

THESPIAN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The Michigan State Thespians will be offering scholarships for graduating seniors who plan to major or minor in Theatre or Communication Arts. Students who are not active members are not eligible for scholarship consideration. **Each director can nominate a maximum of two seniors in this scholarship competition.** A student can compete in either the area of Performance or Production or Service. Each applicant will present a prepared audition and portfolio in PERFORMANCE (acting and/or musical Theatre), PRODUCTION (design, promotion, stage management, technical achievement) or SERVICE.

The student's director may watch their student's audition, but no other students or adults (including parents) are permitted to watch Thespian Auditions. Each student will be assigned an 8 minute audition slot. The time and room location will be provided in the Festival Program given out at registration.

SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION & DISTRIBUTION

1. A non-renewable scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to (10) Michigan Thespians as recommended by an independent judging panel.
2. Following festival, the Festival Director will forward a list of the winners to the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) home office. Disbursement of all monetary awards and all future contact about the scholarship will be handled by the Educational Theatre Association. Recipients will be expected to document proof of enrollment in a recognized school, college, or university's theatre or communication program.
3. Failure to complete enrollment or withdrawal from school negates this scholarship and the grant will not be awarded.
4. Recipients will have one full year from the date awarded to claim their award.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must present proof of their membership in the International Thespian Society by providing their Thespian ID number on their application form.
2. All applicants must be currently enrolled in a Michigan school and graduate at the end of that school year.
3. All winners must use the grant for furthering their education with a major or minor in theatre and/or communication arts.
4. Each director may nominate a maximum of (2) candidates.

JUDGING

1. Five neutral judges will be appointed by the Festival Director.
2. Judging will take place on the Saturday of the Michigan Thespian Festival.
3. Students will not receive formal feedback either verbal or written.
4. Students will be judged based on their performance/presentation as well as their answers to the judges' questions.
5. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of Festival.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications procedures can be downloaded from our website at:

<http://www.michiganthespians.com/festival-forms>

PERFORMANCE CANDIDATES:

Students auditioning as performance majors must prepare a solo presentation not to exceed three (3) minutes; performers will be stopped once they exceed the (3) minute time limit. The performance will be followed by an interview and a portfolio screening for up to (5) minutes. During the interview students are generally asked questions that will have them reflect on past experiences as well as future plans. The performance may be either musical or non-musical theatre. Musical auditions must be accompanied by piano- **no prerecorded music will be allowed.** Those needing accompaniment **must use** the Festival Accompanist; bring your sheet music with any cuts or edits. Musical Theatre people will have the option of signing up for a designated rehearsal slot to practice with the accompanist in advance of their scholarship audition.

Check List:

Before November 1st:

_____ Complete and Submit Thespian Scholarship Registration Form

_____ Upload a (1 page) resume

On Arrival at Festival:

_____ Check-in with your director at the Scholarship Registration Desk

_____ Schedule rehearsal time with Accompanist (for Musical Theatre)

Bring to your audition slot:

_____ Portfolio of work

_____ Sheet Music (for singing auditions only)

TECHNICAL/DESIGN CANDIDATES:

Those students auditioning as technical/design majors must bring a portfolio and be prepared to participate in an oral presentation and a question and answer period. Students will have up to (2) minutes to set up their display/design work. This will be followed by a (3) minute oral presentation of their work. The judges will then have a maximum of (3) minutes to ask questions. The portfolio should illustrate your expertise in technical theatre/design. Technical/Design candidates should be prepared to answer questions from the judges about their experiences and/or plans for the future.

Check List:

Before November 1st:

- _____ Complete and Submit Thespian Scholarship Registration Form
- _____ Upload a (1 page) resume

On Arrival at Festival:

- _____ Check-in with your director at the Scholarship Registration Desk
- _____ Store design materials (if necessary)—a room will be provided

Bring to your audition slot:

- _____ Portfolio of work
- _____ Any design work

SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES:

This area was created to reward those students in our troupes who are the unsung heroes. These students are always there, and always ready to work for the betterment of the group. This scholarship will be awarded based on letters of recommendation, a ten-minute interview and his/her portfolio. Generally students start with a brief self-presentation. There is no performance component to this scholarship and it will be awarded based on the applicant's service to their troupe, their community and the art of theatre. The focus should be theatre related.

Check List:

Before November 1st:

- _____ Complete and Submit Thespian Scholarship Registration Form
- _____ Upload a (1 page) resume
- _____ Upload Letters of Recommendation (at least 2)

On Arrival at Festival:

- _____ Check-in with your director at the Scholarship Registration Desk

Bring to your audition slot:

- _____ Portfolio of work