



# WASHINGTON STATE THESPIANS<sup>SM</sup>

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

## January Newsletter

Dear Theatre Educators and Friends,

So my favorite Facebook post from yesterday said, "2021...you had one job!"

We often look to a new year with hope for better days and a resolve to make positive changes. Then yesterday happened. I found myself overwhelmed with dismay and sorrow as I long for the opportunity to process these events with my students in person and encourage critical thinking and courage. It is hard to move forward when we are so burdened with the ills of society, a global pandemic, and economic hardships. Yet, this may be the most important time for us to encourage creativity and expression. The words we use, the images we create, and the stories we tell have the power to inspire and change the world. Today, I'm empowering my students to use their voices to tell their story and make this world a better place.

I send you all light and love as you do your best to move forward. Whether you are taking leaps or baby steps, know your work matters!

### THE THESPYS ARE COMING! THE THESPYS ARE COMING!

This is the month to get your students working on their material!! This includes all FILM submissions!! For all the important information visit our Washington Thespian Website <http://www.washingtonstatethespians.com/virtual-thespys-20-21.php>. These documents will help you in your selections.

Here are some tips for your students:

[Technical Theatre Submissions](#)

[Filming your Thespys](#)

To film your selections you will need to follow the National guidelines and the Washington State guidelines for Coronavirus County Safe Start. <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/county-status-and-safe-start-application-process>.

The last date for submission will be **February 12, 2021!**

### FILM THESPYS

This year, Film Thespys will be submitted with all other Thespys, due by **February 12th** and submitted through OpenWater. This is different from years' past, so be sure to share this with your students!

Some things you need to know:

- Film Submissions will count toward the 3 events your students may submit for.
- Students can submit for different film categories (for example, submit one "Short Film" and one "Documentary Film"); however, each will count toward the three total Thespy submissions allowed.
- These different categories are identified in the drop-down menu on the registration website.

### THESPIAN POINTS - During COVID

If you are wondering how to honor student work while there are limited opportunities and participation from students, here is some information shared by EdTA on how you can offer Thespian Points during COVID. <https://www.schooltheatre.org/membership/covid-induction-points>

### EDTA Thespian Relief Grants - [Informational slideshow](#)

Many schools are struggling to keep their programs alive. Some lost significant revenue from cancelled productions. The Foundation is still raising

money for this effort. Thespian Relief Grants are provided by The EIF Thespian Relief program. Two types of grants are offered to assist schools impacted by cancelled productions and budget cuts related to the COVID-19 crisis. Thespian Relief Grants will be offered in cycles through the course of the 2020-21 school year. Grants will be available and distributed monthly, though grant cycles may be longer depending on available funding. If you are in need, please know these resources are available: [apply here](#).

## Monthly Zoom Hangouts

If you'd like to connect with your theatre colleagues throughout the state, we are hosting Zoom Hangouts on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. This is a time to collaborate, share ideas, problem solve, and just enjoy the company of theatre people! As we move further into the year, we may offer specific topics / themes to our gathering. This month's meeting is on Tuesday, January 26 at 7 p.m. A reminder will be sent out beforehand! [Zoom Link](#)

## TAA (Teaching Artist Alliance)

If you are looking for any additional support or fun activities/lessons for your students, look no further than the [Teaching Artist Alliance](#). The TAA is a growing network of highly skilled, vetted, sought-after, experienced teaching artists, who are all qualified specialists in their respective disciplines. TAA teaching artists offer both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities. Please check out the website for information about what [types of workshops](#) they offer. WA State Thespian board members Suzanne Maguire and Ruben VanKempen are both members of TAA and would be happy to answer other questions you might have!

## Dates of Virtual Events

**Thesyps (All regions):** **Deadline February 12, 2021**

**Virtual State Thespian Festival:** March 17 - 20 (More information to come)

### A Note from our Webmaster:

Do you want a photo of your students or one of your productions featured on the WA State Thespians website? The website is undergoing updates often, and we are in need some new photos for each page. We're looking for production photos, photos from troupe meetings or photos from Thespian events. Please send to [sullivanbp@mukilteo.wednet.edu](mailto:sullivanbp@mukilteo.wednet.edu).

Best,  
Bryan

## COMMUNICATIONS

We have several ways for you to keep up to date on all our upcoming events. Have you joined our Facebook Page: Washington State Thespians - @washingtonthespians?

**WEBSITE** is continually being updated for the 2020 - 2021 school year; we encourage you to see what all we are offering- <http://washingtonstatethespians.com/>

**REMIND** text @wathespian to 81010 to join the free Washington Thespian text remind system. We will send you reminder texts about upcoming due dates and other helpful reminders throughout the year!

**EdTA COMMUNITY GROUP** just for Washington State Thespian and theatre teachers. You should have received an email from our home office regarding our new communication tool. Please join us in sharing your questions, thoughts, resources, etc. with our Thespian (and theatre educator) community. If you have not been contacted or you need information on how to join, please contact me to get set up.

**UPDATED TROUPE / TEACHER LIST:** [Current Active Troupe List](#) - as of November 8, 2020. This information is taken from our EdTA Data Center. If there is anything incorrect, be sure to check with [membership@schooltheatre.org](mailto:membership@schooltheatre.org).

Truly,

Kristina Cummins  
Co-Director, WA State Thespians

*"I do find it unbelievably resonate right now, although the times are very bad, we still must be steadfast. I really do like that message."*

Mary Zimmerman  
Director, writer, educator

