



NEW JERSEY
JUNIOR THESPIANS™

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

2018

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

NJ Junior Thespian Festival
Prospective Workshop Presenters



ABOUT US



About the New Jersey Junior Thespians

New Jersey Junior Thespians is a non-profit organization. It is a chapter of the Educational Theatre Association which sponsors the International Thespian Society (ITS). It is our mission to promote, strengthen, and advocate for theatre arts education in New Jersey middle schools. We offer a community for middle school theatre educators and student Thespians to learn, share, and celebrate theatre.



About the Educational Theatre Association

The Educational Theatre Association is a national nonprofit organization with approximately 100,000 student and professional members. EdTA's mission is shaping lives through theatre education by: honoring student achievement in teachers by providing professional development, networking opportunities, resources, and recognition; and influencing public opinion that theatre education is essential and builds life skills. EdTA is the home of the International Thespian Society, an honorary organization that has inducted more than 2.2 million theatre students since its founding in 1929.



About the International Thespian Society

The International Thespian Society is an honorary organization for high school and middle school theatre students located at more than 4,600 affiliated secondary schools across the U.S., Canada, and abroad. The mission of ITS is to honor student achievement in the theatre arts, and since its founding in 1929, more than 2.2 million students have been inducted as its founding in 1929, more than 2.2 million students have been inducted as Thespians. High school inductees are known as "Thespians" and junior high/middle school inductees are known as "Junior Thespians".

WORKSHOP INFO



PRESENT A WORKSHOP

CHOOSE A SESSION

We ask that you teach a morning session, afternoon session, or full day session. On the Workshop Application, you can select which session works best for you.

MORNING	AFTERNOON	FULL DAY
10:00 AM-1:00 PM	1:00 PM-4:00 PM	10:00 AM-4:00 PM
2, 45 minute workshops	2, 45 minute workshops	3-4, 45 minute workshops

LOGISTICS

You will have 5 minutes to set up in your workshop room before. Prepare for 15 to 25 students to be in each workshop group.

APPLY TODAY

Application to be a Workshop Presenter is done completely online and is now open. Please submit your application by Monday March 26.

WORKSHOP TYPES

We are currently seeking workshop presenters to teach workshops in the following categories:

DANCE/MOVEMENT

Here are some suggestions for dance and movement workshops:

- o Musical theatre dance
- o Basic theatre movement
- o Basic choreography
- o Physical theatre
- o Movement improvisation, etc.

STAGE COMBAT

Here are some suggestions for stage combat workshops:

- o Sword, rapier, and dagger
- o Unarmed training
- o Punches, kicks, and slaps
- o Front falls, back falls, side falls,
- o Combat safety, etc.

SPEECH/VOICE

Here are some suggestions for speech/voice workshops:

- o Vocal exercises and warm-ups
- o Projecting, speaking, and breath work
- o Vocal gesture and range exercises
- o Singing
- o Improv

BENEFITS

1. Professional Development

- ALL Presenters will receive Professional Development Credits (PDCs) for presenting a workshop at the festival.
- Morning or Afternoon Session attendees will receive 3 hours. Full Day attendees will receive 6 hours.

2. Lunch

- Workshop Presenters will have a prepared lunch in the Workshop Lounge.
- There will be additional coffee and snacks in the Workshop Lounge.

3. Special Benefits

Workshop Presenters may choose a special benefit as compensation for teaching a workshop:

- o A vendor table on Vendor's Row to advertise company and meet with teachers/students during 45 minute lunch period.

OR

- o A quarter page ad in the Festival Program to advertise for your company/business/workshop

MATERIALS

- NJ Jr. Thespians provides materials on a need-base only (including photocopies, sound systems, pencils, etc)
- Provide your request for materials on the Workshop Presenter Application
- If NJ Jr. Thespians is able to accommodate your request, the materials will be provided for you.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

LOCATION/TIME

- The festival will be held at Toms River High School North in Toms River, NJ
- 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

FOOD ALLERGIES

- If presenters have any dietary needs, please bring a bagged lunch.
- If any presenter has a specific food allergy, please email njrrthespians@gmail.com before April 1
- No food deliveries from outside restaurants will be permitted.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

- NJ Jr. Thespians is constantly striving to accommodate the needs of attendees:
- The festival is held on the bottom floor of the high school and there are no barriers. The seating in the auditorium is accessible to individuals with mobility concerns as well.
 - If a presenter is visually impaired, hearing impaired, or has any learning or developmental disability, it is the responsibility of the presenter to notify NJ Jr. Thespians before April 1, 2018 so suitable accommodations may be made.

SAFETY

- There will be an EMT on staff at the NJ Jr. Thespians Festival
- Please review the Security Rules and Regulations to ensure maximum safety.

QUESTIONS

- Email Workshop Co-Advisers: Michele Greenspan and Joan Schubin at workshops.njrrthes@gmail.com with any workshop inquiries.
- Email Junior Thespians Coordinator: Veda Rouze at njrrthespians@gmail.com with any festival questions.

- Also, please explore our website at www.njrrthespians.org
- If you have questions any time during the festival, members of the NJ Jr. Thespians State Board will be wearing blue shirts with the NJ Jr. Thespians logo.

UTILIZE THE FESTIVAL THEME



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We would love you to bring your own expertise into your workshop and if possible incorporate our festival's theme as well. This year's festival theme is "Theatre Around The World". Here is a handful of international theatre topics that you may refer to while developing your workshop, if you would like to:

Kabuki

A classical Japanese dance-drama. The individual kanji, mean sing, dance, and skill. Many performers wear ornate makeup.

Pantomime

A dramatic entertainment, originating in Roman mime, in which performers express meaning through gestures accompanied by music.

Shakespeare

A British style of theatre originating from the Bard William Shakespeare.

Bunraku

A form of traditional Japanese puppet theatre. Three kinds of performers take part in a bunraku performance: the Ningyōtsukai or Ningyōzukai (puppeteers), the Tayū (chanters) and shamisen musicians.

Broadway

A style of American theatre that incorporates acting, singing, and dancing, and is commonly characterized by musicals.

Vaudeville

The "heart of American Show Business" which have included popular and classical musicians, singers, dancers, comedians, acrobats, illustrated songs, jugglers, one-act plays or scenes from plays, etc.

Comedic Farce

A French farce is a comedy that aims at entertaining the audience through situations that are highly exaggerated, extravagant, and thus improbable.

Yoruba

An African theatre form which culminates in the essence of the masquerade where it is deemed that ancestors return to the world of the living to visit their descendants.

Shadow Puppetry

With origins from China, shadow puppetry involves a cast shadow on a puppet constructed out of material and rods for movement.

Commedia dell Arte

An Italian form of theatre characterized by masked types and improvised performances based on sketches. The characters are exaggerated.

Zarzuela

A Columbian lyric-dramatic genre that alternates between spoken and sung scenes, the latter incorporating operatic and popular song, as well as dance. It is a masque-like musical theatre.

Opera

An Italian art form which singers and musicians perform a dramatic work combining text (libretto) and musical score, usually in a theatrical setting.

Ballet

Classical ballet, which originated in Renaissance Italy, is characterized by light, graceful, fluid movements and the use of pointe shoes.

Kathakali

One of the major forms of classical Indian dance. It is a "story play" genre of art with elaborately colorful make-up, costumes and facemasks that the traditionally male actor-dancers wear.

Comedy and Tragedy

The epitome of Classical Theatre with origins from Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome.

Theatre of The Oppressed

Developed by Brazilian theatre practitioner Augusto Boal, it consists of spect-actors and the use of theatre to promote social change.

Kalchum

Characterized as a Korean dance drama performed while wearing a mask, miming, speaking and even sometimes singing. Masked characters portraying people, animals, supernatural beings.

Theatre of The Absurd

A French form focused largely on the idea of existentialism. Logical construction and argument gives way to irrational and illogical speech, circular plots, and simplistic unit sets.

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Written by Middle School Theatre Educators

- 1. Lay down your rules and expectations** at the start of the activity. Someone who “isn’t listening” may simply be unclear as to what the boundaries are. If one is needed, a consequence doesn’t have to be severe- just sit them out, or move them to a less distracting spot in the activity.
- 2. Keep the lesson moving.** Students at this age can get distracted easily, so it is vital to break down the lesson into smaller sections. A great format to follow is: learn the concept, model it, practice it, and then present it.
- 3.** It is always better to make something **more challenging rather than simpler.** Remember these students are older than you think they are.
- 4. Keep it positive, enthusiastic, and inclusive,** and the students will follow your lead. Your mood and attitude about what is happening in the room drastically influences how the students feel about the activity and the people participating.
- 5.** Make sure you **model each activity** you want the middle schooler to accomplish. This will help them reach the goals you set for them.
- 6.** Even though it may sound elementary, **incentives are highly effective** for a middle school student, especially if they are given for positive behavior.
- 7. Resist the urge to talk over the group.** Wait until the volume is at a manageable level, and make sure you establish “cues” with them so they know you’re waiting for quiet without you having to shout.
- 8. Celebrate mistakes and brave attempts** made by the students. It isn’t easy to share in front of your peers, especially a group of mostly strangers. Acknowledge when people decide to move out of their comfort zone!

