request one.

Registration

REGISTRATION & EVENT FEE SUMMARY

REGISTRATION		
REGISTRATION OPENS: September 30, 2018		REGISTRATION CLOSES: November 14, 2018
Registration	\$125 per attendee (student and adult)	
Troupe Assessment	\$55 per troupe	
To make ADDITIONS AND CHANGES		
Dates <i>If your request arrives after a posted deadline, the guidelines for the next time period will apply</i>	Additions <i>You want to add attendee(s) to your already accepted registration</i>	Changes/Substitutions <i>You want to make a change or a substitution to your already accepted registration</i>
October 1, 2018 – December 19, 2018	\$125 (regular registration) with no additional fee per attendee if room allows	No fee for change/substitution per attendee
December 20, 2018 – January 4, 2019	Out of Office period. <i>Anything received during this time will be processed after January 4th</i>	
January 5, 2019 – January 31, 2019	\$125 plus \$100 fee (total \$225) per attendee if room allows	\$100 fee per change/substitution per attendee
February 1, 2019 – February 5, 2019	Only adult additions allowed during this time period. <i>No students can be added after January 31</i> \$125 plus a \$200 fee (total \$325) per adult attendee if room allows	Only adult changes/substitutions allowed during this time period. <i>No students can be changed/substituted after January 31</i> \$200 fee per change/substitution per adult attendee

EVENT FEES	
Freestyle Festival	\$25 per entry
Film Festival	\$25 per entry
Improv	\$25 per team
Individual Events	\$25 per entry
Scholarship Auditions	\$25 per student
Tech Challenge	\$25 per team
Performance Screening	\$100 per one act (1 hour or less)
Lost badge replacement at conference	\$50 (Thursday, Friday), \$20 Saturday

AGREEMENT FORM

The 2019 Agreement Form contains critical information that Georgia Thespians is required to collect by our liability insurance providers.

All attendees – students AND adults – are required to submit a completed Agreement Form before they can be registered for the Georgia Thespians Conference.

You will need **THREE** copies of each completed Agreement Form for everyone who is attending the conference with your troupe – students and adults.

- You will place one copy in each attendee's neck wallet once you arrive at conference.
- You will keep one copy with you at all times during conference.
- You will submit one copy per attendee with the Registration Package (In alphabetical order by last name)
- Note: If you make attendee changes/substitutions/additions after your initial registration, those will not become official until a completed Agreement Form and any applicable fees are also submitted and received.

Visit the Georgia Thespians website to access the Agreement Form and instructions.

Agreement Form

<http://gathespians.org/go/agreement-form/>

Agreement Form Instructions

<http://gathespians.org/go/agreement-form-instructions/>

SAFETY AND SECURITY GUIDELINES

Be sure to review the conference safety and security guidelines with students before conference. These guidelines can be found on the Georgia Thespians website.

Safety and Security Guidelines

<http://gathespians.org/conference/safety-security/>

Agreement Form Troubleshooting

Before you mail your registration packet with your troupe's Agreement Forms:

- Check to be sure all forms are clear and readable.
- Do not accept any forms in pencil or in bright/neon colors.
- Don't allow anyone to submit a photograph of a form to you. We cannot accept photographs of forms.
- Alphabetize forms by attendees' last names.
- Make sure that you **make 2 other copies of the forms.**
- Make sure the copies you send in with your registration and the copies you keep for the neck wallets photocopy clearly and are very readable. Think about a stranger reading this information in an emergency to help one of your students or adults.
- Double check ALL the the following things for accuracy on each agreement form:
 - Every box completed on every form. Secure any missing information and add it to your copies.
 - All dates of birth include the correct year.
 - All phone numbers include all 10 digits.
 - The primary and secondary emergency contacts are different people and each contact also includes the relationship to the attendee and the phone number (all 10 digits) of each contact.
 - All forms have required signaturesAnything missing will stop your registration process until you rectify what is missing.

Pre-Conference Information

LeadCon

LeadCon, short for Leadership Conference, provides students the opportunity to promote and develop leadership in Georgia's Thespian troupes. We invite you to bring all your troupe leaders—current and future officers, project chairpersons, etc. LeadCon is held at Baldwin High School in Milledgeville, Georgia, on **September 8, 2018**, and **January 5, 2019**.

There will be a General Meeting for all attendees at 9:45 am. At 10:00 am the STO Candidates and two troupe representatives will go with the current STO, while Troupe Directors, Chaperones and Troupe Leaders will break off into workshops and sessions.

We hope that these LeadCons will guide, inspire, and energize your Troupe's student leaders.

Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information and event agendas.

LeadCon

<https://gathespians.org/conference/leadcon/>

STATE THESPIAN OFFICERS

What is an STO?

An STO is a Student Thespian Officer. The STO's job is to plan, manage, and host the next year's Conference. Also, the STO serve as a constant communication link between the students and the adult state board; therefore, it is their job to serve as an advocate for the students.

Who Can be an STO?

Any freshman, sophomore or junior who is an inducted Thespian and in good standing with his/her troupe and school is eligible to run. The student must have a desire to be a strong leader and be prepared to work for the good of Georgia Thespians. Only one student per school may run.

How Do I Become an STO?

At the fall LeadCon Planning Session, you must declare your intention to run. At LeadCon on September 8, 2018, you will have a brief meeting with the STO liaison, Mrs. Kimberly Staples. The [STO application](#) must be MAILED to Mrs. Staples to be received by December 5, 2018. (Kimberly B. Staples, 2750 Sawnee Avenue, Buford, GA 30518) If your application is not received by the deadline, you will not be considered as a candidate. If your paperwork is

LeadCon Events

- **STO Elections** - Your troupe's two student representatives will participate in the annual election process for next year's group of Student Thespian Officers (STO).
- **Opening Number Auditions** - Students will audition for the all-state opening number.
- **Workshops** - The current STO and adult members of the Thespian Board will conduct student-focused forums and workshops for all your student leaders.
- **NEW INCENTIVE!** Troupe directors who attend BOTH LeadCons will receive priority access to tickets for conference shows. See [Show Ticket Selection Process](#) for more information.

Pre-Conference Information

submitted on time, you will progress to the next step of the process. Please follow the information on the application. You will be notified by email on the status of your application. Make sure you keep an electronic copy of your application. This is vital. At the planning session, you will also meet with the representatives and the current STO. Please be prepared to answer questions from the current STO.

The next step: At the 2nd LeadCon on January 5, 2019, you will be asked to demonstrate your leadership abilities. You will be asked to present a prepared 90 second statement about yourself and your leadership abilities as well as answer questions from the STO in order to demonstrate your qualifications for the state student officer position.

Who Votes?

Each school can be represented by two students at both LeadCons. **THOSE SAME STUDENTS MUST ATTEND BOTH PLANNING SESSIONS IN ORDER TO CAST A VOTE.** Also, current STO gets a vote. The new STO will be announced at the 2nd LeadCon. The new STO will meet with Mrs. Staples and the current STO immediately after the session from 1:00-1:30 pm. The new STO will be involved with the conference, shadowing the current STO and will also be introduced at the conference. New STO must stay through the second showcase at conference.

Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information about State Thespian Officers and elections.

State Thespian Officers

<http://gathespians.org/conference/sto/>

I Got Elected, Now What?

Newly-elected STO will be expected to shadow current STO and assist with various jobs at ThesCon 2019, staying through the second closing.

STO attend various meetings throughout the year and your transportation and cost of transportation is your responsibility. All meetings are required.

STO must attend the International Thespian Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, in June 2019. Registration is paid for by Thespians but airfare and shuttle transfer fees are paid by the STO.

STO must attend the fall Board retreat in early August, location to be announced. Once again, transportation to and from this event are the responsibility of the student.

You must have the ability to stay in constant communication with fellow STO, region students, adult board, and thespians in general via email and phone.

STO must meet monthly deadlines and have good time management skills.

STO must be proactive and responsible.

STO will be encouraged to travel to surrounding schools to see shows and support the Thespian troupes in his/her region.

STO must serve as an example of the ideal Thespian.

If you serve as an STO as an underclassman and wish to remain on the board the following year, you must run again.

All STO will be required to sign a contract of participation. If any rules of the contract are not followed, the STO can be relieved of his/her position.

Pre-Conference Information

NEW TROUPE DIRECTORS

If you are a new troupe director, we can pair you with a mentor director. We want to help make this year as easy as possible. Contact Valerie Longshore-Sargent (valerie.longshore-sargent@gathespians.org) for more information about mentoring, chartering a troupe, re-chartering a troupe, or any other troupe needs you may have.

INCLEMENT WEATHER DATES

In the case of serious inclement weather, the Inclement Weather Team may make the decision to reschedule Lead-Con, Opening Number Auditions/Rehearsals, and STO Elections to the alternate dates. Check social media for updates.

Fall Inclement Weather Dates - September 15, 2018

Winter Inclement Weather Dates - January 12, 2019

SHOW TICKET SELECTION PROCESS

The Show Ticket Selection Window will open on **Monday, January 14, 2019 at 10:00 am.**

An individualized access code will be delivered to each Troupe Director via email no later than Friday, January 11. The Troupe Director **MUST HAVE THIS ACCESS CODE IN ORDER TO SELECT TICKETS.**

If an access code has not been received by Friday, January 11, please double check your SPAM filter. If a problem still persists, email richard.frazier@gathespians.org for assistance.

Show ticketing will be live from **Monday, January 8 at 10:00 am** through **Wednesday, January 10 at Midnight.** Any schools who have not selected their own tickets by the deadline will be assigned tickets for shows. Tickets are available on a first-come first-served basis. SHOWS MAY SELL OUT. Once a show sells out, the ticket link will go inactive, which means an alternate must be chosen.

Tickets will be sorted and included in the Troupe Director's packet for pick up at Thespian Conference registration. Directors should receive a confirmation email from BookTix. If a confirmation email has not been received please check your SPAM filter. If a problem still persists, email richard.frazier@gathespians.org.

Changes to ticket orders will not be made prior to Thespian Conference. If changes need to be made, a Ticket Exchange table will be available for directors to switch tickets. The Ticket Exchange table will be open Thursday, February 7, 2019 and Friday, February 8, 2019.

NEW INCENTIVE! Troupe Directors who attend BOTH LeadCons (September 8 and January 5) will receive **priority access** to Show Ticket Selection. For these qualifying Troupe Directors, the Show Ticket Selection Process will open one day early on Sunday, January 13, allowing Troupe Directors to select their tickets before the general ticket release. The Troupe Director of record with EdTA **MUST** be the representative in attendance. No exceptions will be made if the Troupe Director cannot attend!

IMPORTANT

Prior to January 8, Troupe Directors should create an account under New Audience Members at gathespians.booktix.com. Even if you have an account through Booktix, you must make an account specific to Georgia Thespians. **ALL TROUPE DIRECTORS MUST CREATE AN ACCOUNT PRIOR TO SELECTING TICKETS.**

Georgia Thespian Conference

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

We will use a dual track schedule this year with a staggered beginning. Schools will indicate their preference on the registration form. Both tracks offer the same conference experience for students; the only difference is one track starts and ends earlier than the other track. Show placement into tracks will be announced mid-December. The final schedule will be posted on the website before conference and in the conference programs. This schedule is tentative and may change.

Thursday, February 7, 2019	12:30 pm – 11:00 pm (Registration opens at 12:30 PM)
Friday, February 8, 2019	9:30 am – 11:00 pm
Saturday, February 9, 2019	9:30 am – 5:00 pm

NOTE: The following is a draft conference schedule intended for your planning purposes. Actual times throughout the day may vary from the final schedule which will be posted on our website as soon as it is finalized. Start and end times of shows will be made specific on the final schedule. Attendees will have 15 minutes transition time before and after each performance, so they do not need to leave workshops early.

2019 YELLOW Conference Schedule

Thursday, February 7, 2019

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Registration
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Freestyle Theatre Festival
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Opening Ceremony
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Workshop Session 1
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Dinner/YELLOW
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Workshop Session 2
8:15 pm – 9:15 pm	Conference Shows
9:30 pm – 10:30 pm	Evening Activities

Friday, February 8, 2019

9:30 am	Registration Desk Opens
9:45 am – 10:45 am	Conference Shows
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch/YELLOW
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Workshops Session 3
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Conference Shows
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Workshop Session 4
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Dinner/YELLOW
6:45 pm – 7:45 pm	Conference Shows
8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Workshop Session 5
9:45 pm – 10:45 pm	Conference Shows

Saturday, February 9, 2019

9:30 am	Registration Desk Opens
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Tech Challenge
9:30 am – 11:00 am	PlayWorks
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Workshops Session 6
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch/YELLOW
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Workshops Session 7
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Improv /YELLOW
2:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Closing/IE Showcase

2019 BLUE Conference Schedule

Thursday, February 7, 2019

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Registration
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Freestyle Theatre Festival
3:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Opening Ceremony
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Workshop Session 1
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Dinner/BLUE
8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Workshop Session 2
9:45 pm – 10:45 pm	Conference Shows

Friday, February 8, 2019

9:30 am	Registration Desk Opens
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Workshop Session 3
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Conference Shows
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch/BLUE
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshops Session 4
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Conference Shows
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Workshop Session 5
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Dinner/BLUE
8:15 pm – 9:15 pm	Conference Shows
9:30 pm – 10:30 pm	Evening Activities

Saturday, February 9, 2019

9:30 am	Registration Desk Opens
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Tech Challenge
9:30 am – 11:00 am	PlayWorks
9:45 am – 10:45 am	Conference Shows
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Workshop Session 6
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch/BLUE
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshop Session 7
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Improv /BLUE
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Closing/IE Showcase

Georgia Thespian Conference

VENUES

Uptown Columbus, Georgia

RiverCenter for the Performing Arts

(Bill Heard Theatre, Legacy Hall, Studio Theatre)

900 Broadway

Columbus, GA 31901

Columbus Convention and Trade Center

(Registration/Georgia Thespians Office)

801 Front Ave

Columbus, GA 31901

Columbus Marriott

800 Front Ave

Columbus, GA 31901-2799

Springer Opera House

(Emily Woodruff Hall, McClure Theatre, Foley Hall)

103 10th St

Columbus, GA 31901

HOTELS

There is a list of Columbus area hotels on the website. Each school is responsible for making its own lodging reservations.

<http://visitcolumbusga.com/visitors/accommodations>

PARKING

There is parking available at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center (801 Front Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31901) and along the streets in downtown Columbus. There is a two-hour limit on downtown parking during weekday work hours.

School buses should unload outside the CSU Riverside Theatre Complex at the corner of Bay Avenue and 10th St. Buses will need to come down 11th street to Bay Ave., turn left, and drop off on the curb by the Theatre Box office. Buses may also drop students off in front of the Trade Center. Overflow parking if necessary will be on Front Ave., by the CSU Coca-Cola Space Science Center, one and one-half blocks from the Trade Center.

Columbus State University - RiverPark Campus

CSU Riverside Theatre Complex

(CSU Main Stage Theatre, CSU Studio Theatre, Lab Theatre)

6 W Tenth St

Columbus, GA 31901

Yancey Center at One Arsenal Place

901 Front Ave

Columbus, GA 31901

Carpenters' Building

4 Ninth St

Columbus GA 31901

Rankin Arts Center

1004 Broadway

Columbus, GA 31901

St. Luke United Methodist Church

1104 2nd Ave.

Columbus, GA 31901

Communication

All changes to dates/events/ schedules and any emergency information prior to and while at conference will be posted on social media or on Guidebook, or announced publicly as effectively as possible.

Teachers should also like Georgia Chapter of the Educational Theatre Association on Facebook.



@GAThespians



@GAThespians



@GAThespians



youtube.com/
GeorgiaThespians



facebook.com/
group:sgorgiathespians

Georgia Thespian Conference

SAFETY AND SECURITY

If the troupe director has to leave conference due to an emergency, he/she must visit Registration before leaving to report who will assume responsibility of the attendees.

Other safety and security information

- Georgia Thespians cannot provide first aid to attendees. Directors and chaperones for troupe members are responsible for their own groups and their own first aid. In the event of a medical emergency, conference participants should dial 911 for aid. The information needed for 911 calls -- the 911 addresses for each venue -- has been printed in the conference program and posted on Guidebook. The 911 dispatchers require the actual street address in order to respond.
- Individual school rules/policies apply to students while attending the Georgia Thespian Conference.
- Students are expected to attend the planned conference events. Students should not create their own conference events. Troupe Directors are responsible for monitoring their students' participation in the planned conference events.
- Troupe Directors must understand that participation in a variety of conference events requires more coordination on their part, not less, and that there are some conference events that overlap.
- Troupe Directors and chaperones are expected to actively supervise students. It is recommended that you know where your students are at all times.

VENDORS / EXHIBITORS

We offer opportunities for schools and businesses to participate in our conference by selling merchandise or displaying information. Vendors, exhibitors and colleges are located in the North Exhibit Hall of the Trade Center. Make sure Troupe Directors check out the fabulous script vendors, costume and technical resources, and camp/travel opportunities for your students. Make sure your students know to bring some extra money to purchase awesome theatre souvenirs! Most vendors participate in our "Passport to Prizes" program. Last year we gave away more than 50 fabulous prizes to Troupe Directors and Adults with the top prize worth \$750!

PASSPORT TO PRIZES

Troupe Directors or Adults from your school may pick up 'Passports' from the Vendor table located in the North Exhibit Hall of the Trade Center (where all of the Vendors and College tables are located). There are also 'Passports' with your Registration materials. Visit each of our Vendor booths listed on your 'Passport' and get your 'Passport' stamped. After all spaces are filled in, place your completed form in the prize box located in the Vendor area. There will be drawings for a variety of exciting prizes at noon on Saturday, February 9th, 2019, in the Trade Center lobby. You must be present to win (or someone from your troupe)! Don't miss this opportunity to win great prizes for you and your troupe!

SPONSORSHIP

We offer valuable Sponsorship opportunities for companies/booster clubs/colleges that will be vendors, exhibitors, or colleges at our Conference. All program ads will be available through Sponsorship only. Prime table locations, links to your website on our homepage, sponsorship of our adult socials, and ads placed on the homepage of Guidebook (digital program on Georgia Thespian app) are all benefits of different levels of sponsorship. The deadline for Sponsorship is December 5, 2018. Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information: <http://gathespians.org/conference/guests/>

Conference Events

Conference attendees have the opportunity to participate in many different events at Georgia Thespian Conference. A summary of those events is listed below, and more information about each event is included in the following pages. For more information about any event, visit the Georgia Thespians website at www.gathespians.org.

EVENT SUMMARY

Event	Fee	To Register	Deadline
NEW! Film Festival	\$25 per film	Form	Dec. 5, 2018
Improv!	\$25 per team	Form	Dec. 5, 2018
Individual Events	\$25 per event	Online	Dec. 5, 2018
PlayWorks	none	Email	Dec. 5, 2018
Scholarship Auditions	\$25 per student	Online Form Essay	Dec. 5, 2018
Tech Challenge	\$25 per team	Form	Dec. 5, 2018
ThesCon's Got Talent	none	Form	Dec. 5, 2018
Workshops	none	none	none

GEORGIA THESPIANS FILM FESTIVAL

Georgia is fast becoming a hub for filmmaking. And with access to smartphones, it is quickly becoming easier to film, edit and share films with each other. Anyone can participate in the creative experience of making a movie. Georgia Thespians introduces the newest event -- The Georgia Thespian Film Festival -- where students can showcase their student-produced films in a festival-like special event which would include a quick talkback with the student filmmakers present at the end of the showcase.

Evaluation

Film submissions will be screened, and films selected for the festival will be notified by the second LeadCon on January 5, 2019..

Submissions

There is a \$25 event fee for each film. Each troupe may enter up to 3 films for consideration. The film, entry form, and \$25 event fee must be received by Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

Email FilmFestival@gathespians.org for more information or, visit the Georgia Thespians webpage.

Film Requirements

- Films should be between 3-10 minutes in length, including credits.
- Format for the films should be as follows:
 - Beginning of the film:
 - 5 seconds of black
 - a title card with the name of the film and the troupe number
 - 2 seconds of black

Conference Events

IMPROV!

Improv! is an educational program that combines Thespians from different schools who have all been working on playing the same specific improvisation games. A strong improv student will embrace the opportunity to work with new identities on familiar games as students get to work with peers they are meeting for the first time.

Each school may submit one team of five (5) students who have been working solidly on the games.

Participants must learn the three (3) games prior to arriving to conference that will be adjudicated during the event. School teams are expected to practice these games and learn the rules to the best of their abilities. Instructions and models for how to play these games are listed on the website.

Teams

For the event, the players from each school are broken up and placed on a new team consisting of five students from five different schools. At the beginning of the workshop session, each team will have 15 minutes to meet in their assigned area, warm up, and go over the three games they will be playing together.

The team with the highest cumulative score will be announced at the end of the session and will receive a prize.

The final Improv! Team List will be released once the Georgia Thespian Conference schedule is finalized in January. Remember that to fully participate in Improv! each team member needs to view the STO video examples posted online to learn the rules of the games used for the Improv! event and to practice them with their home team.

Scoring

Teams will be scored by the Improv! Judges. The scoring rubric used by the moderators can be found online. Each team will be scored on the following:

- Each team's ability to play together as a cohesive unit.
- A team's ability to follow the rules set forth by the selected games.
- Ability to play each game within the allotted time limit.
- Playing at the top of their intelligence, i.e., no blue or shock value humor

Registering for Improv!

To register for Improv!, troupe directors need to complete and print the Improv! Registration Form found on our website. The registration fee is \$25.

Registration opens on September 30, 2018, and closes on December 5, 2018. All completed forms and payments MUST then be delivered no later than the Super Deadline December 5, 2018.

School teams will be registered on a first-come, first-served basis. Once all spots have been filled, schools will be placed on a waiting list.

Contact improv@gathespians.org for more information.

For more information, visit the Georgia Thespians website - <http://gathespians.org/conference/improv/>

Conference Events

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Individual Events is an educational program that offers delegates the opportunity (using the audition approach) to receive constructive feedback on prepared theatrical material and technical designs. The goal for participating students is to find their talent, strengths, and opportunities to grow as theatre artists. The auditions culminate in the selection of a performance showcase cast from the top scoring entries and selected by the adjudicators as “Critic’s Choice”.

Commonly called “IEs”, these events give theatre students opportunities to be evaluated in either performance or technical events. The performance events include solo, duet, or group musical, monologue and duet/group acting. In addition, students may also enter design/technical IE's which allow tech students the opportunity to show and be adjudicated on what they know and display the work they have done.

All IEs that receive an Overall Superior Ranking qualify to compete at the National Level at the International Thespian Festival (however, please note that each student may participate in only ONE IE at the national level). The NIES also culminates in a “Critic’s Choice Showcase” at the International Thespian Festival.

For all information, including IE registration/payment/forms, rights to perform, number of entries, and all rules, please read the [Georgia Thespians IE Guide](#).

For more information, visit the Georgia Thespians website: <https://gathespians.org/conference/ies/>

Individual Events

The performance Individual Events include:

- Monologue
- Duo Acting
- Group Acting
- Solo Musical Theatre
- Duet Musical Theatre
- Group Musical Theatre

The technical Individual Events include:

- Costume Construction
- Costume Design
- Lighting Design
- Scenic Design
- Sound Design
- Stage Management
- Theatre Marketing

PLAYWORKS

This program is an opportunity for Georgia Thespians to see their original scripts workshopped with a professional director or playwright. One submitted selection will be chosen to participate in a staged reading, including an audience feedback session at ThesCon. In addition, complete plays that meet the requirements for the International Thespian Festival will have the opportunity to submit their work to that conference.

Eligibility

Writers must be active members of the International Thespian Society enrolled in high school during the current school year. The selected finalist must be registered to attend the upcoming Georgia Thespian Conference as well as attend the Playworks event on Saturday morning of the conference.

Submission Guidelines

Plays must be the original work of a single Thespian writer. Collaborative works or adaptations won't be considered,

Conference Events

nor will plays that include music, lyrics, or dialogue written by anyone other than the submitting writer. Plays can be about any subject but should have a running time of between ten and thirty minutes or less (approximately ten-thirty typed pages). Writers may submit more than one play for consideration.

Script Support

Teachers and students are welcome to utilize the Playwriting Unit Plan as a tool to get started writing. This unit plan coordinates with the Georgia Standards of Excellence in both the theatre standards and the newly introduced Dramatic Writing with ELA course. The unit is designed for new and emerging playwrights to build the skills that are essential for creating successful plays. It is comprised of writing exercises and smaller projects that culminate in the writing of a one act play suitable for admission to PlayWorks.

Submission Guidelines and Final Deadline

Play scripts must be typed and emailed to playworks@gathespians.org between September 30, 2018 and December 5, 2018. Submissions must be done in 12-font using one of two formats.

PlayWorks Event at Conference

One selected piece from submitted works will be presented as staged readings at conference on Saturday morning. The playwright will be notified by the January LeadCon. The playwright and volunteer actors will collaborate with the guest artist to bring the text to life. Audience members will observe the readings and participate in a guided talk-back with the guest artist. The reading and talk-back process may be attended by any conference attendee.

Rights

Your work is protected by copyright from the moment it is created. As the writer, you own the play and have exclusive control of the rights to produce, publish, and adapt it. By submitting your script to the Georgia Thespian PlayWorks program, you are agreeing to allow Georgia Thespians to mount a staged reading of your play and the possibility to have your play performed at the following year's conference. All other rights remain the exclusive property of the playwright.

Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information: <https://gathespians.org/conference/playworks/>

SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

Scholarship auditions are held at the Georgia Thespian Conference each year. Juniors and Seniors may audition for representatives from colleges from many states across the nation. In addition, seniors may interview/audition for the Georgia Thespian Scholarships given each year. Contact Cheryl Baraban at scholarships@gathespians.org with any questions.

The twelve Georgia Thespian Scholarships are awarded to seniors who demonstrate talent, leadership, and exemplary work and involvement within their Thespian Troupes. Seniors may audition for these scholarships in addition to auditioning for colleges.

The Georgia Thespian Scholarship adjudicator committee is composed of guest artists, college representatives, in-

Conference Events

ternational officers and guests, and/or out-of-state Thespian troupe directors. They interview all Thespian Scholarship candidates and watch their auditions. From these interviews, auditions, and Troupe Involvement resumes, they determine the Georgia Thespian Scholarship recipients using the following criteria:

Performance/Portfolio 50%

Interview 30%

Troupe Involvement (Resume) 20%

Audition Criteria

To audition, a student must:

- Be an inducted Thespian active in his/her school's Thespian troupe.
- Plan to attend a college or university beginning in the fall of 2019 for seniors or 2020 for juniors.
- Have a 3.0 or better GPA or an 80 or better numerical average. Students auditioning for Thespian scholarships must plan to major in the communicative arts (theater, film, speech, radio and television, broadcasting, music or dance). For the theatre ed scholarship, must declare Theatre Education as a major.
- Plan to major in theatre-related degree for college auditions.
- Pay the \$25 audition fee (\$25 total for all auditions)
- Complete all areas of the application both digitally and mail in portions.
- Follow the established audition guidelines
- Be registered and in attendance at the conference with his/her registered troupe.

Senior Thespians and Junior Thespians may audition for college representatives in the areas of

- Performance
- Design Tech/Management
- Theatre Education

Senior Thespians may audition for the Georgia Thespian scholarships in the areas of:

- Performance
- Design Tech/Management
- Theatre Education

College Audition Application Procedure

- Complete the digital form on the Georgia Thespian website.
- Mail in the Resume and Authorization Form on the Georgia Thespian website plus the \$25 application fee by the Super Deadline. (December 5, 2018). GA Thespians address is listed on the form. Payment must either be school/booster checks, money order, cashier's check, or cash. NO PERSONAL CHECKS.
- Prepare for the performance audition and/or interview and portfolio presentation.
 - The performance audition should be 90 seconds of your strongest work including monologues and/or songs to instrumental tracks.
 - The tech audition should be a portfolio of work specific to area of interest including pictures, designs, etc. The portfolio will be kept on a display table the entire conference. During the tech audition time, students are required to present a three minute presentation to the colleges about their area of interest and evidence of work.
 - For the theatre educator audition, you must prepare drama lesson plans for one week for any level drama class. You must also prepare and display a portfolio and/or display board showing your experiences in the area of theatre education. The portfolio will be kept on a display table the entire conference. During the tech audition time, students are required to present a three minute presentation to the colleges about their educational area of interest and examples of lesson plans.
- The audition call sheet with times and locations will be posted on the website after the 2nd LeadCon. Audition suggestions are posted on the website.

Conference Events

Georgia Thespian Scholarship Performance Audition Application Procedure

- Complete the digital form on the Georgia Thespian website.
- Mail in the Resume/Authorization Form (on the Georgia Thespian website) and a Troupe Involvement Resume (created by student) plus the \$25 application fee by the Super Deadline. (December 5, 2018). GA Thespians address is listed on the Authorization form. Payment must either be school/booster checks, money order, cashier's check, or cash. NO PERSONAL CHECKS.
- Troupe Involvement Resume: Involvement in your troupe is one focus of the Georgia Thespian Scholarship. Your resume should reflect what you have done with your troupe at school, in the community, and elsewhere. You should not list your acting experience. Resume must be one page typed/one side only.
- Prepare for an interview with Thespian Scholarship adjudicators. After the auditions, the committee will call back those students they would like to interview more thoroughly.
- Prepare for the performance audition, to be held at the same time as the interview. It should be 90 seconds of your strongest work of monologues and/or songs to tracks. The audition call sheet with times and locations will be posted on the website after the 2nd LeadCon. Audition suggestions are posted on the website.

Georgia Thespian Scholarship Theatre Educator Scholarship Application Procedure

- Complete the digital form on the Georgia Thespian website.
- Mail in the Resume/Authorization Form (on the Georgia Thespian website), a Troupe Involvement Resume (created by student), and Theatre Educator Essay (found on the website) plus the \$25 application fee by the Super Deadline. (December 5, 2018). GA Thespians address is listed on the Authorization form. Payment must either be school/booster checks, money order, cashier's check, or cash. NO PERSONAL CHECKS.
- Troupe Involvement Resume: Involvement in your troupe is one focus of the Georgia Thespian Scholarship. Your resume should reflect what you have done with your troupe at school, in the community, and elsewhere. You should not list your acting experience. Resume must be one page typed/one side only.
- Theatre Educator Essay: form on the website. Questions must fit to one single page
- Prepare for an interview with Thespian Scholarship adjudicators. After the auditions, the committee will call back those students they would like to interview more thoroughly.
- Prepare to show and discuss your experience in theater education as part of your audition. For that audition, you must prepare drama lesson plans for one week for any level drama class. You may also prepare a portfolio and/or display board showing your experiences in the area of theatre education. The audition call sheet with times and locations will be posted on the website after the 2nd LeadCon. Audition suggestions are posted on the website.

Georgia Thespian Scholarship Design Tech / Management Theatre Scholarship Application Procedure

- Complete the digital form on the Georgia Thespian website (www.gathespians.org).
- Mail in the Resume/Authorization Form (on the Georgia Thespian website) and a Troupe Involvement Resume (created by student) plus the \$25 application fee by the Super Deadline. (December 5, 2018). GA Thespians address is listed on the Authorization form. Payment must either be school/booster checks, money order, cashier's check, or cash. NO PERSONAL CHECKS.
- Troupe Involvement Resume: Involvement in your troupe is one focus of the Georgia Thespian Scholarship. Your resume should reflect what you have done with your troupe at school, in the community, and elsewhere. You should not list your acting experience. Resume must be one page typed/one side only.
- Prepare for an interview with Thespian Scholarship adjudicators. After the auditions, the committee will call back those students they would like to interview more thoroughly.
- Prepare to show and discuss your experience in technical theatre as part of your audition. You may also prepare a portfolio and/or display board showing your experiences in the area of technical theatre. The audition call sheet with times and locations will be posted on the website after the 2nd Planning Session. Audition suggestions are posted on the website.

Conference Events

TECH CHALLENGE

Tech Challenge is a series of events that are designed to test the knowledge of basic skills every technician should have. The combination of team and individual events underline the principle that theatre technicians work alone and in ensemble groups depending on the required task in order to make the production successful. See the [Tech Challenge guide](#) for information, rules, and procedures.

Please read the guide on our website in its entirety before conference. Also, encourage students to practice events beforehand. For safety, students not wearing closed-toed shoes will not be allowed to participate.

Evaluation

The event is evaluated on both time and efficiency. Time and accuracy hold equal weight in scoring. Each component will count 50% of the overall score. Penalties are applied based on incorrect / improper execution as outlined in the [Tech Challenge guide](#). A new disqualification penalty is added for blatant disregard of rules and procedures.

Teams/Events

Each school may send one team composed of four members. A team must be comprised of only thespians from one school. Members of the team will also compete in individual events and the team will compete together in the team events.

Results

Each event will be timed and penalties recorded by the judge. Each event will have a first place winner and then there will be overall second and first place team. Winners will be announced at the closing ceremony.

Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information: <https://gathespians.org/conference/tech-challenge/>

THESCON'S GOT TALENT

On Friday and Saturday evening of Georgia Thespian Conference, ThesCon's Got Talent will be held to celebrate the talents of Georgia Thespians! Applications are available [online](#). One act per troupe may be submitted to be included in the performance. The application is due December 5, 2018. Troupes will be notified in early January via email. There is no additional fee to participate.

WORKSHOPS

During the annual conference, students have the opportunity to participate in dynamic and exciting workshops led by theatre professionals in all areas of the theatre arts, including many types of dancing, movement, vocal, accents, the audition process, improvisation, makeup, costuming, stage management, set design and construction, lighting and sound, team building, and theatre games, just to name a few.

The workshop schedule will be posted on Guidebook as soon as possible before conference so that you and your troupe members can plan their conference workshop experience in advance.

Performance Opportunities

Applications are considered complete when the troupe director:

- submits the online Screening Application form
- completes the Production Screening Agreement and mails it, along with cash, a school check, or money order, to the address below.
- All three (Screening Application, Production Screening Agreement, and payment) must be received by the SCREENING APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2018.

If you wish to be considered for the Chapter Select Showcase at the International Thespian Festival (June 24-29, 2019), you must also complete the Chapter Select Screening Agreement and mail it to the address below.

Mail Screening Agreement(s) & Payment to:

Georgia Thespians
2897 North Druid Hills Road
Box 225
Atlanta, GA 30329

Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information: <http://gathespians.org/conference/shows-and-screening/>

CHAPTER SELECT SHOWCASE

The Chapter Select Showcase is a presentation of one-acts which takes place at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska from June 24-29, 2019. The Chapter Select Showcase features outstanding Thespian productions from chapters nationwide. Georgia Thespians will provide a grant of up to \$5,000.00 to cover Festival registration fees for any school selected to perform in the Chapter Select Showcase. Participants must be registered for the entire Festival week and meet all Festival deadlines.

Each show has forty-five (45) minutes to perform, ten (10) minutes to set, and five (5) minutes to strike.

All Chapter Select entries must be adjudicated at Georgia Thespian Conference by an evaluation team selected by the Chapter Director or the Chapter Board. The evaluation team may recommend one show and one alternate from a Chapter. The evaluation team will select the best production to represent a Chapter. The evaluation team will then submit their recommendation to the EdTA National Office. If the team does not adjudicate a production that warrants recognition, they may choose not to make a recommendation for that year.

If a school is invited to present at Festi-

Technical Guidelines

Sets and Props

A prop is any item that will fit through a single door and can be carried by a single person. Set pieces are anything bigger. Hand props are items carried onstage by an actor in one hand. Set pieces and flats are not allowed.

Lighting

A follow-spot is available, but must be requested in advance. General area lighting is available (stage right, stage left, up center, center, and down center stage) as well as blue and amber washes. Special lighting effects are not available.

Sound

The theatre will provide a CD player, amplification, and speakers. Groups may use their own iPod or MP3 player through the theatre sound system. Mics are not permitted in this venue.

Performance Opportunities

val in the Chapter Select Showcase, they will be sent an invitation along with more specific guidelines and an Acceptance Form. They need to complete and submit the Acceptance Form by the announced deadlines in order to hold their spot in the Chapter Select Showcase.

Troupes must secure written permission from the publisher for presentation at the Festival during Festival dates. Troupes are responsible for payment of royalties. Upon written request, some publishers will waive royalty fees for Festival performances

Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information: . <http://gathespians.org/conference/chapter-select/>

FREESTYLE THEATRE FESTIVAL

The FreeStyle Theatre Festival is a non-screened performance opportunity open to any troupe registered for and attending the Georgia Thespian Conference. Intimate, small cast productions, original works, student written and/or directed works and experimental pieces work well in the Freestyle Festival. In FreeStyle, the emphasis is on performance rather than technical aspects. Accentuate the acting! Eliminate lavish staging, sets, props, and costume changes.

The registration fee is \$25.

Performances typically begin early Thursday afternoon and continue into the early evening. Final scheduling will be done on a first-come, first-served basis as determined by the date that completed event registration form and fees are received. Schools producing published material are responsible for making any arrangements with the publisher for a license and paying any royalties and fees associated with the performance.

Minimum performance time is 10 minutes and maximum performance time is 30 minutes (from set to strike). No performing group will be allowed to exceed the 30-minute maximum time length. Provide the best possible estimate of performance time on the registration form.

FreeStyle Festival shows are usually presented in a black box facility at the CSU theatre building.

- The performing spaces may include a variety of cubes, chairs, and other rehearsal furniture that can be used in your production.
- Costumes, props, and make-up must be furnished by the performing troupe.
- Each performing group must provide an individual who will be responsible for executing the appropriate light and sound cues.
- Only general area lighting will be available. Productions must be able to use “on-off” lighting. Special lighting effects, colors, etc., and follow spots are not available.
- No microphones will be provided. While CD & MP3 playback may be available, groups requiring audio playback should plan to use their own “boom box”.

Troupes may enter more than one event, as schedule space allows. To register for FreeStyle,

- complete the application on the Georgia Thespians website.
- Submit application with the \$25 entry fee by January 5, 2019.

For information or if you have questions, email freestyle@gathespians.org or visit <http://gathespians.org/conference/freestyle/>

Performances range from:

- short one-act plays,
- cuttings from full-length plays, musicals, or reader's theatre
- dance
- mime
- comedy
- drama
- improvisation
- stand-up

Awards

HONOR TROUPE

Georgia Thespians has created the Georgia Thespian Honor Troupe program to recognize those troupes that do tremendous work in their school and community and achieve a high level of excellence, both on and off stage.

There is no limit on the number of troupes that can apply each year.

The application process includes submission of a portfolio ("brag book") which documents the positive impact your troupe is making. Directions for submission must be followed exactly with no duplication in multiple categories. Portfolios can be electronic or actual physical portfolios. Portfolios will be submitted at the 1st LeadCon and awards will be announced at the following Georgia Thespian Conference. A plaque may be ordered as a permanent memento of your year. In addition, each school will receive a letter addressed to their principal celebrating their achievement.

Honor applications are for the school year just completed. The applications received at the 1st LeadCon on September 8, 2018, need to contain information about your troupe's activities during the 2017-2018 school year. Electronic submissions should be sent to Susan.Pierce@gathespians.org before the first LeadCon.

Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information: <http://gathespians.org/conference/honor-troupes/>

AWARDS

Georgia Thespians Hall of Fame

Georgia Thespians annually recognizes individuals who have dedicated themselves to the cause of theatre education. Any member of EdTA (Troupe Director or Individual member) who has 20 years of service is eligible to be nominated for this award.

Administrator's Award

Georgia Thespians present this award to outstanding school administrators who have demonstrated exemplary support for educational theatre. Administrators from all schools or school districts affiliated with Georgia Thespians are eligible for the Administrator's Award. Troupe directors may submit nominations for individuals or administrative teams serving at the department, building, or district level by filling out an application that is then reviewed by the awards coordinator of Georgia Thespians. Previous award recipients may not apply.

Outstanding Theatre Educator

Georgia Thespians recognizes an individual who has dedicated himself or herself to the cause of theatre education and the promotion of the fine arts in his or her community. Any member of EdTA (Troupe Director, Technical Director, or Individual member) is eligible to be nominated for this award.

Any student wishing to nominate their director for consideration will be required to fill out an application and include a letter of recommendation. The student who nominates the Outstanding Theatre Educator will help present the award at conference. In addition, the recipient will receive a grant of \$500.

Outstanding Student Achievement Awards

Outstanding Student Achievement Awards and Outstanding Student Technical Achievement Awards have been created by Georgia Thespians to recognize those students who exemplify the ideals of Georgia Thespians. To be eligible for either award, a candidate must be in good standing with the International Thespian Society, and an active member of his/her high school Thespian troupe (must be in grade 9–12 this school year). Recipients will receive \$200 each.

Visit the Georgia Thespians website for more information: <http://gathespians.org/conference/awards/>

Junior Thespians

The Georgia Junior Thespian Conference provides the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops, master classes, individual performances, and technical theatre events led by theatre professionals from around the country, all while you get to hang out with nearly 1,000 other middle school students from around the state. In order to attend the Georgia Junior Thespian Conference, all students must be a current 6th, 7th, or 8th grader. Contact Richard Frazier at richard.frazier@gathespians.org for more information.

Do you know of any middle school teachers who are involved in theatre, but do not have an established Junior Thespian Troupe? If so, contact Valerie Longshore at valerie.longshore-sargent@gathespians.org for more information on starting a Junior Thespian Troupe.

Important Dates & Deadlines

September 7- 8, 2018	Opening Number Auditions and Rehearsal
September 8, 2018	LeadCon 1 (Baldwin High School); 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
September 8, 2018	Conference Grant / Honor Troupe Applications DUE
September 30, 2018	Registration opens, 8:00 am PlayWorks Submissions open
October 5, 2018	Screening Applications / Fees DUE Chapter Select Applications DUE
November 14, 2018	Registration closes at 6:00 pm
November 16, 2018	Screening Window closes
November 17, 2018	All-State Opening Number Rehearsal
December 5, 2018	SUPER DEADLINE - The following are due: Awards Nominations Conference Shows Notification Film Festival Submission / Fee Honor Troupe Plaque Order Form / Fee IE Registration / Fee Improv Application/Fee PlayWorks Submissions Scholarship / Audition Registration / Fee Sponsorship Applications STO Candidate Application Tech Challenge / Fee ThesCon's Got Talent Applications
December 10, 2018	Conference Show Schedule announced
December 12, 2018	Conference Program Deadline for any ads, copy or information College Registrations Due Exhibitor/Vendor Registrations Due
January 4 - 5, 2019	Opening Number Rehearsal
January 5, 2019	LeadCon 2 (Baldwin High School); 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Production Meeting for all Conference Show Directors -10:00 am PlayWorks finalists notified Freestyle Festival Application Deadline
January 14, 2019	Show Ticket Selection opens at 10:00 am
January 16, 2019	Show Ticket Selection closes at Midnight
February 6, 2019	All-State Opening Number Rehearsal
February 7, 2019	All-State Opening Number Rehearsal 9:00 am-11:00 am
February 7 - 9, 2019	2019 Georgia Thespian Conference

Georgia Thespians State Board

GUESTS	
Hospitality	Jan Ewing
Vendor / Exhibitors / Sponsors	Betty Walpert
Adjudicators / Guest Artists / Workshops	Pam Ware, Jennifer Finlayson
College Exhibitors	Cheryl Baraban
PERFORMANCES	
Shows / Scheduling / Management	Sarah Lindahl, Miro Gomez
House Management / Honor Troupes	Susan Pierce
All-State Opening Number	Jenny Morris
Ticketing	Richard Frazier
EVENTS	
Individual Events	Cece Conrath
Scholarship Auditions	Cheryl Baraban
PlayWorks Tech Challenge	Cassandra Edwards (Event Chair)
Freestyle Theatre Festival Improv! LeadCon	Anna Brock (Event Chair)
Junior Thespians	Richard Frazier
PUBLICATIONS	
Program	Nicholas Sostillio
Webmaster	Eric Ebell
Public Relations / Advocacy	Robby Davis
Secretary / Recognitions / Awards	Brian Jones
Registration	Eric Ebell, Frank Pruet
Social Media	Nicholas Sostillio
ADMINISTRATIVE	
Chapter Director	Paul Hampton
Treasurer	Frank Pruet
EdTA Director of Chapter Relations	Diane Carr
Security / Honor Troupes	Robby Davis
Student Leadership	Kimberly Staples
New Troupes / Mentoring	Valerie Longshore-Sargent
CONNECTIONS	
State Thespian Officers	Emily Bonham-Janes, John Bush, Constantin Classen, Quinn Conrath, Cooper McGill, Jahlaynia Winters, Kandyce Wittingham
Columbus State University	Tim McGraw