

MO Thespian Newsletter

Volume 1

January 2010

Something for Everyone at 2010 Conference

This year's conference included stage combat, film violence, playwriting, improvisation, dialects, auditioning, hip hop, swing dancing, scholarships, one acts, main stage shows and All-State auditions! The weather couldn't bring down Missouri Thespians, as many troupes braved the snow and wind to come to the Touhill for an exciting weekend of workshops and performances. The conference wrapped up with the announcement of this year's scholarship winners, and the cast and crew of the All-State Show. Thank you to all students and sponsors for attending this year's conference!

Broadway Cares

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 over \$2000.00!! 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.

A Note to All Sponsors:

Please make sure you have paid this year's conference fees! Check with Ken Franke if you are unsure about your payment status! Invoices have been sent!

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Mainstage and One Act Productions

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

Mainstage Performances

- Nerinx Hall – *West Side Story*
- Grandview – *Suessical The Musical*
- Parkway South – *All the Great Books (Abridged)*

One Act Performances

- Parkview – *Bachelor Holiday*
- Francis Howell – *Foreplay, Art of the Fugue*
- Oak Park – *Roll Over Beethoven*

Performing for the middle school conference

- Scenes from *Almost Maine* from Branson, Lee's Summit West and Fort Zumwalt South

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!!

Extraordinary Techies!

The Technical Challenge was a competition held for the second time at conference. Seventeen schools sent technical teams to compete in six events: Lighting, Sound, Costuming, Knot Tying, Prop Shift and Fold a Drop. It was a race against the clock as each team fought for the best time.

Taking top honors were:

First Place Overall:
Fort Zumwalt North



Lighting – Oak Park
Sound – Union

Costuming – Raymore Peculiar
Knot Tying – Fort Zumwalt South
Prop Shift - Lafayette
Fold a Drop - Union

Congratulations to all of the participating schools, and special thanks to Ryan Van Dyke and Nona Miller for making this event possible!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FINE ARTS EDUCATION ADVOCACY DAY 2010

PLACE: JEFFERSON CITY

TIME: MARCH 16

PLAN NOW TO JOIN YOUR FELLOW ARTS EDUCATORS IN JEFFERSON CITY. BRING YOUR TALENTED STUDENTS TO MEET THEIR STATE LEGISLATOR.

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN FESTIVAL 2010

PLACE: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN

TIME: JUNE 21 - 26

MO STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2010

PLACE: TBA

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11

BRING YOUR TROUPE OFFICERS FOR A DAY OF LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE INFORMATION.

MO STATE CONFERENCE 2011

PLACE: MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY (SPRINGFIELD)

DATE: JANUARY 6-8

START PLANNING NOW! ONE ACT AND MAINSTAGE SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE JUNE 1ST!

Conference Lost and Found

Items found at the Touhill:

Master lock combination lock (silver and black), blue and white armband with logo on it (letter F), red and blue mitten (toddler size), white v-neck t-shirt (small), red crew neck t-shirt (medium) with white crew neck t-shirt (large) underneath.

If anyone is looking for these items, contact Krystle or Julia at Touhill via email at touhilladmin@umsl.edu or via phone at 314-516-4100.

Other lost and found (contact Debbie Corbin):

Orange & brown striped knit hat, dark blue x-large, zip front sweat shirt, brown boots: size 6.

2010 International Thespian Festival

June 21–26, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Join us for the best week of high school theatre in the country. The Thespian Festival features more than fifty productions presented by schools from throughout North America and abroad. Plus: a full schedule of workshops presented by theatre professionals, individual performance events, a student playwriting program, opportunities to audition for college and university representatives and for Thespian scholarships, and a chance to hang out with 2,000 or so other Thespians. Don't miss out. It's a blast!

For more information visit www.edta.org

News and Notes

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Jekyll & Hyde* – the 2011 All-State show! Cast and Crew are made up of students from 27 different schools!

Honor Troupes – There were 40 honor troupes in Missouri this year! Way to go!

TOTS-Eat – Missouri collected 35,622 pounds of food! Congratulations to the Lee's Summit United Team for collecting 11,147 pounds; the most total weight collected by any team in the nation!

Thespians Give Back – Leftover t-shirts from previous Thespian conferences were loaded into a convoy of Hope truck this past weekend, headed to Haiti.

Awards – The Teacher of the Year Award went to Jo Nell Seifert from Poplar Bluff, Outstanding Administrator Award went to Krista Richardson from Villa Duchesne High School, and the Service Award went to Marie Steinbach from UMSL!

MO State Adult Board – Congratulations to Shayne Daniel, Ben Martin, Chad Little and Amie Gossett for being elected to the Missouri State Adult Board!

Student Board – Congratulations to Dakota Callaway (Branson) Mitchell Barrett (Lindbergh), Megan Richardson (Poplar Bluff), Schyler Tate (Oak Park). Watch out for officer bios and the Student Corner in future newsletters!

Page to Stage Winners – The following scripts were work shopped, auditioned and performed! Playwright Jon Dorf assisted our young playwrights!

The Interrogation--by Gregory Savel

(Parkway West High School #4797)

Domino Effect--by Joshua Kirkpatrick & Rachel Bladow (Parkway North High School #4551)

3 Minutes--by Jessica Nordberg, Kelsey Pettit, and Jodie Beasley (Branson High School #3482)

Individual Event Participants:

Duet Acting: Branson, Ladue Horton Watkins, Lebanon, McCluer, Parkway West

Musical Theatre: Parkway West, Parkway Central

Film: Francis Howell Central, Fulton, Lee's Summit North, St. Francis Borgia Regional

Scholarship Winners – Congratulations to our scholarship winners!!

Theatre For Life Scholarship

Amiria Harper-Rose, Fulton

Technical Theatre Scholarships

Kylor Greene, Oak Park; Danielle Schaeffer, Pattonville

Theatre Education Scholarships

Gabriel Taylor, Marquette; Taylor Weatherly, Oak Park; Bethanie Swiney, Fulton

Performance Scholarships--\$1,000

Erin Huffman, Lee's Summit West; Luke Minx, Lee's Summit North; Lauren Lenke, Villa Duchesne; Meghan McCarter, Parkway Central

A Note from Your Chapter Director:

Thespians,
We're all back home now, dealing with muddy roads and yards, a far cry from the cold and snow 10 days ago! Thespian conference 2010 is only a memory; we hope it is a good one for you. I want to thank all those who made the conference a success: sponsors, chaperones, bus drivers, administrators, UMSL (particularly Marie Steinbach and Kim Klearman), the Airport Marriott, the MST Board, the reading committees, Lorie O'Leary (she made your parade of troupes possible), guest artists, colleges, vendors, and everyone else who helped in any way. My congratulations to all the sponsors and troupes; your behavior was exceptional; and the way you dealt with the cold and weather was wonderful. It may have been cold outside, but the love and passion for theatre kept everyone warm inside.

Let us all congratulate your student officers for the fine job they did: Marcy Barbeau, Lauren Garth and Sara Dern. Your new officers are already eagerly talking and making plans.

Now that you are home, I hope you will all thank your sponsors, administrators, and parents for believing in you and your love of theatre. We saw some great performances, saw some talented actors, techies and future educators in scholarships, and raised a substantial amount of money for Broadway Cares/Equity fights AIDS. Keep up the good work; many great shows will be produced this spring. Some of you will want to attend the International Thespian Festival in June-- check the EDTA website for registration info. We could have a great Missouri group! Mark your calendars for the next state conference: Jan. 6,7 and 8 at MSU in Springfield. Start planning now!

Debbie Corbin

New Line Scholarship

New Line Theatre, "The Bad Boy of Musical Theatre," now in its nineteenth season of provocative, adult, alternative musical theatre, offers its second annual musical theatre scholarship, this year in the amount of \$1,000, to be awarded to one St. Louis metro area high school senior who plans to study musical theatre in college. The scholarship has been funded by donations from New Line supporters. The deadline for applying is April 1, 2010, and guidelines are on the New Line website at:

<http://www.newlinetheatre.com/scholarship.html>.

An Introduction to Your Student Board:

Dakota Callaway is a junior at Branson High School. He is very active in dramatics and thespians. Dakota is a very upbeat individual and is excited to be a member of this year's Missouri state thespian student board. He is very grateful for the opportunity he has been given.

My name is **Megan Richardson** and I live in Poplar Bluff. There are many words you could use to describe me including: crazy, friendly, talkative, and most definitely hyper. Theatre is my life; the stage is practically my home. I also love to dance and perform on Pom Squad, and I enjoy attempting to sing, but let's just say you don't want to hear it. I'm involved in way too many clubs in high school but I enjoy every minute of it. Music, shoes, and food are a few of my favorite things. I love life and I can't wait to see what this experience will bring.

Schyler Tate is a junior at Oak Park High School who lives, breathes, and basically dates Theatre! She has been in many plays, but a few are; "Cinderella" as the Evil Stepmother, "Rumors" as Cookie Cusack, and "Thoroughly Modern Millie" as Ms. Flannery. Along with acting, Schyler is heavily involved with her school's broadcasting journalism program where she hosts her own talk show called "Nana Norma", an advice giving grandmother, every Thursday morning. After graduating high school Schyler hopes to attend a theatrical college in Chicago and take over for Oprah when she blows over after a few years.

Hello fellow thespians! I'm **Mitch Barrett**, one of your state student board members! I am a sophomore at Lindbergh Senior High. I am also originally from Canada! I moved here about four and a half years ago, and I love it in St. Louis! I love theatre! So far I have only been onstage, but I would love to explore the world of tech! As well as being into acting, I am also in the student board of my Thespian troupe. I love Thespian Society because all of the people are so creative when we get together. See you at Thespian Conference 2011!

EDTA

A reminder to sponsors that you can access information about all of the positive things the Educational Theatre Association is doing by visiting www.edta.org. Check TOTS Eat totals, find out about advocacy opportunities, order supplies, and more!