

# Student

Hello from your MO State Communication Officer, Kevin Slattery, and welcome to the first issue of the MO State Thespians Student Newsletter! The state officers would like to use this newsletter to communicate with all individual Thespians and hear what you guys are doing in each of your schools and spread the word. This first issue will not contain as much information as upcoming issues, because we don't have anything from YOU yet. Please send your upcoming show dates, local theatre events, pictures, feedback, ideas, articles, and anything else that could be included to mothespiansnewsletter@yahoo.com.

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## Meet Your State Officers

### Margaret Howard - President



Margaret Howard is thrilled to be your State President! She is a senior at Parkway South High School where she is a member of their improv team, 5 Finger Discount. She has been involved in many of the shows there as a technician and an actor. She is now the President of Troupe 3186 and looks forward to serving on both a local and state level. When she is not on the stage, she enjoys playing soccer, singing, and hanging out with her 10 year old sister.

### Samantha Trimble - Vice President



Samantha Trimble is a junior at Branson High School. She is the President of Branson's drama club, and is stoked to be your State Vice President. Her favorite shows she's done are *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Foreigner*. Besides performing Sammy likes to listen to music and dance in the rain. Her mom has been reported as saying she is witty and wonderful. Also, the Trimbles have a reputation for using alliteration throughout history.

### Mackenzie Marks - Secretary



Mackenzie Marks is more than ecstatic to be serving as your State Secretary. She is a senior at Lindbergh High School where she has been in almost every show since her freshman year. At Lindbergh Mackenzie is in charge of their Improv Troupe, "Improability". When she isn't on stage she loves photography and playing Nintendo Wii.

## Upcoming Shows :

*At This Evening's Performance* - Parkway South HS (St. Louis) - September 13-14

*Chateau La Roach* - Lindbergh HS (St. Louis) - October 18-20

*Boys Next Door and Steel Magnolias* - Hickman Mills HS (Kansas City) - October 18 - 20, 26, and 27

*Marcus is Walking* - Hazelwood East HS (St. Louis) - October 25-27

*The Imaginary Invalid* - Joplin HS (Joplin) - November 8-10

*Aida* - Nerinx Hall HS (St. Louis) - November 10, 11, 16-18,

**Want to see your school here? Then email your show dates to mothespiannewsletter@yahoo.com**



### Kevin Slattery - Communications Officer

Kevin Slattery is very excited to be your State Communications Officer! He is a senior at Hazelwood East High School in St. Louis. Kevin has been in all 11 shows since his freshman year, and theatre is a big part of his life. He's been an officer of his troupe for the last three years, and is now the President of Troupe 1220. Outside of theatre (wait, there's an outside of theatre!?), Kevin likes to go to school, play video games, watch TV, sleep, sleep, and did he mention sleep? Oh, and long walks on the beach...

## Thespians Care

I am a Theatre addict, an addiction that I'm sure I share with most you. Autographed Playbills overflow from the third drawer of my dresser, ticket stubs nearly fill an entire bulletin board, Broadway merchandise is sprawled all around my bedroom. My iPod is filled with every cast recording from Camelot to Spring Awakening. I know the exact location of every stage door on Broadway. I rarely get see my family due to rehearsal. When I am not on stage, I am dreaming about the next time that I will be. Theatre is a way of life, as well as a way to save lives.

Since 1988, BROADWAY CARES/EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS (BC/EFA) has used the talents, resources, and generosity of the Theatre community to raise over \$100 million to help the lives of people living with HIV, AIDS, and other critical illnesses. The companies of dozens of Broadway and Off-Broadway shows as well as national touring companies collect money for BC/EFA through audience appeals, autographed poster sales, special events, backstage tours, and more. Now, Thespian troupes across America are getting in on the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In 2005, students in elementary school through college helped BC/EFA raise \$120,000 through the BC/EFA Schools Outreach Program, 60% of which was raised by thespian troupes.

What can your troupe do to help? A lot! One idea is audience appeals. After the curtain call, usually while the cast is still on stage, simply make a short speech, telling the audience that you are collecting donations for BC/EFA. If possible, cast members can then leave the stage to collect at the exits with hats, buckets, boxes or anything creative that you can think of. Or hold a special performance like a talent show, improv show, cabaret, anything! Have fun performing and raise money for a good cause at the same time.

Imagine the difference our addiction to theatre can make in the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS. It only takes one person to get the ball rolling.

*By Mackenzie Marks,  
Secretary*



## State Conference 2008

**WHO:** Over 1,500 Thespians from around Missouri, their sponsors, and guest artists

**WHAT:** The most enjoyable 3 days of theatre ever including workshops, 3 main stage shows, one acts, and meeting the greatest theatre kids from around the state

**WHEN:** January 3-5, 2007

**WHERE:** University of Missouri – St. Louis

**WHY:** To build our theatre skills, meet great people, and promote theatre

**THEME:** Theatre through the ages

## **What can you do?**

Do you or your troupe want to become more involved with next year's conference? You can shoot to be an honor troupe, take an individual event, try out for the all state show, and much more! Talk to your sponsor about these opportunities.

You can also help us out by donating any theatre memorabilia/scripts that can be used in the silent auction to raise money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

# Drama in the Drama

"Bob is a TERRIBLE singer. He shouldn't have the lead! I can sing WAY better than him!"

"Did you know Mary tripped Taneysa during dance auditions to get the part?"

"Caitlin doesn't really like Becca...But don't tell anybody."

So begin the rumors, gossip, backstabbing, and hurt feelings.

Everyone has heard some form of the above especially around the theater. Thespians are generally more likely to gossip and cause drama than others. Maybe it's because of our dramatic nature, who knows?

Now of course not *all* Thespians are like this, but walk into any theatre department in the country and you'll find drama ...not the kind on stage. (Well, walk into any *high school* in the country and you'll find drama.)

In my department, the level of gossip and drama is the highest around the opening of a show. This is because stress levels are greatest around this time. Talking behind people's backs and gossiping just increases this stress level and hurts feelings.

Drama (once again, the bad kind), also inhibits effective communication. Messages will not successfully flow throughout your department if rumors are blocking them! Take this situation: John is supposed to tell Meagan rehearsal is cancelled, but he doesn't because he heard that Meagan doesn't like him. As a result, Meagan doesn't get the message and shows up to rehearsal only to find no one there with no ride back home. Meagan

gets angry and quits the show.

Okay, the above may be a bit of an exaggeration, but the point is that drama can block effective communication.

So what can you do to reduce the levels of drama in your theatre department? One idea is to create a "code" that everyone has to sign swearing against any gossiping. You could also try to reduce stress levels during the weeks leading up to the show by practicing deep breathing exercises and other stress reduction techniques. Confront problems directly rather than talking behind others' backs or schedule a mediation with your director or another adult as an arbitrator. These methods are just a few ways of eliminating unwanted drama.

In the end, it is up to each individual person to make the effort to "end the drama." Theatre is hard enough without it!

*By Kevin Slattery,  
Communications Officer*



# Why We Teach Theatre

Theatre is a science.

Theatre is mathematical.

Theatre is a foreign language.

Theatre is history.

Theatre is physical education.

Theatre is language arts.

Theatre is art.

Theatre is business.

Theatre is technology.

Theatre is economics

Theatre is taught:

Not because you are expected to major in theatre,

Not because you are expected to perform all throughout life,

Not so you can relax,

Not so you can have fun,

But so you can recognize beauty.

So you will be sensitive.

So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world.

So you will have more love,

More compassion,

More gentleness,

More good.

In short, more life.

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living

Unless you know how to live?

That is why we teach theatre.

*-EdTA operates Theatre for Life: A Grassroots campaign. This poem is one of many materials available for distribution in your neighborhood. For more information, read about Advocacy at [www.edta.org](http://www.edta.org)*

