



# The California Thespian Play Festival

**Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Westmont High School  
4805 Westmont Ave. Campbell CA 95008

California State Thespians (CST) invites all California High Schools to bring a short play (no longer than 30 minutes) or a cutting of a play (no longer than 30 minutes) to the annual California Thespian Play Festival (CTPF). The first 10 schools to submit a complete application will be chosen to perform. If more than 10 schools apply, preference will be given to High Schools that are current members of Educational Theatre Association (ETA).

Using the California State Thespian rubric, plays will be adjudicated by a panel of theatre professionals who will share their notes with the cast and crew immediately after each performance in a casual, educational atmosphere. Judges will privately select their top three plays and rank them. All plays will be recorded. The Judge's #1 choice will be invited to perform on the Main Stage at the California State Thespian Festival at the Highlander Auditorium in Upland, CA: **March 31, April 1 & 2 2017**. The winning school needs to become a member of ETA (if they are not) AND register for the CST Festival.

## **Re. CST Play Marathon**

Schools participating in the California Thespian Play Festival may also concurrently enter their play into the CST Play Marathon competition via a pre-recorded performance. Schools may make their own recording of their show at the Play Festival, but the recording of the play made by the Play Festival may NOT be used for the Play Marathon competition. If a school enters both competitions (California Play Festival & CST Play Marathon) and wins the California Play Festival, their Play Marathon entry fee will be reimbursed.

## **RULES**

- Applications must be postmarked by **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. **NO EMAIL APPS**
- Both published works and original plays can be brought to the Play Festival.
- Each school must secure written proof of performance rights prior to the festival.
- **Plays must be HIGH SCHOOL APPROPRIATE.** Content is crucial!  
All students involved in this festival are still children. **If in doubt, don't do it.**  
CST reserves the right to turn the lights off for any inappropriate material.  
**All schools must submit a clear script as it will be performed with their application.**
- Plays may be directed by a teacher or by students from the school. (no parent directors, please) WARNING: The judges will equally critique both adults and students. The judges are encouraged to be open, honest, and direct with their feedback to the cast and the director regardless of the director's age.
- Each school is limited to 20 people: (cast, crew, adults, audience)
- Non-Thespian schools attending need to bring a certificate of insurance.
- Performance order will be chosen with consideration for thematic balance.
- Schools must be present until the end of the festival to win.

## **TECHNICAL ASPECTS**

- **PROGRAMS:** All schools must bring 25 copies of a simple, single-page program (half sheets are fine) DO NOT include your school's name on the program – only your Troupe #, the Play Title, Logo (optional), Author, Royalty Company, Play Director, Characters and all actor's names.
- **SCRIPTS:** All schools must submit a clean copy of the script as it will be performed with their application.
- **SCENERY:** Four chairs and a table will be available for use. Other scenery or property items may be brought to the Play Festival as long as the school is able to transport those items to the California State Thespian Festival in Upland, CA.
- **PROPS & COSTUMES:** Schools may provide their own hand props and costumes as they feel necessary.
- **LIGHTING:** Each play will be given 5 light cues in this order: blackout, lights up, lights down, bows, blackout. If additional light cues are needed, contact Jeff Bengford via email: [jbengford@cuhd.org](mailto:jbengford@cuhd.org)
- **SOUND:** Schools may bring their own boom box or small portable audio equipment to play sound effects and/or music. Microphones are not needed in this intimate space. There are several Edison plug outlets near the stage - simply ask the backstage manager when you arrive to show you where the nearest one is.
- **NOTE:** Although production elements will be critiqued, the quality of student performances will be the focus of the evaluation.
- **WARNING:** Any school wishing to use a starter pistol or other stage appropriate weapon must clear the item with the host school. The use of any props with an open flame will not be permitted under any circumstances

## **TIME**

Each Director needs to present a short introduction to their play (30-60 seconds).

Each school has 5 minutes to load in, a 30 minute slot to perform, and 5 minutes to load out.

Don't forget to stage a bow at the end of your play!

## **SAMPLE SCHEDULE**

*(the following schedule is based on 10 schools participating – the actual schedule may vary depending on how many schools apply)*

8:00	Registration
8:30	Judges arrive
	Introductions & Tour of Space
	Warm Ups
9:00	Performances begin
	While one school is performing, the next school is on-deck in the green room
12-1	Lunch (all food must be bought or pre-ordered)
1:00	Performances continue if necessary
4:00	Winner(s) Announced

## **PARKING**

There is plenty of free parking in the main parking lot right next to the theater.

## **LUNCH**

Because Westmont is located in a quiet, residential community, there are no restaurants close by. You are welcome to bring a lunch or bring \$8 to purchase a lunch (Subway sandwich, chips, water, cookie). Lunches must be paid for in cash or with a separate check. DO NOT include your lunch money with your registration fee. Specific sandwich orders will be placed during registration.

# California Thespian Play Festival APPLICATION

Applications must be postmarked by **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Entry Fee: \$75 for registered Thespian Troupes / \$100 for non-Thespian schools

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CA State Thespians**

**Send your application and Entry Fee to:**

Jeff Bengford  
1549 Husted Avenue San Jose, CA 95125

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Thespian Troupe # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of adult in charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Attendance (cast, crew, adults, audience): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Play: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ? or Adult ?

Publishing House: \_\_\_\_\_ Running Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**REMINDER: Plays must be HIGH SCHOOL APPROPRIATE.** Content is crucial!

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We reserve the right to turn the lights off for any inappropriate material.

Play:  One Act or  Cutting      Description:  Comedy  Drama  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Our play, (Insert title) \_\_\_\_\_

is about.... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**REMEMBER:** All schools must submit a clear script as it will be performed with their application.

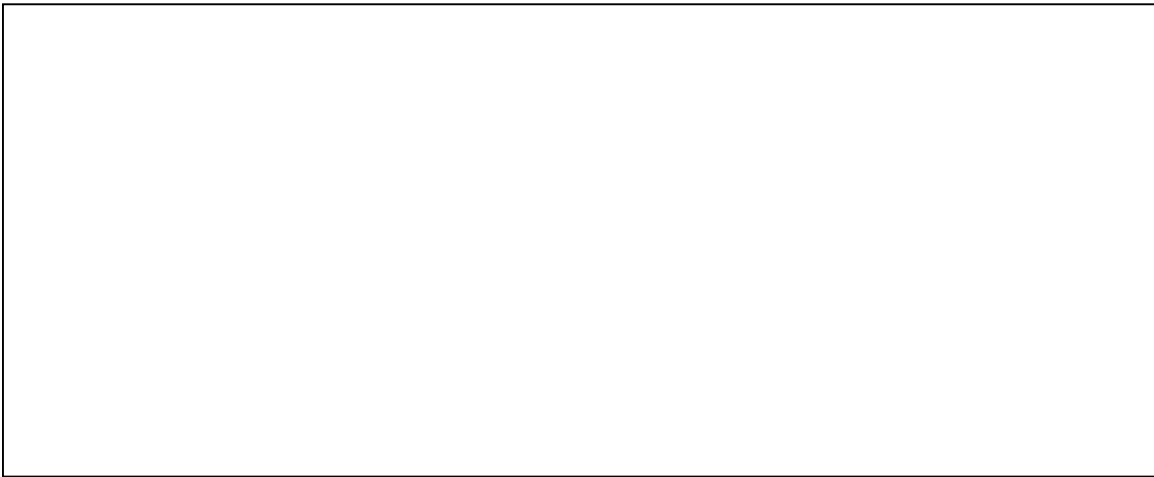
Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Technical Requirements**

If the cyclorama is available, what color would suit your show best: \_\_\_\_\_  
or would you prefer:

a black traveler curtain as your background?  YES  NO

**Draw a bird's eye view of the stage set up for your play.**



**AUDIENCE**

Four chairs and a table will be available for use.  
Other scenery or property items may be brought to the Play Festival  
as long as the school is able to transport those items to the California State Thespian Festival in Upland, CA.

**What are you bringing?** List all hand props & costumes on the lines below.

NOTE: Any school wishing to use a starter pistol or other stage appropriate weapon must clear the item with the host school. The use of any props with an open flame will not be permitted under any circumstances

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**If you have any questions, please contact: Jeff Bengford, Westmont High School**

Telephone: (408) 483-2088  
Email: [jbengford@cuhsd.org](mailto:jbengford@cuhsd.org)