



Everything You Need to Know About Being a Thespian

What is the Thespian Society?

The International Thespian Society (ITS) is an organization designed to help students grow their interest and skills in theater. It is also an honor society similar to the National Honor Society (NHS) that honors academic achievement, ITS offers honors and acknowledgements of a students' dedication to theater. It is ideal for anyone who is considering studying theater in college/university, but is open to anyone who wants to be a part of a state, national, and international theater community. All members receive a monthly theater magazine, *Dramatics*. College auditions and scholarships are available through ITS as well as numerous awards. Both onstage performers and technicians are encouraged to join!

How do I join the Thespian Society?

1. Go to dexterdrama.org and click on the Thespian Society tab.
2. Fill out the membership form on the "About" page and pay through Eyelo as instructed. Joining the society requires a single fee of \$100 that lasts your entire time in high school

This includes annual awards received at the end of the year Dexter Drama Gala, a subscription to monthly articles from *Dramatics* magazine, and the opportunity to sign up for the annual Thespian Festival which gives access to various categories of performance and technician judication, as well as college auditions and scholarship opportunities.

What is the Thespian Festival?

The Michigan Thespian Festival is one of the best parts of becoming a Thespian member! This year, the festival is set for December 10-11th 2021, and the specific location is TBD, at the festival, **we get to choose from a long list of fun and helpful workshops that help us improve our skills**. Some classes are even taught by experienced **Broadway professionals**. There's a huge variety of classes for actors and for techies, such as the following:

- acting techniques
- vocal techniques
- various genres of dance
- stage management
- audition techniques
- stage fighting
- And so many more!

While at the festival, **we have the opportunity to see numerous plays and musicals right at the center!** We stay in a hotel and do various workshops together. Best of all, we get to become even closer with our fellow Dexter Drama Club members!



If you have any questions about the Thespian Festival or International Thespian Society, please feel free to email Shelly Beach (Thespian Liaison) at shelly.beach@dexterschools.org or Mrs. Jodi Helmholtz (Drama Parent Booster) at helmholtzj@dexterschools.org. Visit dexterdrama.org and michiganthespians.org for more information!

What is an “IE”?

The Michigan Thespian Festival hosts numerous competitions or judications (IEs or Independent Events) in a huge variety of categories. You perform in front of judges and are awarded a score, very similar to Choir, Orchestra, and Band Solo and Ensemble. Here are the IE categories you could participate in:

- Solo, duet, or group musical theater
- Monologue
- Group acting
- Solo or group dance
- Costume design
- Costume construction
- Lighting design
- Playwriting
- Sound design
- Stage management
- Makeup design
- Scenic design
- Short film
- Theater marketing

There is more information about each specific IE on dexterdrama.org. Check the category on the Festival page for more information on what it takes to participate in that IE! Participants for IE's are chosen closer to Festival.

What are Tech Olympics?

Tech Olympics is a competitive event offered at Thespian Festival. It takes place during one of the workshop time slots, and participants compete to beat each other's time in various tech competitions including costume changes, setup of audio and lighting equipment, props change overs, and knot-tying. It is a great opportunity for all techies, and the winner always receives valuable tech equipment for their school. If you're interested in joining Dexter High School's Tech Olympics team, come to festival!

What does Thespian Festival offer for those who want to pursue theater in college?

At Festival, seniors also have the amazing opportunity to apply/audition for **college scholarships**. For an extra fee of \$25 you can perform in front of judges and representatives from a variety of mostly Michigan schools and be offered theater scholarships of varying amounts.

Scholarships are given to both student performers and technicians. We can also send two students to audition/interview for the **Michigan Thespian Scholarship**, which is \$500 that can be used for any school related use and is only awarded to TEN students from each state.



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