

FAQ

Information is current as of August 2019. May be subject to change and update as needed.

Q: What is California Youth in Theatre Day?

A: CYIT Founder, Gai Jones, wanted to create an event that combined award-winning student performances and youth advocacy for theatre arts. It was clear there was a need for a statewide event that provided students the opportunity to meet with their legislators to share with them the importance of theatre in each of their lives and to thank them individually for supporting arts education bills.

Her vision was realized in the spring of 1998 as 50 students from DTASC, CETA, and California State Thespians travelled with their teachers to Sacramento for a day of performances and advocacy. In March 1998, after starting the day with breakfast at the Capitol cafeteria, students met with legislators, toured the State Capitol, and shared performances at the Clarion Hotel. A group photo at the Governor's Mansion marked the inaugural event and afterward students toured the first permanent theatre in California; the Eagle Theatre in Old Sacramento built in 1849.

Each year the Governor's Office celebrates California Youth in Theatre Day by issuing a state resolution recognizing the importance of theatre in our schools. The beautifully framed CYIT resolution is available all day for a photo opportunity with your group! In the past, the Lt. Governor's office has awarded each student and theatre educator in attendance with a Certificate of Honor, recognizing the exemplary work of their theatre department and talented students. All student delegates will receive a certificate from CETA recognizing their commitment and participation in another successful California Youth in Theatre Day!

Q: What is the mission of CYIT?

A: The mission of the California Youth in Theatre Day is to provide theatre students from across the state an opportunity to come together to celebrate theatre through performance and advocacy for the arts.

Every student, grades Pre-K through 12, deserves equity and access to a standards-based theatre education taught by *credentialed* theatre arts teachers. Convening in solidarity at the State Capitol each year during Theatre in Our Schools Month remains a great way to let school administrators, school board members, school districts, county offices of education, our Governor, and our state legislators know that Theatre Matters!

Q: What are the requirements to participate in CYIT?

A: There are two ways to meet the requirements to perform at CYIT:

- 1) If you win at any theatre festival in California, you/the school/student winner(s) are eligible to register and perform at CYIT. Make sure to register as a school with award-winning student performers.

- 2) Your performance piece is selected through our new VIDEO SUBMISSION category. Submit a videotaped audition performance piece prior to JANUARY 01, 2020 for consideration. For further details see VIDEO SUBMISSIONS.

Q: Are there any scholarships available?

A: Yes. Find detailed information on the [CYIT SCHOLARSHIPS](#) page.

Scholarships are made possible through the generosity of CETA's Past Presidents Council, Drama Teachers Association of Southern California, and California Thespians.

Q: What are the established guidelines for performances?

A: These guidelines have been established in order to foster and maintain a creative and enjoyable event for performers and audience members. Remember that your performance will be seen by the general public, elected public officials, and your peers.

SELECTION OF MATERIAL: All material *must* be edited for a G rating. Determine your edits based on the appropriateness of subject matter, language, sexual or demeaning actions. This applies to all video submissions and award-winning performance pieces.

TIME REQUIREMENTS: All times listed are MAXIMUM time limits. The stated maximum time includes walking to the performance area, setting up any chairs, music, and the opening introductions, performance, bow, and clearing the performance space.

No school may have more than 8 minutes of total performance time. Please make sure that you fully understand all that is included in your maximum time limit and rehearse accordingly.

Monologues/Solo performances:	3 minutes
Duet performances:	4 minutes
Group performance:	5 minutes.

Q: Do I need to secure performance rights for my performance at CYIT?

A: Please read the PERFORMANCE RIGHTS page for information.

Q: What are competitions that meet the criteria for performing at CYIT?

A: Student performers who earn a win an award at a qualifying competition or festival are eligible to perform at CYIT. Qualifying competitions and festivals are defined as events taking place between March 2019 and February 2020.

QUALIFYING EVENTS

This is a list of competitions or festivals that meet the requirement for participating as a student performer:

Middle School

- CETA Middle Stage Fest
- DTASC Festivals
- Junior Theatre Festival

High School

- ComedySportz LA, San Jose, or Sacramento (Chosen Representative)
- Camp Bravo (Chosen Representative)
- Bob Smart Festival, Sacramento (Final Round Advancement)
- Linaea High School Festival
- CSULB (Final Round Advancement)
- Fullerton High School (Final Round Advancement)
- DTASC (Semi-Final Advancement)
- ESU Shakespeare Competition (Semi-Final Advancement)
- California State Thespians (Selected through Audition)
- CYIT (Selected through Videotaped Audition)
- Trinity School of Drama America (Passed Examination)
- LAMDA (Passed Examination)
- Bakersfield College Kern Shakespeare Festival (Performer)
- British Arts Award (Qualified)

College Students

- Kennedy Center ACTF (Most recent Award Recipient)

Q: If I didn't receive an award for a competition, can I still perform at CYIT?

A: Yes! If your performance piece is selected through our new VIDEO SUBMISSION audition process. Submit a videotaped audition performance piece between OCTOBER 1, 2019 and JANUARY 1, 2020 for consideration. Original student work, published work, spoken word, pantomime, and theatre for social justice/social change are a few ideas of submission possibilities. For further details see REQUIREMENTS FOR VIDEO SUBMISSION AUDITIONS below.

Q: When can I submit my videotaped audition?

A: Videotaped submission auditions must be received between OCTOBER 1, 2019 and JANUARY 1, 2020. Each submission must follow the guidelines for submission and meet all of the performance requirements.

Q: What are the requirements for a video submission?

A: For students who do not qualify to perform through competition, CETA teachers may submit a video taped audition of work from ANY GRADE LEVEL for consideration. Original student work, published work, spoken word, pantomime, theatre for social justice/social change, and technical theatre projects are a few ideas of submission possibilities.

SELECTION OF MATERIAL: All material *must* be edited for a G rating. Determine your edits based on the appropriateness of subject matter, language, sexual or demeaning actions.

TIME REQUIREMENTS: All times listed are MAXIMUM time limits specific to our Video Submission requirements. The stated maximum time includes opening introduction and performance. Please note that if you are selected to perform you are expected to present your piece as performed in the audition video.

Monologues/Solo performances:	3 minutes
Duet performances:	4 minutes
Group performance:	5 minutes

VIDEOTAPING:

- Introduction should include your name and title of your selection. This should be included within the first 10-seconds of your taped performance.
- Camera should be stationary.
- Submission must be one shot and not contain any edits.
- Please use the appropriate time requirement.
- Follow the guidelines regarding selection of material.

Instructions for videotaping from Gai Jones' Raising the Curtain: Guidelines for a Successful Audition Video: Following are a few guidelines for actors who audition by means of videotape.

- Videotape in front of a blank wall or closed curtains without any print or graphic on the backdrop.
- Check for background distractions. Do not tape in front of your fireplace, a mantle full of family portraits, a wall containing artwork, or in the school's scene shop with the set crew hammering in the background.
- Check for background sounds. Turn the television off before you begin filming so judges don't hear the score of the basketball game. Be sure your phone is turned off also and that your babysitting charge is not crying. (Better yet, don't film while babysitting.)

Q: How do I submit my video?

A: We are asking that all video submission auditions are submitted online at the CYIT Padlet account.

- Please submit your video to http://padlet.com/ceta_cyit/cyit2019
- Please make sure your video is submitted in their original size and resolution. Videos taken via smartphones are accepted.
- Video submissions must follow the TIME REQUIREMENTS. Any submissions over the listed time requirements will NOT be reviewed.
- Please include all performer names in the title and include the title of the performance piece in the information window.

Q: Who will be judging the video submissions and how will I know my students have been selected?

A: A panel of CETA members, made up of no fewer than three individuals, will be judging each submission received prior to midnight JANUARY 01, 2020. Notifications will be made on or before January 15, 2020.

Q: How do I REGISTER for CYIT? Is there a deadline to register?

A: Registration is \$25.00 per person. DEADLINE to register is February 20, 2020.

Registration includes teachers, students, and chaperones. This is a CETA event; the sponsoring adult/theatre teacher needs to be a current CETA Member Teacher.

Clicking on the Registration link located on the CYIT MAIN PAGE will take you to Eventbrite. You will need to complete your registration information and purchase your ticket through Eventbrite.

Please make sure to complete all registration information. If applicable, remember to register as a school with award-winning student performers.

Q: When will I receive my registration materials?

A: You will receive registration materials at check-in. Check-In will be on the day of the event, March 10, 2020 at the State Capitol, NORTH SIDE steps. Registration opens at 7:30 am.

DAY OF THE EVENT

Q: We are driving to the Capitol. Where can we park?

A: Available parking closest to the Capitol is located at 1601 L Street.

Q: Once I get to the State Capitol, what will I need to do?

A: Please arrive at the capitol no later than 8:00 AM. To obtain registration materials, you will need to Check-In at the Registration table. The Registration table is located on the NORTH SIDE in front of the steps. For late comers, the registration table closes at 9:30 AM.

CHECKING-IN:

Send one teacher and one student with *Eventbrite* tickets and *signed* PHOTO RELEASE forms to the Registration table.

Inside the packet you receive will be: School Name ID sign, CYIT schedule, capitol map with performance locations, lanyards & name tags for all registered participants, markers, and school sign-in sheet.

GROUP PHOTO

You will be taking a group photo with a professional photographer. You will need your group sign-in sheet and your School Name ID sign.

Q: Will breakfast be provided?

A: Yes. There will be a continental breakfast box provided. The location will be outside on the NORTH SIDE. There is NO food, drink, or gum allowed inside the Capitol building.

Q: Will lunch be provided?

A: Lunch will NOT be provided. There are several bakeries and cafes nearby to purchase during the scheduled lunch break. Your school or group may find it easier to bring a sack lunch to enjoy in the gardens that surround the State Capitol. If you go back inside, remember there is NO food, drink, or gum in the Capitol building.

Q: Where will the performances take place?

A: There will be performance location information and map in your registration packet and in the program.

Q: Do I need to stay for the entire day?

A: We encourage participants to remain for the duration of the event. An integral part of CYIT and live performance is showing support for our fellow student performers. Although we do encourage you to stay for the entire event, we do understand that some school groups may need to leave early due to pre-arranged travel schedules.

HELPFUL LINKS

[California State Legislature](#)

[How to Find My Legislator](#)

[State Capitol Museum](#)

[State Capitol - Parks & Recreation](#)