

# **Mississippi Theatre Association Annual Festival**

January 14-16, 2005

Meridian, MS

## **Schedule of Events**

**Thursday, January 13, 2005,**

**Meridian Community College Theatre (Ivy Building)**

6:00 p.m.      High School Senior Auditions (Pre-Registration Required) Registration  
and Setup

7:00 p.m.      Auditions Begin

**Friday, January 14, 2004**

**Meridian Community College Theatre (Ivy Building)**

7:00 a.m. High School Director's Meeting – Block I  
Location: Theater

7:30 a.m. Registration – Ivy Building Lobby

8:30 a.m. High School Adjudicator's Meeting  
Location: TBA

Performance Block 1

9:30 a.m. LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL  
*A Piece of My Heart* by Shirley Lauro  
Directed by Chris Wooten  
Please note: Adult Material

HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL  
*A [Grown Up] Evening with Shel Silverstein* by Shel Silverstein.  
Directed by Jay Coker.  
Please note: Adult Material

OLIVE BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL  
*The Diviners* by Jim Leonard, Jr.  
Directed by Carol McRae

12:30 p.m. High School Director's Meeting – All other Blocks  
Location: Theatre

1:30 p.m. **Workshops**

**"The Artistic and Production Process from a Management Point of View"**

Location: TBA Presented by Keith Martin.

Breaks down the various phases of the season activity -- with killer handouts -- including play selection, obtaining performance rights, pre-audition/pre-production workshops, tryouts and callbacks, casting and notification, rehearsal and tech, strike and post-mortem... even programs that utilize the talents of auditionees NOT cast in your productions.

**"Ready - Set - Go For It"**. Presented by Shonda Davis, teacher, director of Drama Tide Theatre at Picayune Memorial High School and counselor. Location: TBA

If you are involved in educational theatre, you will not want to miss out on this workshop! Teachers, directors, and students will learn how to achieve their

personal best by connecting the "world of theatre" with the "real world". All participants will receive valuable resources and activities they can use in both their personal lives and professional lives.

**“Nail that Audition.”** Location: TBA Presented by Hardy Koenig

This session, offered by SETC’s Hardy Koenig, presents step-by-step tips on guiding student actors to a successful audition. The interactive workshop discussed the ins and outs of auditioning in general with specific information on SETC’s professional, undergraduate and graduate school auditions.

**“Corporeal Expression: Mime Techniques”** Location: TBA Presented by Bob Bennet.

Bob studied at USM in theatre and performed a one man show while there. He further studied theatre and mime at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He then studied mime in Paris under the leading modern mime teacher in the world- Etienne Decroux. He lived and worked in Paris for 8 years and has appeared in a number of films and commercials in Paris. He also worked with *Dreamworks* in Los Angeles, Paris and Belgium teaching actors mime for use in film animation.

**Tour the “Grand Opera House” -- Riley Education and Performing Arts Center.**

Tour one of the Southeast’s land marks – the Grand Opera House. Located in downtown Meridian, the opera house is in the midst of a major renovation thanks to Mississippi State University and the Meridian community. Once complete, the project will include the renovated Grand Opera House, the Marks-Rothenberg Building that will serve as a conference/education facility and a 500-car parking garage. Don’t miss a tour this magnificent facility.

**Please sign up for the tours in advance at the conference registration desk.**

Performance Block 2

2:45 p.m. OCEAN SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL  
*I Never Saw another Butterfly* by Celeste Raspanti  
Directed by Sandra Camphor.

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL  
*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*.  
Adapted by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield.  
Directed by Cindi Stokes.

4:15 p.m. Community Theatre Director’s Meeting  
Location: Theatre

6:00 p.m. Community Theatre Respondent's Meeting  
Location: TBA

Performance Block 3

7:00 p.m.

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Purvis High School  
*The Justice Acquaintances*  
Director Parker McMullan

LAWRENCE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

*Pals* by David Perkins.  
Directed by Glen Menna.

BLACK ROSE COMMUNITY THEATRE

*West We Go* by Dennis Hardy.  
Directed by Debbie Hardy.

10:00 p.m. Adult Mixer  
Location: TBA

Saturday, January 15, 2005

7:00 a.m. Community Theatre Director's meeting  
Location: Theatre

7:30 a.m. Registration – Ivy Building Lobby

Performance Block 4

9:00 a.m. OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL  
*Crow and Weasel* by Jim Leonard Jr.  
Directed by Suzanne Allmon

OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL  
*The Love Talker* by Deborah Pryor.  
Directed by John Davenport.

TUPELO COMMUNITY THEATRE  
*Life (x) 3* by Yasmina Reza.  
Directed by Tom Booth.

1:15 p.m. Workshops

**"Making the leap"**

Location: TBA Presented by: Tom Booth, Tupelo Community Theatre and Tim Bixler, Delta Center Stage.

How two community theatres with a long histories of being all-volunteer have made the transition to full time staffing.

**"In-Kind Contributions."** Location: TBA Presented by Keith Martin.

Details of an alternative fundraising source that has netted one not-for-profit theatre over \$500,000 annually in donated services, equipment, materials, and facilities. The most requested repeat session from previous AACT Festivals is back again in 2003 by popular demand.

**"But I don't want to get my headshot!"** Location: TBA Presented by Elliott Street.

Description coming.

**"How to Fund a Theatre Education: A Look at SETC Scholarships".**

Location: TBA Presented by Hardy Koenig.

**“The Journey from stage to screen.”** Presented by Harrison Butler, School for Film and Television, New York City, NY. Location: TBA

This interactive workshop focuses upon the often misunderstood nature of acting in front of a camera. We will discuss communication over real space, focus, preparation and understanding the actors place within the industry. The participant will have a chance to demonstrate and observe how the camera has the unique ability to reveal the inner life of a character. We get to see why today’s professional actor requires their work to be simple, clear and truthful. The class will employ the use of the camera and a monitor, and volunteers will be used. So be ready for your close-up!

**“Corporeal Expression: Mime Techniques.”** Location: TBA Presented by Bob Bennet.

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**“Checkout the Mississippi School of the Arts.”** Location: TBA Presented by Sarah Christopher

Students interested in finding out more about the Mississippi School of the Arts should attend our informative and entertaining session. Four MSA students will perform after a short presentation detailing the MSA's academic programs, residential life, and application process.

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Performance Block 5

2:30 p.m.      BRANDON HIGH SCHOOL  
*The Dance of the Grizzle* by Roy Hudson.  
Directed by Juniper Wallace.

CENTER PLAYERS  
*The Odd Couple (Female Version)* by Neil Simon.  
Directed by Ken Hackman.

Performance Block 5

7:00 p.m. DELTA CENTER STAGE  
*The Glider* by Katherine Snodgrass.  
Directed by Tim Bixler.

STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE  
*Loose Hog in the House of God* by Thomas Kristopher.  
Directed by Marcus Vowell.

10:30 p.m. Adult Social  
Highland Park Carousel  
(From I-20/59, take 22nd Avenue exit; turn left on 8th Street; follow signs to the Jimmie Rodgers Museum in Highland Park. Or take Exit 150, turn right on 8th Street; follow signs to Highland Park.)

Youth Social following 10-Minute Play Festival  
Meridian Community College Ivy Building Mall Area

**Sunday, January 16, 2005**

8:30 a.m. Performance Block 6

JUST OVER THE RAINBOW THEATRE  
*Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe DiPietro.  
Directed by Michael Garner.

10:00 a.m. Division Meetings

Community Theatre Division: Location: TBA  
High School Division Location: TBA  
College/University Division Location: TBA  
Theatre for Youth Division Location: TBA

11:30 a.m. Brunch, Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony  
Mississippi State University Meridian Campus

1:00 p.m. MTA Board of Director's Meeting  
Location: TBA

**Theatre for Youth Festival**  
Mississippi State University Meridian Campus

Friday, January 14, 2005

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.      BLOCK #1

Perk Players

*Magic Theatre*. Directed by Daisha Walker

Summary: "Magic Theatre" is an interactive play that leads children on a magical journey exploring the world of imagination. Through a series of stories a child learns how to deal with anger, how special each person is in their own way, how to deal with night time fears, and other things a child encounters through out the day.

Oak Grove Drama

*Operation Pastry Abduction or Mission Sweet Stuff*. Directed by Suzanne Allmon

Summary: As Krissy is having a birthday party the guests decide to play hide and seek, and one of them somehow ends up missing! Later, they find out that she is in the attic and the kids find out that Suzy isn't the only one in the attic. It is the club house for MONSTERS!! They find out that the monsters are after Krissy's birthday cake and the adventure begins!

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.      BLOCK #2

Purvis High School

*The Justice Acquaintances*. Directed by Parker McMullan

Summary: The adventures of not so super superheroes.

WINGS Performing Arts

*Taming of the Shrew* directed by Tonya Hays

Summary: High school aged musicians and actors take you on a hilarious journey through the toils and troubles of romance.

12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.      BLOCK #3

Brandon High School Theatre

*Dance of the Grizzle*. Directed by Juniper Wallace

Summary: A tale of a time when the sun and the moon were at odds. The sun casts a spell on the forest turning beauty into fear. Only the purity of true love and inner beauty can break the spell.

Actor's Playhouse

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Directed by Lavonne Bruckner

Summary: This is Shakespeare for modern educational theatre. Bottom calls together his ungainly crew of actors to produce a play for the visiting King Oberon and Queen Titania. The sprite, Puck, turns Bottom into a donkey and then, by means of a magic love potion makes Titania fall in love with the creature, setting up a string of delightful misadventures.

2:30 p.m.                      BLOCK #4

Gulfport Little Theatre

*To Absent Friends* by Ms. Lee Green Pope

Summary: A teenager seriously injured in a car accident is visited by his three best friends in the hospital who do their best to brighten his day. It is later learned that these friends were killed in the accident caused by drinking and driving.

### **10-Minute Play Festival**

The 10 minute festival is a fairly new addition to the MTA festival. The festival is geared for high school age students who love a challenge. The festival begins with a 3 hour writing blitz in which student writers have to produce a 3 or 4 character 10 minute play. After the writers turn in their scripts, the directors have 30 minutes to cast those scripts from the remaining students and begin rehearsals. Less than 24 hours later, those shows are performed for adjudicators. This format is a great way for smaller schools to get a taste of competitive theatre. Awards are given for Best Writer, Director, Assistant Director, Actor, Actress, All Star Cast, and Best Overall production. If you are interested, please contact Melanie Harris at [MLHarris2@aol.com](mailto:MLHarris2@aol.com)

Friday, January 14, 2005

|                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5:00 p.m.              | All participants report to TBA        |
| 8:30 p.m.              | Writers turn in final copy of scripts |
| 8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  | Casting                               |
| 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. | Read-throughs                         |
| 11:00 p.m.             | Done for the night                    |

Saturday, January 16, 2005

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.             | All participants report to TBA |
| 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Rehearsals                     |
| 5:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Prepare for performances       |
| 6:00 p.m.             | Performances and response      |