

Peyton Reese and Cole Strelecki represent



Iowa at the Jimmy Awards

Anna Marie Myatt, Troupe 856

On June 3, students from across our state competed for two coveted awards at the Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards, the male and female Triple Threat. This

year, those two coveted spots went to Davenport Central Troupe 2951's Peyton Reese and Valley Troupe 2048's Cole Strelecki. Peyton was nominated for her role as Veronica Sawyer in *Heathers the Musical* (High School Edition) and Cole was nominated for his role as *The Man in the Yellow Suit* in *Tuck Everlasting*.

For winning these awards at the IHSMTA, Peyton and Cole got to travel to the Jimmy Awards, a national competition in New York City. Starting on June 17, both Peyton and Cole started their rigorous week of working with Broadway professionals to hone their craft. In addition, they also got to see many Broadway shows throughout the week and even see their faces on a billboard in Times Square! At the end of the week, they both performed in the Jimmy Awards showcase as part of the Tribute to *Wicked*, which allowed them to work with the original *Wicked* choreographer, Wayne Cilento (one of Cole's idols!). You can watch their performances in the Jimmy Awards on the Jimmy Awards Youtube channel.

Congratulations to Peyton and Cole and thank you for representing Iowa!

Iowa Thespian Leadership Day!

Amber Schute, Troupe 69

Leadership Day is just around the corner! Get ready for a day filled with workshops led by your State Thespian Officers and the opportunity to meet and learn from other student leaders from around the state! In this fun filled day, you will learn communication skills, time management, advocating techniques, and ways to benefit you troupe as a leader! Our sixth annual Iowa Thespian Leadership Day will be held on Saturday, August 3rd! This year's event will be hosted at South Tama County High School in Tama, Iowa. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to any of your State Thespian Officers. Can't wait to see you soon!!!

Leadership Day Tips and Tricks

Casey Scott, Troupe 3994

- Bring...
 - A bag to carry things from workshops
 - WATER (Hydrate or die-drate)
 - A positive attitude!
 - A notebook and a pencil
 - A snack
- If you are an STO candidate come to meet with your STOs at 11:50-12:30 for Lunch!
- Talk to people throughout the day! Connections and friends are a huge part of advocacy and leadership!
- Visit <http://www.iowathespians.org/leadershipday.html> for more details and a complete schedule for the



Letter to the Editor: The Power of Theatre

Time stops. My pulse rushes, and my joy heightens with every laugh or round of applause. The only activity on Earth that is timeless and eternally stimulating is performing theatre. Blindingly, the lights shine down ensuring that nothing can be seen other than your own saliva and sweat flying across the stage. To this day, *the supernatural ability to transport the audience by the medium of theatre is magic.* All I know for sure is that theatre has kept me honest with myself and out of the dark alleys of high school. Frowned-upon acts surround each and every high school where finding a fix is as easy as finding a pen to write with. In highschool not everything is shrouded in darkness or even light. It all comes from a place of self-discovery, self worth, and belonging. Some never find their place in life, and others like myself have been lucky enough to find one thing of value. This is the community and family that came with the fine arts.

In a world that all of us have known not to be to kind, *theatre has always been a constant*. It's there in the most treacherous of times. It makes skeptics believers and the most frivolous matters come to the forefront. As the saying goes, "teenagers know what children do not and what adults tend to forget". The chaotic beauty that comes with being a teenager is resistance. Theatre has saved me. It has helped me heal in times of need, and heal those who yearn for it. Theatre is merely a vessel for all the passion, problems, sadness, joy, anger, solitude in the world. We as the people of theatre join together and create something surreal, a world that is our own and share it with everyone. We are the voice of nations united and worlds apart, we have done so for centuries and will do so until we can't anymore. *This is my story, now go share yours.*

Sincerely,

Will Luebke, Troupe 542 and Julie Matta, Troupe 1038

Test Your Thespian Knowledge!

Taylor Hammer, Troupe 3852

- 1) Fade
 - a) To diminish light or sound level
 - b) When a costume has been worn too many times
 - c) When a character's involvement in the show decreases throughout the show
- 2) A light that is left turned on in an empty and dark theatre
 - a) Safety light
 - b) Ghost light
 - c) Stage light
- 3) When an actor turns their back to the audience _____
 - a) Blocking
 - b) Upstaging
 - c) Rude
- 4) When an actor has memorized their lines they are _____
 - a) Smart
 - b) Improvising the show
 - c) Off-book
- 5) A type of stage that is surrounded by audience on 3 sides
 - a) A tri-stage
 - b) Thrust stage
 - c) A round
- 6) Scrim
 - a) A thin gauze-like material that is used as a drop
 - b) The correct term for the pit beneath the stage
 - c) To take apart the set after the completion of a show
- 7) Big Red
 - a) An angry director when you haven't memorized your lines
 - b) A large curtain that opens at the beginning of a show and closes at the end
 - c) The fire extinguisher that is found backstage
- 8) A fireproof curtain that can be dropped to separate the audience from the stage in the event of a fire

- a) Saving curtain
 - b) Extinguish drop
 - c) Safety curtain
- 9) Arena stage
- a) A stage reserved for practicing choreography
 - b) A stage surrounded by audience on all sides
 - c) A space with very excellent acoustics
- 10) An experimental theatre space, typically unembellished, with black walls and a flat floor
- a) Black box
 - b) Flat box
 - c) Open staging
- 11) The space of the auditorium where the audience sits
- a) Crowd section
 - b) The house
 - c) Stage house
- 12) The part of the stage that is closest to the audience
- a) Upstage
 - b) Downstage
 - c) Frontstage
- 13) Tech Week
- a) A week before the show opens
 - b) The first week of rehearsal
 - c) Every week
- 14) An extinguishing of lights on an entire acting area
- a) Darkness
 - b) Blackout
 - c) Lightout
- 15) An immobile platform above the stage that reaches from one end of the stage to the
- a) Stage beams
 - b) Catwalk
 - c) Dogwalk
- 16) House Left
- a) The left side of the stage from the audience's point of view
 - b) The left side of the actors on stage's point of view
 - c) The right side of the stage from the actors on stage's point of view
- 17) Drapes that hang to the side of the stage, hiding the backstage area
- a) Flats
 - b) Legs
 - c) Arms
- 18) A fast costume change that does not allow time to go to a dressing room and is therefore done in the wings
- a) Fast change
 - b) Quick change
 - c) Secret change

ANSWER KEY

1- A, 2- B, 3- B, 4- C, 5- B, 6- A, 7- B, 8- C, 9- B, 10- A, 11- B, 12- B, 13- A, 14- B, 15- B, 16- A and C, 17- B, 18- B



STO Update

Joie Stoefen, Troupe 739

Hi everyone! Joie Stoefen here. Your Iowa State Thespian Officers have been very busy this summer and I am excited to share all of the awesome things they have been working on!

Last month, we had the opportunity to represent Iowa at International Thespian Festival at University Lincoln Nebraska. We spent a week on campus seeing different shows, meeting thespians from across the country, and getting to spend more time together as a board! All eight officers attended the Leadership Workshop, which was hosted by none other than our awesome ITO (International Thespian Officers). Everyone learned about how effective leadership works, and how we can better support and help Iowa Thespians. Not only did we get this huge learning opportunity, but

we also got to see some amazing Individual Events and Studios performed by our Iowa delegation! We are so very proud of all the hard work Iowa Thespians put into their craft. While at ITF, we had a board meeting to discuss Iowa Leadership Day and began planning festival.

On July 27th, we met in Grinnell to finalize and prep for Leadership Day. Our adult board members participated in mock workshops and gave us feedback to ensure we are offering high quality activities that will help you learn and grow into an amazing leader. Around this time, we should be announcing our 2019 Iowa Thespian Festival theme!

We are also starting to plan out the logistics of 2019 Iowa Thespian Festival at the University of Northern Iowa. We have decided on all of our special projects that will be featured at the festival, like the Broadway Market and personalized STO baskets! Money going toward these special projects will benefit student scholarships and Send-a-Troupe (a grant provided to Troupes who have never been to Iowa Thespian Festival).

As always, make sure to check in to our social media pages to stay updated on all things Iowa Thespian related. We are on Instagram @ia_thespiansto and Twitter @IA_ThespiansSTO. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your Iowa State Thespian Officers. At the beginning of our term, the adult board created personalized gmail accounts as a way of strengthening communication between State Thespian Officers and Iowa Thespians. Each member of our student board is happy to respond and help in any way they can.

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That's all for now! Your State Thespiean Officers hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer vacation, and we hope to see you soon.

In Other News...

Stay Active This Summer School theatre provides us with a wonderful opportunity to learn about theatre and grow our skills, but it's usually less active during the summer. A good way to stay involved is through community or youth theatre! Check out your local community theatre or ask around to find other opportunities. Your school troupe director might be a great contact, and don't forget to check the internet too!

Tell us about your shows! We have a new form where anyone can send us information and posters for their troupe's productions. Find it at <https://tinyurl.com/iashowform> or posted to our Twitter and Instagram. Of course, you can still Direct Message us on social media about your shows or for any other information you need!

  **Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @IA_ThespieanSTO!**

Visit us online at iowathespians.org



Formatting: Miles Latham, Troupe 4274