

**Ohio Educational Theatre Association**  
An affiliated chapter of the Educational Theatre Association

**MEMBERSHIP  
HANDBOOK**

# Table of Contents

Welcome . . . . .	2
What Are the Membership Benefits? . . . . .	3
Buddy Troupes . . . . .	4
Leadership Conference . . . . .	5
College Auditions . . . . .	5
Workshops . . . . .	6
Ohio EdTA Censorship Policy . . . . .	6
How Do I Bring a Show to a Conference? . . . . .	7
Screenings . . . . .	8
Screening Reports . . . . .	8
Festival Regional Marathon . . . . .	8
Post Screening Responsibilities . . . . .	9
Performing at Area Conferences . . . . .	10
Performance Guidelines for State Conference. . . . .	11
Traveling a Show to State Conference . . . . .	12
Performance Responders . . . . .	13
Individual Events . . . . .	13
Grants and Scholarship . . . . .	14
All-Ohio Show . . . . .	14
State Student Officers . . . . .	15
Junior Thespian Conference . . . . .	16
Ohio EdTA Hall of Fame . . . . .	17
Timeline for Directors . . . . .	18
Adult Membership Application . . . . .	19

## Welcome!

This handbook is intended to be a reference for all Thespian troupe directors, Junior Thespian troupe directors and adult members of the Ohio Educational Theatre Association (Ohio EdTA). It is distributed to provide information about Ohio EdTA and Ohio Thespians.

### Who We Are

Ohio EdTA is an affiliated chapter of the Educational Theatre Association, which includes the International Thespian Society. We are led by an elected Chapter Director, who also serves as President of Ohio Thespians, and are governed by an appointed State Board comprised of student and adult volunteers who are Thespian Troupe Directors, college professors, parent volunteers and theatre professionals

Ohio EdTA represents Thespian troupes, Junior Thespian troupes, and individual adult members.

### What We Do

Organized into six geographical areas within the state, we host annual area conferences for local high schools.

Once a year, we host the State Thespian Conference, one of the largest in the country, for all high schools in Ohio.

Early in the school year, we also host a Leadership Conference when our State Student Officers (SSOs) share what they have learned at the International Festival

with troupe officers and prospective student officers as they start the process to be selected as the next SSOs.

During the Leadership Conference, we also offer workshops for adults on advocacy and other current topics in educational theatre. We also have audition workshops for current juniors in preparation for college auditions at State Conference.

We annually host a Junior Thespian Conference for the Junior Thespian troupes in Ohio.

### What You Can Do

If you have not chartered a troupe in your school, contact the Educational Theatre Association at 2343 Auburn Ave., Cincinnati, OH, 45219 and request a membership application. Or, call them at 513-421-3900.

If you are already a troupe, plan to attend the Leadership Conference, your area's conference, or State Conference and perhaps bring a show.

If your school cannot support a troupe, consider joining as an Adult Member (see page 20).

---

### Ohio EdTA Purpose

The purpose of the organization is to advance and improve the purposes of the Educational Theatre Association and The International Thespian Society by promoting educational theatre in this state and by teaching, educating and instructing students in the performing arts and related subjects.

## What Are the Membership Benefits?

The area conferences give adults and students the opportunity to network with other local schools that have theatre programs. The annual State Thespian Conference and Junior Thespian Conference offer similar opportunities but include schools from all over Ohio.

Area conferences, State Conference and Junior Thespian Conference offer opportunities for your students to perform for audiences of their peers in non-competitive atmospheres. These conferences also offer workshops in various theatre arts. State Conference and Junior Thespian Conference offer an Individual Events Competition. Students in performance categories who advance to the International Thespian Festival have the opportunity to move on to the second round in the Artsearch National Scholarship Program. Please see page 13 for more information on Individual Events.

Each year, Ohio EdTA produces an All-Ohio show, which is performed at State Conference. This is an opportunity for your students to work with other theatre professionals and students from other schools.

Since each area has a designated State Board member, near you is a contact who can assist you and be there as a “sympathetic ear.”

As a troupe director, you will receive *Dramatics* and *Teaching Theatre* from our parent organization, the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). These publications cover current issues relating to educational theatre. Ohio EdTA posts the *Marquee*, with Ohio news for all Troupe Directors.

Ohio EdTA maintains a website: [www.ohedta.org](http://www.ohedta.org) for troupe directors and adult members.

At State Conference, a “teacher track” is offered in the workshop schedule and certificates are issued which may be applied to your Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP).

EdTA offers the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska. Students from all over the USA and other countries attend this annual event.

As a chartered troupe in the Thespian Society, your students are eligible for scholarships offered by both the state and international organizations.

Following EdTA guidelines, your students may be inducted into the International Thespian Society, the international honor society for drama/theatre students.

## Buddy Troupes

In an effort to make new troupes and/or new directors feel more comfortable about participating in our sponsored activities, Ohio EdTA has established a system of “Buddy Troupes.”

Here’s how it works: When a school charts a new troupe with the EdTA or when a new director takes over an established troupe, Ohio EdTA asks the new troupe/director if they would like to be partnered with an experienced troupe/director. If the answer is “yes,” Ohio EdTA will find an experienced troupe/director who is located nearby and give them information about the new troupe/director. The experienced troupe/director then makes contact with the new troupe/director to see if he/she can be of service or if the two troupes can meet.

Joint ventures between the new troupe/director and the experienced troupe/director might include:

1. Watching each other’s performances
2. Attending other area schools’ performances
3. Attending college, community or professional theatre productions
4. Holding social events
5. Holding a picnic or a cookout
6. Meeting at area conferences and sharing the day’s activities together

7. Going together to a theme park
8. Collaborating on writing a play
9. Holding a joint fund raiser
10. Holding a night of improvs, theatre games or a “Whose Line” performance
11. Performing a public service project
12. Forming a play reading club or group

The above list is simply a set of suggestions. Any activity that allows students to meet, network and celebrate theatre is certainly worthwhile.

Networking is defined in the American Heritage Dictionary as “an informal system whereby persons having common interests or concerns assist each other, as in the exchange of information or the development of professional contacts.” This is what Ohio EdTA plans to accomplish through the Buddy Troupe system.

---

### EdTA Mission

The Educational Theatre Association is a nonprofit theatre arts service organization, founded in 1929, whose mission is to promote and strengthen theatre arts program (including film, television, and other related electronic media) in education. EdTA’s major areas of effort—student development, teacher development, and advocacy - work toward this mission by helping to improve the quality of theatre arts in education.

## Leadership Conference

Each year in the Fall, Ohio EdTA conducts a Leadership Conference. This conference has several purposes.

First, our State Student Officers teach workshops for your troupe officers and/or leaders. Topics deal with how your officers can become better leaders for your troupe. Adult board members lead sessions for the students on participating in Individual Events, auditioning for the Bob Fose Scholarship and All-Ohio Show participation.

Second, the training session for sophomores and/or juniors who wish to run for SSO is conducted. These training sessions are required for all SSO candidates. Interested students who cannot attend Leadership Conference must contact the Area Representative in their area.

Third, workshop sessions for troupe directors and adult members are led by Ohio EdTA Board members or invited specialists. Topics include advocacy, networking, volunteer opportunities at State Conference (Individual Events door guards, timers, responders, and performance ticketing helpers) and exciting new trends in theatre education. These sessions give adults a chance to meet people and share ideas and concerns.

Fourth, all directors, adult members, and students may attend area meetings for each of the geographical areas in the state to discuss area conferences and concerns.

Registration materials for the Leadership Conference are mailed to all active troupes and adult members in early September.

---

## College Auditions

Ohio EdTA offers College Auditions at State Conference. Colleges and universities from Ohio and other states are invited to send representatives to view and interview applicants. Students interested in participating **must** attend our audition workshop either at Leadership Day or at an Area Conference.

Acting students should prepare two contrasting monologues or one monologue and one song. The total presentation should not exceed two minutes. Auditioners must provide their own music accompaniment. This may either be an accompanist or recorded music. Ohio

EdTA will provide a piano or keyboard. Auditioners must provide their own CD/tape player.

Technical auditioners should prepare a portfolio of their work. The portfolios should include a resume, designs, photographs of completed works, renderings, and other materials that show the auditioner's work. Ticket stubs, names listed in programs and other such materials that don't show the auditioner's work should not be included.

Some colleges/universities may wish to hold callbacks. These will be held later in the day, so auditioners should plan to stay.

## Workshops

A wide variety of workshops are offered to delegates who attend Ohio EdTA conferences.

At the Leadership Conference, many workshops are offered for students and adults including the college audition workshop (please see page 5).

Various workshops on acting and technical theatre are offered at the Junior Thespian Conference. The presenters of these workshops may include Ohio EdTA Board members, high school teachers, college/university professors, professional actors, professional theatre technicians and business professionals who work in the entertainment industry.

Area conferences also feature acting, dance and technical theatre workshops, as well as the SSO training sessions and workshops in student leadership, adult concerns and IE preparation. Presenters

are drawn from the same fields as those for the Junior Conference.

The State Thespian Conference offers an even wider variety of workshops and presenters. Presenters are recruited from all over Ohio. Additionally, we try to bring in several nationally known presenters to share their expertise. In past years, these presenters have taught the following workshops:

ComedySportz, Afro-Caribbean Dance, Hip-Hop Dance, Killer Sets on a Budget, Acting Techniques, Makeup Design, Ins and Outs of a Professional Career, Get that Role (auditioning), Singing in Broadway Musicals, and Playwriting.

Also at State Conference, a special “teacher track” is offered for teachers to earn professional development credits (please see page 3).

### **Ohio EdTA Censorship Policy Adopted August 17, 2001**

“The Educational Theatre Association opposes any censorship that silences the Expression of ideas and that may seek to impose boundaries on ideas in the world of Dramatic literature.” In accordance with that policy, the Ohio Educational Theatre Association (OEdTA) is not responsible for nor does it censor choices of material presented at OEdTA troupe sponsored events. It is the responsibility of individual troupe directors to guide their students in choosing what they experience at these events. Likewise, troupe directors bear the responsibility for the material their students present at OEdTA troupe sponsored events. While OEdTA understands that different areas and people have different standards of appropriate play content, OEdTA wishes to give equal opportunity to artistic expression and audience sensitivity. Therefore, OEdTA suggests careful troupe director and director discernment.

## How Do I Bring a Show to a Conference?

Any high school can take a show to area conference simply by completing the information sheet sent by the Area Representative of the State Board (please see page 10).

Performing at State Conference can occur in several ways (please see pages 11 & 12):

1. If you want to perform a full length show, you must return the Screening Request Form you will receive in September. Two Ohio EdTA representatives will screen the performance at your school (see pages 8-9). After the screening, letters of invitation are mailed to schools whose shows are recommended by the screeners. Schools whose shows are not recommended will also be informed by letter.

2. If you want to bring a one-act or a cutting, your production will be screened at an area conference upon your request. After the screening, letters of invitation are mailed to schools whose shows are recommended by the screeners. Schools whose shows are not recommended will also be informed by letter.

3. When you register for State Conference, you may sign up to bring a Marathon play, a student directed play, or a student written play (see below).

### What Does Bringing a Show Entail?

If your show is invited to Conference, you will perform your show in one of several spaces within the host school; some will have technical capabilities, some will not. You will need to bring all

set pieces, furniture, props, and specialized equipment (slide projectors, video projectors, and special effects equipment) to perform your show. The limit as to what to bring will be determined by the size of the performance space (information included in your performance invitation letter).

### Performance Categories

#### Screened Plays

These are full length plays, one act plays, or cuttings that have been screened by Ohio EdTA Board members at the performance school or at an area conference and have been invited by the Ohio EdTA State Board to perform at State Conference. Featured plays may be invited for full length, 60 minutes or 45 minutes.

#### Marathon Plays

These are plays that have not been screened by Ohio EdTA Board members, but are chosen by the performing school's troupe director to bring to State Conference. The total set up, performance and strike time may not exceed 45 minutes.

#### Student-Directed Plays

These are plays directed by students who are still in school. These are not eligible for screenings by Ohio EdTA Board members, but may be entered as Marathon Plays.

#### Student-Written Plays

These are original plays written by students who are still in school. These are not eligible for screenings by Ohio EdTA Board members, but may be entered as Marathon Plays.

## Screenings

The purpose of screenings is to select which shows are invited to perform at State Conference. Schools that wish to have a show screened complete a Screening Request Form and return it to the Ohio EdTA Chapter Director.

Request deadlines are printed on the Screening Request Form and are strictly enforced.

When a school submits a Screening Request Form, Ohio EdTA assigns two Board members to screen the show. The Board members contact the performing school and schedule a performance to attend. The performing school will provide two complimentary tickets per screener for the agreed upon date of the screening.

The screening Board members attend the scheduled performance. They then consult with each other to recommend to the Board whether to invite the performance to

State Conference, or, if invited, the length of the performance the performing school may bring.

A letter is then sent to the Thespian troupe director or director of the performance informing them of the invitation to perform at State Conference and the length of the performance, or that the show is not being invited.

Screenings at area conferences may be requested for short plays or cuttings. In this case, one or two Board members will screen the short play or cutting, communicate with each other, and make a recommendation to the Board whether to invite the performance to State Conference.

Invitations to perform are not based solely on the quality of the performance. Available facilities, scheduling concerns, and recently featured schools and productions may play a part in the decision.

---

### Screening Reports

Troupe Directors will be sent a screening report. This Ohio EdTA policy requires careful planning and clear communication to provide helpful information and constructive criticism to directors.

After a show is screened, the two screeners will collaborate to complete one screening report. The completed report will be sent to the Performances Coordinator. After a letter of invitation or rejection has been sent to the school, the Performances Coordinator will send a copy of the report to the performing troupe director.

### Chapter Select Showcase

The International Thespian Festival features a Chapter Select Showcase. Ohio EdTA will screen shows at State Conference for the marathon as requested.

Ohio EdTA will recommend one production for a 45 minute marathon slot. A second production may also be recommended as an alternate in the event that the recommended production withdraws.

Schools requesting screenings for Chapter Select Showcase agree, if recommended, to register all cast, crew, staff and parent volunteers for and will attend the International Thespian Festival. The school also understands and agrees that it is responsible for all expenses and all performance rights/royalties.

## Post-Screening Responsibilities

The sole purpose of screenings is to determine which performances are being invited to perform at State Conference.

When a school's performance has been screened, it is up to the home school to decide whether to accept the invitation to perform at State Conference. An acceptance deadline will be published with the invitation. This deadline will be strictly enforced.

Directors must realize that the performance was invited exactly as it was viewed. Changes in cast members are not permitted, unless an emergency situation exists and changes are approved by the Ohio EdTA Performances Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the director/Thespian troupe director to transport all set pieces, props, costumes, makeup, and specialized equipment to State Conference (please see page 12).

Bringing lighting equipment and/or sound equipment to State Conference is permitted with the prior permission of

the Conference host. It is up to the director/Thespian troupe director to contact the host site troupe director to discuss the technical limitations of the performance area at State Conference. Special effects may be brought to Conference with the prior written permission of the Conference host.

It is also the responsibility of the director/Thespian troupe director to make sure ALL cast, crew, staff and parent helpers are duly registered and have paid all fees for State Conference. In case of musicals, orchestra members and music directors are not required to register for Conference. However, they may not attend other State Conference events. Unregistered parents, relatives and/or friends who show up to watch the performance will be denied admission. Unregistered cast, crew, staff and parent helpers will not be permitted to participate in the performance.

---

### The Thespian Pledge

I promise to uphold the aims and ideals of the International Thespian Society. I am a student of the theatre and excellence is my ideal. I promise to perform my part as well as I can; to accept praise and criticism with grace; to cooperate with my fellow Thespians and work for the good of the Troupe; and to share my love of theatre.

---

Please check the Ohio EdTA website for the dates and location of the State Thespian Conference

[www.ohedta.org](http://www.ohedta.org)

## Performing at Area Conferences

Performing a play or a cutting at screen the performance. A screening area conferences is encouraged for all report will be completed and a recom- Thespian troupes. Although all State mendment will be made to the State Conference performance rules and regu- Board Performances Coordinator for lations apply, the area conferences per- possible invitation to State Conference. formances fall under the jurisdiction of The director/Thespian troupe director the Area Representative. will be notified in a timely fashion, and the deadline listed on the invitation will be strictly enforced. All responsibilities listed on the “Post Screening Responsibilities” page apply to performances screened at area conferences.

Unless otherwise stated by the Area Rep., all set pieces, props, costumes, and makeup are to be provided by the performing school. Lighting and sound equipment (except tape/CD players) will be provided by and must be used under the supervision and direction of the host school. Any exceptions require written permission of the conference host.

Troupes may request that a cutting or a one act play be screened for possible invitation to State Conference. The Area Rep. will assign a Board member to

Student directed and/or student written plays may be performed at area conferences. However, they are not eligible for screening.

**All cast, crew, staff and parent helpers involved in the performance must be duly registered and pay all fees for the area conference attended.**

---

Please check the Ohio EdTA Web site for which counties are included in each Area and the date and location of the Area Conferences.

**[www.ohedta.org](http://www.ohedta.org)**

---

### Thespian Motto

**“Act well your part; there all the honor lies.”**

**Alexander Pope**

## Performing Guidelines for State Conference

### Screened Full Length Productions:

1. Must have requested a screening and been screened by two Board members, only one of which may be an SSO.
2. Must be viewed by a common screener if the same script is requested by more than one school.
3. Must register all cast, crew, staff and Parent volunteers (excluding orchestra players and music director) for the entire conference and pay all registration fees.
4. Will be performed in the main auditorium or other large performance space.
5. Are permitted one hour for set up and one hour to strike.
6. May choose to have responders.
7. Will receive a plaque.
8. May only be performed by active troupes.
5. Are given the best secondary performances spaces available such as band rooms, choral rooms, or studio theatres.
6. Are permitted 15 minutes set up and 15 minutes strike for 45 minute performances, 30 minutes set up and 30 minutes strike for 60 minute performances.
7. May choose to have a responder.
8. Will be provided some tech, i.e. masking and general area lighting.
9. Will receive a plaque.

### Marathon Productions and Student Productions:

1. Are not screened.
2. Are limited to 45 minutes including set up and strike.
3. Must register all cast, crew, staff, and parent volunteers (excluding orchestra players and music director) for the entire conference and pay all registration fees.
4. Are generally performed in a classroom with no tech provided.
5. May request a responder. (Responder will be provided IF one is available after all the screened show requests are filled.)
6. Will receive a certificate.

### One Acts or Cuttings (45 minutes or 60 minutes):

1. Are screened by Board members or their representatives.
2. Will be screened at area conferences unless requested by a new troupe, in which case it may be screened at the home school.
3. Should emphasize performance skills, not complicated sets or technical aspects.
4. Must register all cast, crew, staff and parent volunteers (excluding orchestra players and music director) for the entire conference and pay all registration fees.

**Cast size limits will be based on performance space maximum occupancy numbers as per local fire codes.**

## **Traveling a Show to State Conference**

An invitation to bring a performance to State Conference is an honor. But, before accepting the invitation, can you successfully fill the needs of traveling a show? Traveling a show is a unique experience which involves extra details that are often over-looked with a performance at your own school. Materials and equipment that are readily available to you at your own school may not be available at the host site.

It is the responsibility of the performing school to travel all sets, props, costumes and makeup to the host site. You should also bring all hand tools that are required to assemble the set. (Note: power screw drivers are the only power tools permitted). It is also a good idea to bring extra extension cords and cables.

Because of space limitations, storage of materials at the host site will not be provided (unless otherwise indicated in writing to the director/Thespian troupe director of the show). We suggest that schools rent a lockable truck or a van for storing performance equipment and materials for State Conference.

Lighting and sound equipment (except tape/CD players) will be provided by the host school. In the event a director/Thespian troupe director has special requests or wishes to bring equipment for special effects, the Conference host and the Performances Coordinator must be consulted and permission to bring and use such equipment must be secured in writ

ing from the Performances Coordinator. Some requests, such as candles or flash-pots, require the approval of the local fire marshall. Gaining such approval is the responsibility of the performing school.

It is strongly suggested that the director/Thespian troupe director performing a show at State Conference contact the Conference host and arrange a time prior to Conference to do a walk-through of the performance space. Technical considerations and special problems may be discussed at this time.

It is also suggested that performing schools rehearse unloading the set, assembling the set and striking the set at your own school to make sure the jobs can be accomplished in the allotted set up and strike times.

At the beginning of the scheduled set up time, the director/Thespian troupe director will report to the Conference host or the room manager to begin set up and to discuss technical set up. NO set-up may begin without the permission of the host or the room manager. Performing schools' staff that show up at the performance space before the assigned time will not be permitted to start set up.

Immediately after the performance, the director/Thespian troupe director must supervise the strike. The performance area must be cleared of all materials and cast, crew, and staff at the scheduled time. Response, if requested, will not occur until the strike is complete.

### **Rights/Royalties**

It is the responsibility of the performing schools to secure all performance rights and to pay all royalty fees for all plays/cuttings performed at Ohio EdTA sponsored conferences.

## Performance Responders

Schools that bring Featured Performances to State Conference may request a Responder. This Responder is a drama teacher, Thespian troupe director, or other theatre professional who attends the performance and meets with the cast, crew, and staff after the strike of the show.

The comments of the Responder serve only to share ideas with the performing school. Cast and crew members are encouraged to share their impressions of the performance with the Responder. Discussions should concentrate on the performance experience and should not be in any way a review or critique of the performance.

Any suggestions voiced by the Responder are solely the opinions of the Responder and not Ohio EdTA. The responses are in no way an evaluation of the performance nor do they serve to rate or rank one

## Individual Events

The Individual Events competition (IEs) troupe may compete in any given category, rules/regulations packet is available for and given student may compete in only one download on the Ohio EdTA website category. ([www.ohedta.org](http://www.ohedta.org)) beginning December 1.

The packet for junior troupes is included in the Junior Conference packet. Workshops regarding the purpose and the procedures of IEs, open to both teachers and students, are presented at area conferences.

The IE competitions take place on Saturday of State Conference and Junior Thespian Conference weekends. Any registered Thespian or Junior Thespian, as confirmed by the EdTA at the time of the receipt of the IE registration form, is eligible for the competition. Only one entry from each troupe designated with an asterisk (\*) are eligible to compete again at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska. Competitors are responsible for obtaining proof of permission to perform from the appropriate licensing body and for paying all royalties involved.

Performance	Categories	Technical	Categories
*Monologues	*Duet Musical	* Costume Construction	*Scenic Design
* Duet Acting	* Group Musical	*Costume Design	*Sound Design
*Group Acting	* Solo Pantomine	* Light Design	*Stage Management
*Solo Musical	* Duet Pantomine	* Short Film	Make-up Design
*Duet Musical		*Theatre Marketing	Properties Design

## Scholarships and Grants

### Bob Fose Scholarship

Bob Fose was a Thespian from Granville High School who graduated in 1988. He became a Thespian as a freshman, worked on two all-area productions and three All-Ohio shows, and served two terms as an SSO. While an SSO, he spearheaded the development of a scholarship funded by the SSOs. In early 1989, Bob passed away and the SSOs chose to name the scholarship after Bob as a tribute to his work for Ohio Thespians.

Each year, Ohio EdTA continues to honor Bob's memory by granting an outstanding senior Thespian a \$1500.00 scholarship in Bob's name. This scholarship is awarded to a student who attends a college or university after graduating from high school and majors in one of the communicative arts. If funds are available, multiple scholarships will be awarded.

To begin the process, a student completes and submits an application and a resume of theatre work he/she has performed (applications available in the State Conference Registration Packet). Based on the application and resume, points are assigned in several categories, with consideration given

to theatre work done on the local, area, state, and international levels. Finalists are then required to present either an audition or a technical portfolio to the selection committee at State Conference. All finalists must be registered for and attend State Conference.

The scholarship recipient doesn't receive the scholarship money directly. It is sent by the Educational Theatre Association to the recipient's college or university upon proof of enrollment.

---

### Herb Sprowls Grant

In order to assist students who would not otherwise be able to attend the State Thespian Conference. The Herb Sprowls memorial Grant was established. Students with financial need can apply to have all conference registration expenses covered and receive up to \$40 to cover travel expenses.

The application is available each fall and is typically due in late November. The Board will award up to 4 grants to those who complete the application and meet eligibility requirements. An essay, Troupe Director and either counselor or administrator statement are required. More than one student /school may receive the grant.

### All-Ohio Show

Every year at State Conference, an All-Ohio show is performed. As its name implies, the show is comprised of students from all over Ohio.

To participate, a student must be an inducted Thespian recognized at the EdTA Home Office in Cincinnati. Auditions and technical interviews are held, generally in November or December.

Acting students should refer to the All-Ohio information packet, available on the Ohio EdTA website, for audition requirements.

Technical auditioners should prepare a portfolio of their work and be prepared to be interviewed by the technical director.

Rehearsal weekends usually fall on Martin Luther King Day weekend, Presidents' Day weekend and another weekend prior to State Conference. Attendance at ALL of the rehearsals is required. Overnight accommodations are provided by students at the school hosting the rehearsals, or by Ohio EdTA at an area hotel. Meals are provided for All-Ohio cast and crew by Ohio EdTA..

## State Student Officers

The Ohio EdTA Board of Directors is comprised of adult members and student members. The student members are called State Student Officers (SSOs). Six SSOs will be chosen, one from each of the six areas in the state.

SSOs are full Board members with voting privileges. They represent and are the voices of all Thespians in Ohio. The SSOs attend all Board meetings and help in the planning of all Ohio EdTA events.

The SSOs are the main workshop presenters at the Leadership Conference in the Fall. They meet with Thespian troupe officers, share leadership skills, and lead discussions about troupe concerns.

SSOs also work with the student area reps. to plan and run the Area Conferences.

SSOs have many responsibilities at State Conference. They conduct fund raisers, oversee the dance, introduce shows, and make themselves available to network with and talk to Conference delegates.

SSOs are eligible to run for International Thespian Officers (ITO), who plan the International Thespian Festival.

Students interested in becoming an SSO must attend a training session at the Leadership Conference. A packet will be distributed to the students that includes an application, recommendation forms, and contracts to be signed by the students' parents, troupe directors, and school principals. Area candidates must send their applications to the Area Representatives,

who review the documents and contacts the parents to fully explain the commitment the students are required to make. The Area Representatives will then select the area SSOs from their respective areas.

SSOs are required to attend all Board meetings. The Board meets in August for a three day retreat, once in October, December, late January or early February, late February or early March (one month prior to State Conference) and May.

SSOs are also required to attend the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska, the last week of June prior to their year of service. While at Festival, they participate in leadership training that is taught by the ITO. All expenses for the trip to Festival are paid by the Board.

Additional SSO Requirements:

1. Must be an inducted Thespian Registered at the EdTA Home Office as of the time of selection as a Board member.
2. Must be a current sophomore or junior.
3. Must maintain academic eligibility at his/her home school.

NOTE: If a State Student Officer does not complete his/her term of office, he/she must reimburse Ohio EdTA for all expenses incurred on his/her behalf. This includes all registration fees and travel expenses for the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln.

## **Junior Troupe State Thespian Conference**

Each year, Ohio EdTA directors a workshops Junior Troupe State Thespian conference for Ohio's Junior Thespian Conference range from acting to troupes. This conference is open to any technical theatre to publicity to leadership. Ohio middle school wishing to participate.

### **Planning**

Junior Thespian troupes are encouraged to send their officers to the Leadership Conference in the Fall. The junior members who attend will plan the Junior Thespian Conference.

### **Performances**

Schools who are registered for the Conference are encouraged to bring a show to perform. These shows are not screened before the Conference. There is no minimum or maximum performance time limit. Schools are responsible for bringing their own sets, costumes, props and makeup to the Conference. Lighting equipment and sound equipment (except tape/CD players) will be provided by the host school. Performing directors/Thespian Troupe directors are encouraged to contact the home school to arrange a walk-through or to discuss the performance area.

### **Workshops**

Workshop presenters are drawn from teachers, college professors, and/or theatre professionals. The topics of the

### **Individual Events**

An Individual Events contest will be held in the areas of Monologue, Duet Acting, Group Acting, Solo Musical, Duet Musical, Group Musical, Solo Pantomime and Duet Pantomime. Students who receive a "superior" rating from each judge will be eligible to compete at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska.

### **Social Event**

On the evening of the first day of Conference, a social event will be held. Past social events have included dances, pizza parties or theatre games.

### **Annual Troupe director Meeting**

All junior troupe directors may attend the annual Junior Troupe Director Meeting. This will be held during a workshop session and will be led by the Ohio EdTA Chapter Director or his/her representative.

### **Overnight Accommodations**

A list of area hotels/motels will be included in the Junior Troupe Registration packet. It is up to each individual troupe director to make reservations for his/her own troupe.

**Please check the Ohio EdTA Web site for the date and location of the Junior Thespian State Conference.**

**[www.ohedta.org](http://www.ohedta.org)**

## Ohio EdTA Hall of Fame

The Ohio Educational Theatre Association Hall of Fame has been established to honor those individuals who have given outstanding service to Ohio EdTA and Ohio Thespians. Nominees must be persons who are not current Thespian directors.

### Nominations

1. Any current Ohio EdTA adult member may submit a letter of nomination.
2. Letters of nomination must be received by the Ohio EdTA Awards Coordinator at least sixty days before the annual State Thespian Conference.
3. Letters should contain the following information: (a) the full name and title (if appropriate) of the nominee, (b) the current school, business, community, or organizational affiliation of the nominee, (c) any previous such affiliations that contribute to the nominee's qualifications, (d) a list of the specific contributions the nominee has made to the work of the organization, (e) a statement by the person submitting the letter that he/she has researched and verified the accuracy of the information contained in the letter.

### Qualifications

1. The nominee must have served Ohio EdTA in a significant manner over a period of several years.
2. The nominee may be a college or university professor or instructor, a con-

ference host, an All-Ohio Show Director or Tech Director, a workshop or in-service presenter, a former Thespian troupe director, a business person, a parent, or a member of the community.

3. The contributions of the nominee may have focused on one or more areas which either advanced theatre education for students and teachers or advanced the organization's ability to serve its members.

### Election

1. In any one year, the number of those elected to the Hall of Fame may vary from zero to four.
2. Inductees shall receive an appropriate award.
3. A committee of three Board members or former Board members appointed by the Chapter Director shall review the applications and make recommendations which will then be presented to the Board for final selection. After approval by the Board, the Chapter Director will notify the inductees and invite them to be present for an induction ceremony during the State Conference.

### How to Nominate

To nominate Hall of Fame candidates, write a letter of recommendation addressing the aforementioned criteria. Send that letter to the Ohio EdTA Chapter Director (see our website). <http://ohioedta.org>

Visit the Ohio EdTA Web site at  
[www.ohedta.org](http://www.ohedta.org)

## Timeline for Troupe Directors

### August

- Watch for letter from Chapter Director
- Return information form
- Return screening request form
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for All-Ohio Show information
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for Leadership Day information

### September

- Select STAR candidates
- Register for Leadership Conference
- Watch for area newsletters, which will contain Area Conference information
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updated information
- Make sure your annual dues are paid to the Educational Theatre Association
- Look for Sprowls Grant application on website

### October

- Watch mail for screening assignments
- Register for All-Ohio Show auditions/Interviews
- Register for early Area Conferences
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updates

### November

- Area Conferences begin
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updates
- Sprowls Grant applications due

### December

- Area Conferences continue
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for State Thespian Conference registration materials and Individual Events information
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updates

### January

- Handout State Conference information to your students
- Check EdTA.org website for International Festival registration materials
- Area Conferences continue
- First weekend of All-Ohio rehearsals
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updates

### February

- Collect all State Conference registration money from your students
- Make all hotel reservations for State Conference
- Make all transportation arrangements for State Conference
- State Conference early bird deadline
- All special entries due for State Conference (IEs, t-shirts, marathon plays, etc.)
- Second All-Ohio weekend
- Check EdTA.org website for International Thespian Festival registration materials
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updates

### March

- Confirm all hotel and transportation arrangements for State Conference
- Regular State Conference registrations due
- Third All-Ohio weekend
- STATE CONFERENCE (may be held in early April)
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updates

### April

- Bask in after-glow of State Conference
- Order all awards and certificates from EdTA
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updates

### May

- Induct new Thespians
- Pay annual dues to EdTA
- Visit Ohio EdTA website for updates

### June

- Attend the International Thespian Festival

Ohio Educational Theatre Association  
Adult Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H#) \_\_\_\_\_ (W#) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check Membership Type:

\_\_\_\_\_ Independent Member.....\$15.00  
Membership Benefits...Ohio Marquee; automatic e-mails

\_\_\_\_\_ Organizational Member.....\$25.00  
Membership Benefits...Ohio Marquee; automatic e-mails; may send one staff  
representative to State Conference.

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron Members.....\$25.00-\$50.00  
Membership Benefits...Ohio Marquee; automatic e-mails;

\_\_\_\_\_ College Student Member.....\$10.00  
Membership Benefits...Ohio Marquee; automatic e-mails; may attend State Thespian  
Conference with former troupe or troupe director.

Membership Dues Payment Method: Checks should be made payable to:  
**Ohio Educational Theatre Association.**  
Please mail this form with your check to the Ohio EdTA Chapter Director  
(see our website for the address).  
**Due date: October 30**