

MO Thespian Newsletter

Volume 1

June 2011

Missouri Thespians sends out thoughts and prayers to everyone in the Joplin area. The next newsletter will include ideas of how we all can help the Joplin ITS troupe begin the rebuilding process.

Something for Everyone at 2011 Conference

Stage combat, film violence, playwriting, improvisation, auditioning, hip hop, swing dancing, scholarships, one acts, main stage shows and an All-State performance...this year's conference had it all! The events kicked off with an inspirational keynote speech from actress and dancer Deidre Goodwin. Deidre also offered a Master class in performance and intensive dance workshops. After a year-long wait, audience members were also treated to the All-State performance of *Jekyll and Hyde*. The whole weekend wrapped up with the announcement of this year's scholarship winners. Thank you to all students and sponsors for attending this year's conference!

Silent Auction a HUGE Success!!

Conference attendees opened their hearts and pocketbooks to support Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Because of your generosity, MO State Thespians raised a total of \$1,250.05! A very special thanks to the organizers of the silent auction, as well as the many organizations and individuals that donated everything from show tickets to signed Broadway show posters.

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Mainstage and One Act Productions

Congratulations to all of the schools that brought productions to state this year:

Mainstage Performances

- Webster Groves – *Noises Off*
- St. Francis Borgia – *God's Favorite*

One Act Performances

- Parkway Central – *Your Life is a Feature Film*
- Desoto – *Ths.Phn. 2.0 – The Next Generation*
- Raymore Peculiar – *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*
- Rockwood Summit – *Scenes from Plaza Suite*
- Branson and Parkway South – *Lindsay Price Festival*

Thank you to all of these schools for the time and effort you put forth for every production! We would like to see more one-acts at conference next year, so start planning now!!

Tech Challenge

The Technical Challenge was once again a popular competition at conference. Several schools sent technical teams to compete in the six events. It was a race against the clock as each team fought for the event and overall titles. Taking top honors were:

First Place Overall – Parkway North
Knot Tying – Francis Howell
Costuming - Branson
Prop Change - Branson
Sound – Parkway North
Lights – Branson

Improv Olympix

The brand new Improv Olympix drew many interested teams this year! Taking top honors in the improvisation competition was the team from Ladue High School!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN FESTIVAL 2011

PLACE: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN

TIME: JUNE 20-25

MO STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2009

PLACE: TBA

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10

BRING YOUR TROUPE OFFICERS FOR A DAY OF LEADERSHIP

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE INFORMATION.

MO STATE CONFERENCE 2012

PLACE: MSU

DATE: JANUARY 5, 6, 7

Mainstage and One Acts

It's time to think about submitting for Mainstage and One Act slots for the 2012 conference!

- Mainstage - 4 weeks before your show date or September 16th, whichever date is the earliest.
- One Acts - September 1st. We want to be able to announce these at Leadership Conference the weekend of Sept. 10th.

New Details for One-Acts:

1. We want to simplify the sets/costumes/effects to make it more about showcasing talent and theme of the play.
2. Limited storage space - all of your sets/props/costumes must be able to be stored in a 6' X 8' space in the backstage area of our performance space.
3. Each troupe will have a taped off location for this storage. Your set up time begins at the start of the session. You will have 75 minutes to "load in" from your designated storage space, perform and strike ("load out") your entire set back to your designated storage space.
4. A concept letter will be part of the application process along with 2 copies of your selected script.

New Details for Mainstages:

1. An adjudication team will be assigned to each performance. If we can plan it correctly there will be at least one member of the team that will see all submissions. We will schedule their attendance with you and you can decide whether or not to tell your students what night the team is coming.
2. We are using an electronic adjudication form to speed up the completion of each submission. The plan is to have the comments sent back to you within a week of the performance. This will help you coach directly to the issues you feel like you can use to improve or build on within your program.
3. Once the last submission has been viewed and their adjudication forms returned the team will meet to discuss inclusion in the 2012 State Conference. The chosen shows will be announced by December 1st.

Questions? Contact Chad Little at
clittle@pkwy.k12.mo.us.

News and Notes

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Jekyll and Hyde* – the All-State show is going to International this summer!

Honor Troupes – There were 33 honor troupes in Missouri this year! Way to go!

TOTS-Eat – Missouri collected 44,569 pounds of food and walked away with the prestigious Cornucopia Award, as well as the Outstanding Commitment Award!

Awards – Congratulations to Bonnie Schurman from Joplin High School for being awarded the Judith Rethwisch Outstanding Theatre Educator of the Year Award! The **Outstanding Administrator Award** went to David Ulrich from Lee's Summit North, and the **Service Award** went to Debbie Flugrad and Pam Harnack from Saint Joseph Central! And a brand new **Hall of Fame Award** was given to Bob and Marti Fowler for their life-long commitment to theatre education!

MO State Adult Board – Congratulations to Lara Corvera, Nona Miller, Randy Sproat and Ken Franke for being elected to the Missouri State Adult Board!

Student Board – Congratulations to your 2011 State Student Board - Loren Howard, Jacob Bogart, Austin Strassle and Hillary Andert!

Individual Events – Congratulations to the Duet Acting team from McCluer High School and the Group Musical Theatre team from Parkway South for receiving Superior ratings and qualifying for International!

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to all!!

Theatre For Life Scholarship
Camilla Hodgson, Hazelwood East

Technical Theatre Scholarships
Abby Dorning, Lee's Summit West; Caitlyn Rizzo, Lafayette, Julia Levine, Parkway Central

Theatre Education Scholarships
Kristin Melies, Staley, Chelsea Campbell, Fort Zumwalt South; Erin Townsend, Nixa

Performance Scholarships--\$1,000
Alex Prakken, Caroline Amos and Samatha Auch from Nerinx Hall; Seth Jones from Raymore-Peculiar

Honor Troupe Opportunity!

As we make final preparations to take the Missouri all-state show *Jekyll & Hyde* to the International Thespian Festival, we are in need of help. Some of you may want to donate to help the cast & crew as part of your Honor troupe requirements. Those who do so will receive a certificate thanking you for your donation. Monetary donations may be sent to:

Debbie Corbin - 1426 State Hwy 176 E, Spokane, MO 65754. For other donation ideas, contact Debbie Corbin: corbind@branson.k12.mo.us

All State Update

All State brush up rehearsals will be held at Lee's Summit WEST High School.

June 18 th	10-11:30 (Vocal Brush Up) 11-noon (Choreography) 12:30 – 3:30 (Run Show) 3:30-6 (Restaging for small venue)
June 19 th	6:30-9 (Pool party at the Hatchery) 9-noon (Run Show) 12:30-2:30 (Vocals/Choreography) 2:30-5 (Run Show) 6:30 (Load Truck)

If you have any pictures of the production process from *Jekyll and Hyde*, let Mr. Rackers know ASAP!

Advocacy Report

From Ben Martin:

This has been a busy and hopeful spring for arts advocates. Even with the tight economy we have fought and won a number of battles. Those that we have lost have been close. Overall, the message is being received on many levels—arts education creates skills that students can use to be successful in many fields.

Arts Advocacy Day, Washington, DC April 4-5

Surprisingly, this was the largest turnout AAD has ever seen. Kevin Spacey gave the keynote Nancy Hanks Lecture. It was brilliant, all about the value of theatre education and can be found at <http://artsusa.org/events/2011/aad/default.asp>. We were able to pay visits to both Senators and make contact with office staffers, or the representatives themselves, in Cleaver's, Hartzler's, Emerson's and Carnahan's offices. I also escorted the national Democracy Works essay winner around, partly because my Board contribution is targeted toward that program. She was from Kansas and so I also met with staffers for Senator Roberts and Rep. Yoder. While we were there they were getting close to shutting down the government, so it was a bit hectic. However, Americans for the Arts is convinced that our presence there that week, helped to limit the cuts to the NEA (only 7.5% to 155 million instead of the more drastic reduction to 120 million originally in the CR) and save the Arts in Education grants program (\$25 million when it was originally zeroed out).

Advocacy Report cont.

Fine Arts Education Day, Jefferson City, MO May 3

A nice representation of the various disciplines was present at the capitol, but the numbers seemed far less than last year (probably because of the May date). Jenna Klausung from Lee's Summit West High School represented the Missouri Thespians All-State Show and sang twice, once on the Capitol steps and once in the Rotunda. She did a very nice job and members of MAAE were very happy that theatre was represented in the indoor performance. West Plains forensics students performed in the rotunda during the morning as well as a theatre/dance performance from Paseo HS in Kansas City on the outdoor steps.

In terms of results this spring:

1. A pilot of a fine arts standardized test was carried out this year and the state school board mandated that DESE would test the arts (and physical education) beginning in 2013. DESE is not necessarily a willing participant and needs to be watched to be sure the mandate is carried out.
2. The two statewide academies have had budget money reinserted into the budget. Final action on the bills was taking place on Friday. Last word was that \$300,000 was being appropriated. I'm not sure of the final outcome.
3. No new money was appropriated for MAC, but they were authorized to grant approx. \$9 million from the arts trust fund. Bills were introduced to reallocate money from the Athletes and Entertainers Tax. I'm not sure of the outcome.
4. The bill to have DESE provide arts teachers in Missouri with professional development resources out of the regional PD offices was close to passing. According to the Missouri Senate Website the bill was passed in both houses and sent to the governor.

Other Advocacy News:

Please consider creating a Show-Me Arts Chapter in your school. Read the program booklet at:

<http://www.moaae.org/images/SMAGettingStartedToolkit2010-11.pdf>



Jenna on the Capitol steps