



NEW JERSEY  
JUNIOR THESPIANS™

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

2019

# WORKSHOP INFORMATION

NJ Junior Thespians  
Prospective Workshop Presenters



# ABOUT US



## About the New Jersey Junior Thespians

New Jersey 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

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

2, 45 minute workshops

#### AFTERNOON

1:00 PM-4:00 PM

2, 45 minute workshops

#### FULL DAY

10:00 AM-4:00 PM

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.

## WORKSHOP TYPES

The following are past workshops we have included in our festival:

### ACTING

Here are some suggestions for stage combat workshops:

- o Projecting, speaking, and breath work
- o Improvisation
- o Scene and Character work
- o Stage Combat
- o Devised/Applied theatre

### MUSICAL

Here are some suggestions for musical workshops:

- o Vocal exercises and warm-ups
- o Scene Study
- o Audition Technique
- o Singing
- o Improvisation

### TECHNICAL

Here are some suggestions for technical workshops:

- o Stage Management
- o Directing
- o Lighting or Sound Design
- o Costuming
- o Properties Management

### 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.

## 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

**OR**

- o A \$25 stipend for your workshop group or theatre company to assist with travel costs, workshop materials, etc.

## 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 [njrthespians@gmail.com](mailto:njrthespians@gmail.com) before April 30
- 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 30, 2019 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 Organizer, Joan Schubin, at [workshops.njrthes@gmail.com](mailto:workshops.njrthes@gmail.com) with any workshop inquiries.
- Email NJ Junior Thespians Coordinator, Veda Rouze, at [njrthespians@gmail.com](mailto:njrthespians@gmail.com) with any festival inquiries.

# 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 than too simple.** 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!

