



# The California Thespian Northern Play Festival

Saturday, January 22, 2022

Westmont High School  
4805 Westmont Ave. Campbell CA 95008

California State Thespians (CST) invites all California High Schools to bring a 30 minute play or cutting of a play to the annual California Thespian Play Festival. 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).

Once a school has registered, the school will have 14 days to complete their application.

A **complete application** is one that has:

- 1) registered online
- 2) submitted proof of rights
- 3) submitted copy of the final script
- 4) submitted a brief summary of the piece
- 5) submitted full registration payment

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. 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: April 8-10, 2022. To perform at the California State Thespian Festival, the winning school needs to become a member of ETA (if they are not) AND register for the CST Festival on time and before registration closes due to capacity. Spots will not be held in advance.

Should your school be selected to perform at the State Thespian Festival, you will perform on one of two stages. The Highlander Stage is 50 ft X 45 ft & The Kinetic Stage is approximately 24 ft X 18 ft

## **REGISTRATION COST**

Registration is a flat fee of \$150 per school with an active Thespian Troupe.

Non-Thespian schools can also participate by paying the Non-Thespian Troupe Fee of \$250

*(The \$100 Non-Thespian Troupe Fee can be applied toward Thespian membership if the school decides to join)*

## **LUNCH**

Registration does NOT include lunch. You are welcome to bring a lunch or drive to our local Safeway (5 minutes away) or drive to one of the local quick service restaurants.

## **RULES**

- Applications and scripts must be received by **Wednesday, December 1st.**
- 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) Upon arrival, all participating schools will receive 20 NON-interchangeable lanyards and instructions on how to use them for their delegation: performers, technicians , audience members, etc...
- Performance order will be created with consideration for thematic balance.
- Schools must be present until the end of the festival to win.
- Do note that a Troupe’s overall behavior throughout the day could impact their ability to be recommended for presentation at the CA State Thespian Festival
- Recording the performances is NOT permitted during the play festival unless prior permission has been secured from the event coordinator. In which case, a single seat will be assigned for a single videographer to record the piece for Play Marathon submission purposes only.

## **TIME**

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

Each school has 5 minutes to set up while the previous school is striking and a 30 minute slot to perform: time = lights up to lights down. Bows are not part of the 30 minute time limit.

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)*

7:30 Registration  
 8:00 Judges arrive / Introductions / Tour of Space / Warm Ups  
 8:30 Performances begin (While one school is performing, the next school is on-deck in the green room)  
 12-1 Lunch Break  
 1:00 Performances continue if necessary  
 4:30 Winner(s) Announced

## **TECHNICAL ASPECTS**

- **PROGRAMS:** All schools must bring 15 copies of a simple, single-page program (half sheets are preferred) 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 “band” chairs and a 3’X6’ 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@cuhsd.org](mailto:jbengford@cuhsd.org)
- **SOUND:** Microphones are not needed in this intimate space.
- **PLAYBACK:** Schools may bring their own device (cellphone, ipod, ipad, laptop, tablet, MP3 player, boom box) for playback of sound effects and/or music. This device must have an open 3.5mm headphone jack or audio port or AUX-in port. NOTE: if you are using an iphone 7 or higher, please bring your own headphone adapter or “dongle.”
- **POWER:** 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 may 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

## **PARKING**

There is plenty of free parking in the main parking lot at Westmont in front of the tennis courts next to the theater.

## What is the connection between “Regional Play Festivals,” “Play Marathon” & “Chapter Select?”

Any California Thespian troupe may enter either of the Regional Play Festivals (Northern or Southern).

One school from each Regional Play Festival will be invited to perform in Play Marathon at the State Thespian Festival. If your school wishes to perform in Play Marathon but is unable to attend a Regional Play Festival you may submit a video recording of your piece. The deadline for submitting videos is TBA, but estimated at January 31, 2022. Up to four plays may be selected from these video submissions.

One of the pieces from Play Marathon will be selected as “Chapter Select” to represent the State of California at the International Thespian Festival, which will be held June 20-24, 2022 at Indiana University in Bloomington.

If you have questions, please contact Play Marathon Coordinator, Billy Houck: [billy.houck@cathespians.org](mailto:billy.houck@cathespians.org)

Southern Play Festival	December 18, 2021	Los Alamitos High School
Northern Play Festival	January 22, 2022	Westmont High School
California State Thespian Festival	April 8, 9, & 10, 2022	Upland High School
International Thespian Festival	June 20-24, 2022	Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana

### How to Register

<https://form.jotform.com/213026560105139>

## Registration Waitlist and Confirmation Process Reminder:

### All schools are placed on the Waitlist at time of registration.

Schools are confirmed as they complete their application and submit full payment. While on the waitlist, you can use your registration notification/invoice to prepare for the event, submit remaining items and use for when you request a check from your Administrator, Boosters, or ASB office. Schools will be notified as they are confirmed. Once all available spots are confirmed remaining waitlisted schools will be notified that the event has closed.

A complete application is one that has registered online and has included rights, final script, summary for program, and full payment.

Note regarding incomplete registrations:

- Avoid submitting registration with incomplete information. At the time of submission you should have your piece selected, with rights, script, and summary ready.
- Registration confirmation will be sent only when all items and payment are received.
- The only item that can be received later in the registration process is the official cast list.
- If a registration is received with incomplete information, you will have 14 days to supply missing information, or until the registration deadline passes (whichever comes first). If you do not your registration will be cancelled. There will be no advance warning.

Registration opens on **November 1, 2021**. Registration will close on **December 1, 2021**, or until limit is reached (whichever comes first).

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

Telephone: (408) 483-2088

Email: [jeff.bengford@cathespians.org](mailto:jeff.bengford@cathespians.org)

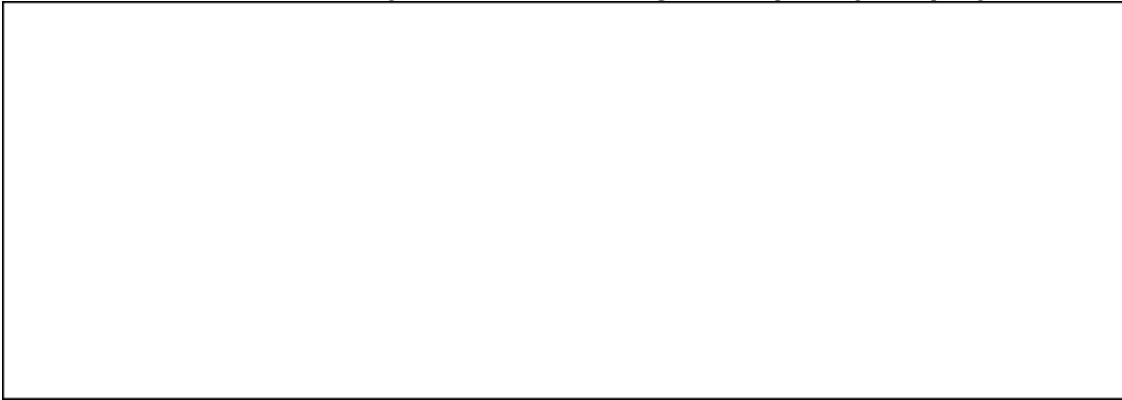
**California Thespian Play Festival**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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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**After the director's slate, do your actors start: (circle) onstage or off?**

**Describe the ending of the play.**

**Does the final blackout happen right after the last line?**

**Does the final blackout happen after a moment?**

**Do you want a quick blackout or a fade to black?**

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