

District 8 Thespian Sponsor Breakout Meeting

Minutes

Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024

Location: Westchester Cultural Arts Center

1. Call to Order

- The breakout meeting was called to order by Mr. Graff at 11:00 AM.
 - *Unless otherwise noted, all comments are made by Mr. Graff who led the meeting.*

2. District 8 Show Calendar

- The District 8 Show calendar is available on the District 8 website. Attendees are encouraged to use the Google form to submit their show dates for sharing with the community.
- The Guest Artist Masterclass Form was also discussed.

3. EdTA Updates

- The annual troupe affiliation fee via the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) is still \$129.00 for this year, but will increase to \$145.00 for the 2025/2026 school year.
- Note that the Troupe Director of record is a “complimentary member” of EdTA with full access to member services which should be utilized.
- After many years, EdTA is recognizing Associate Troupe Directors; to be listed as an Associate Troupe Director, the individual must also be an EdTA member and pay the associated fee.

4. Moratorium List

- The moratorium list was provided as part of the packet distributed at the meeting.
- Plays listed on the moratorium handout cannot be performed for competition this year.

5. District Fees

- Festival Registration fees are unchanged from the previous year.
- There are modifications to the drop/change structure for the Thespy Festival.
 - Amounts for both can be found on the district website.
- A new W9 for District 8, reflecting the name change to Florida Thespians District 8, must be provided to your treasurer. Payments should not be made to the old name.

6. Festival Registration Information

- During the open registration period, changes can be made freely: remember that a change actually means deleting the event and re-registering it with the correct/updated information.
 - Note that the further into the registration period you make a change, the higher the chance that event spot will no longer be available.
- After the registration window closes, there cannot be any changes to cast. .
- Between October 29 and October 31, changes can be made without incurring a cost by contacting Mr. Graff. Beginning November 1st, all changes will incur a \$25 fee per event.
- No-shows will be charged \$50 which will be billed to the school, so please see the registration desk to submit drops!
- There will be no day-passes available for the one-act festival: only fully registered chaperones will be able to attend the one-act festival.

- Day passes for the Thespy festival at the MACC can be purchased as part of the festival registration, or by the **sponsor only** at the registration desk. Sponsors, *please* make sure you are communicating with your parents as well as with Ms. Mederos and Ms. Colon at the registration desk.
 - Day passes are for adults only.

7. Thespian Festival

- One Acts: One act plays must be directed by the troupe's director as listed on official troupe documents, a full time faculty member from the school who has been employed by the school for at least the past two years and is a member of EdTA, or a currently enrolled student under the supervision of the troupe director.
 - The event this year will take place at Hialeah Gardens High School. Specific areas for trucks and buses will be communicated by Ms. Rosales & Mr. Graff. There will be construction in and around the area; please add these considerations to your travel times.
- EdTA has updated Thespy (IEs) event rules. Those updates were released after the opening of the registration period for Florida districts, Florida State Thespians has determined to maintain the rules/regulations in place last year.
 - The Florida State Thespian website is currently under construction. When complete, the rules displayed will be the ones we are using for this competition/school year.
- New this year:
 - Stage Management is now a technical event.
 - Each troupe can now register 3 Student Choreography pieces.
 - Playwriting: this is a virtually adjudicated event.
 - Students do not need to show up to a room
 - Does **not** count towards each student's event quota.
 - Does incur the \$10 event fee.
- Performance of copyrighted works requires permission, even in educational settings. Please note that the festival registrations require inclusion of the publisher's name.
 - The EdTA page dedicated to Rights & Licensing for Thespy events can be found [HERE](#)
 - Step 1: Identify the company who holds the performance rights to the piece.
 - Step 2: Find the name of the company on the list of licensing agencies on the Rights & Licensing page.
 - Step 3: Consult the Red Light/Green Light Lists if instructed to do so.
 - Please note that any work may be used for the technical events.
- All events have kept the same registration limit (except student choreography noted previously). Please note that playwriting is still a "virtual" event; students need to be registered but do not have an event they are attending.

8. Improv Jam

- Each troupe can submit unlimited students to audition. The event is a fundraiser for Broadway Cares, and does not carry an event fee but will incur a fee for no-shows. Only students registered for the district festival are eligible to audition.

9. Deadlines

- Adherence to deadlines is crucial. Plan ahead and work within the limits of your administration and treasurer.
- Everyone's treasurer gets "sick" around the time payment deadlines approach. Please give yourself the lead time you need to be sure you get the turnaround required. Every treasurer is different.

10. State Festival

- District 8 Bussing
 - Approximately \$120 per person. Be on the lookout for a new survey from Ms. Mederos. (Public schools now require request quotes for expenses over \$2500.)
- MainStages
 - Evening entertainment details will be communicated by Mr. Graff as soon as he has the information.
- Rules
 - Will be available once the website is complete; Mr. Graff will notify us.
- Playwriting
 - This is a virtually adjudicated event.
 - Students do not need to show up to a room
 - Does **not** count towards the student's event quota.
 - Does still incur the \$10 event fee.
 - Does **not** count towards the troupe's 6 event limit.
- All-State Opening Number
 - Participation details will be posted on the Florida Thespian official social media.
 - Students selected to participate will rehearse on Wednesday for the opening ceremony.
- Honor Troupes
 - Criteria and details will be available on the website.
 - Congratulations to Mr. Juan Espinosa from South Dade on being recognized as a Gold Honor Troupe.
- New Scholarship: The Valdez-King Scholarship for graduating seniors studying theatre and engineering or theatre and business.
- Costs & Services
 - Registration price increased to \$165 per person.
 - T-shirts will be purchased separately (not included with registration).
 - The guest artist budget has been reduced.
 - There will be no trolley service this year.
 - The increase in cost and decrease in services results from a restructuring following a forensic audit conducted after unusual spending was uncovered and brought to the board's attention. The matter is still being resolved.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Graff at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Minette Poole

Troupe 4841 Sponsor