

IOWA THESPIANS NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2021



Hello Iowa Thespians!! Your 2021 Iowa State Thespians Officers are thrilled to welcome back and continue the monthly newsletter with this June 2021 issue. We have so much exciting news to share, wonderful articles, and tons of fun to bring you all!

STO Update

In April, we held our transitional board meeting where the STO were officially “inducted” into their positions. We met over Zoom to discuss our goals for the year regarding improving the chapter, support and motivation, and making this a great year for Iowa Thespians! Since then, the STO have held meetings over a variety of topics including the newsletter, International Thespians Festival, Thespians Leadership Day, and our Iowa Thespians Festival.

- **Luis Avalos, STO Chair**

2021 IOWA STATE THESPIAN OFFICERS

LUIS AVALOS
LYDIA BENESH
OTTO FOX
GABRIELLA JOHNSON
OLIVIA MICK
BROOKE RICHARDSON
CAROLINE SIERK

LGBTQ+ Theatre



HAPPY PRIDE!

Pride Month, June, is a celebration and reminder of the rich history and activism committed by member of the LGBTQ+ community in pursuit of highlighting voices, injustices, and to obtain the goal of equality. Theatre would not be what it is today without LGBTQ+ people taking part in it, from the Theatre of Dionysus to Broadway, both communities are deeply entwined. In making this list of musicals and plays, I have tried to highlight shows that may be slightly lesser known to highschoolers in order to introduce some works you've never seen before.



5 Ways to Stay Involved

School is out for the summer! Hooray! However, for some Thespians, this might mean theatre at your school is also done for the summer, which can be a bummer. But, fear not thespians! There are still plenty of fun ways to stay engaged in theatre over the next few months. The opportunities are endless! Here are just five of the many ways to keep theatre in your life this summer.

See if local theatre companies are doing shows. Many community and local theatre companies do summer shows, so check to see if any of them have a spot for you! Whether that means auditioning for the show, or getting involved on the tech side, you might get the chance to work on a cool show with new people. It can't hurt to keep an eye out!

Read a play or sing through a musical. Reading through a play or singing through a musical can be a great activity to do over the summer, because it lets you appreciate the source material of some of your favorite shows. Plus, there are so many ways to go about it! You could get together with your friends, or you could read/sing by yourself! Either way, you end up with a fun summer activity!

Get your friends together to play theatre games. Theatre games are such a fun way to pass the time, and are also a great excuse to get your friends together! You can find plenty of games online, but to get you started, try Encore or Zip Zap Zop! Both have rules online, and Zip Zap Zop has a bunch of fun variations.

Go see shows! As great as it is to be a part of a show, it can also be fun to see shows and appreciate others' hard work! You can look for performances locally, or watch one of the many movie adaptations or recorded stagings of shows that are available.

Brush up on your skills. The summer is a great time to brush up your theatre skills. That could mean taking voice lessons, dance lessons, taking extra time on character work, or working on your technical skills. If you spend some time on your skills this summer, then you'll be ready to go for the start of the school year!

Well Thespians, there you have it! Five of the many amazing ways to stay involved with theatre over the summer! I hope something on this list piques your interest and that you can keep having fun with theatre over the next few weeks. Happy Summer!

- Lydia Benesh, Junior Thespians STO

Summer Fundraising

School is finally out and the fun has begun! Just because you're out of school doesn't mean you have to snooze on your troupe activities though. Summer is the perfect time to raise money for the incoming school year! Here are some great ways to fundraise for your troupe over the summer.

Donations: There's no easier way to support a local troupe than donating! It can be at a stand or just a bucket at a different fundraiser, or something as simple as a Venmo on your troupe's social media!

Bake Sale: Nothing's better than picking up a homemade sweet treat. Being able to support your local theatre troupe is just a bonus!! Bake sales are a super popular choice for a summer fundraiser, and all it takes is a night of cooking up those sweet treats the night before (and that's half the fun)!

Driveway Detailing: Need a great way to show off your theatre's pride? Try stenciling your school/troupe logo onto driveways! This fundraiser's always a hit among parents and teachers, and only requires a stencil and a couple cans of spray paint!!

Car Wash: A car wash is a great way to earn some money for your troupe. It might take a bit of time planning a location, but after that you just need to get a hose, some buckets, and some sponges and soap and you're good to go! Just make sure to check the weather beforehand!

Garage Sale: This one is by far the hardest fundraiser to put on, but it can also be the biggest reward! Simply ask around for any items that people need to get rid of (this can be from peers, teachers, or even neighbors who want to donate some old belongings!). This fundraiser takes a bit of time to set up, since your troupe will have to collect all of the items and set prices for them, but all of that's worth it in the end. Garage sales tend to generate large income, with some troupes earning thousands of dollars in one weekend!

Summer is a great opportunity to raise money for your troupe. Fundraising doesn't only help the program, it strengthens the bonds between troupe members and helps make great memories! So get out there and have a blast!

- **Gabriella Johnson, Secretary STO**



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2021 Iowa Thespian Summer Bucket List

- Make lemonade
- Run through a sprinkler
- Have a photoshoot
- Watch *In The Heights*
- Go on a karaoke night drive
- Follow @ia_thespians on Instagram
- Write a song
- Watch a sunset and a sunrise
- Overdress for an event
- Call an IA Thespian friend
- Make s'mores (in a bonfire or microwave)
- Create a rainbow with sidewalk chalk
- Wear sunscreen
- Make friendship bracelets
- Eat strawberry ice cream
- Watch reruns of *Glee*
- Go on a picnic
- Play with your favorite childhood toys
- Fill out the Iowa Thespian Summer Word Search
- Hold the door for somebody
- Read a book outside
- Learn something new
- Sign up for Iowa Leadership Day!

- **Caroline Sierk,**

Communications STO

MOST POPULAR MUSICALS PERFORMED IN HIGH SCHOOLS (2019-2020)

The 2019 - 2020 school year came to a sudden and unexpected end. From learning face-to face in a classroom with colleagues and friends, to suddenly trying to figure out distance, online learning from home, Thespians were all left asking the same question: Will we still be able to perform our spring show? Sadly, this question would come with a dreaded answer for millions of students. It was estimated that 80% of spring high school productions were cancelled/rescheduled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Overnight, students, teachers, administrators, etc. had to adapt to this new way of life and figure out alternative ways to continue producing and participating in theatre activities and productions that they are so passionate about. Some schools decided to perform shows virtually, wear clear masks while still performing in person, or to not participate in theatre activities. No matter the decision, many schools were determined on providing the best possible theatre experiences for their students and faculty. These new alternative strategies continued to be used throughout the 2020 - 2021 school year. As any theatre student could tell you, there is always excitement of learning what the next show will be! Whether a play or musical, students love learning background information on the show to help them understand and prepare for what they will do on stage. Once the show is announced, it is extremely likely that the show is found on the list below. For students who may be performing these shows (or even those who aren't), here are ten interesting facts about the Top Ten Most Popular Full-Length Musicals performed in high schools from 2019-2020.

1. **THE ADDAMS FAMILY:** The actor who originated the role of Gomez Addams is Nathan Lane, who has won three Tony Awards for his performances in the Broadway shows *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Producers*, and *Angels in America*.
2. **MAMMA MIA!:** Mamma Mia is the third highest grossing musical of all time. It has grossed over 4 billion dollars worldwide!
3. **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** Beauty and the beast is the 10th longest running musical of all time. Opening on April 18, 1994 and closing on July 29, 2007, the show had achieved 5,461 performances!
4. **INTO THE WOODS:** A film adaptation of the musical was released by Walt Disney Pictures on December 25, 2014. It starred Meryl Streep, James Corden, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine, Johnny Depp, among others.
5. **THE LITTLE MERMAID:** The actor who originated the role of Triton is Norm Lewis, who has performed in other famous Broadway shows such as *Once on This Island*, *Miss Saigon*, *Side Show*, *Chicago*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, etc...
6. **SEUSSICAL:** The actor who originated the role of Horton the Elephant is Kevin Chamberlin, who also originated the role of Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family* musical and played Bertram Winkle in the Disney Channel sitcom, *Jessie*.

7. **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (TIE):** The composer Alan Menen composed all of the songs for Little Shop of Horrors, but is most well known for his compositions in Disney movies such as Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Newsies, Aladdin, Hercules, Tangled, etc.
7. **MATILDA (TIE):** Christopher Sieber played the role of Miss Trunchbull during the show's Broadway run, but is also known for performing in other Broadway shows such as *Into the Woods*, *Spamalot*, and *Shrek the Musical*.
9. **THE WIZARD OF OZ:** Judy Garland, who starred as Dorothy in the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz, is mother to Liza Minelli who originated the film role of Sally Bowles in Cabaret and is one of the few performers to have ever won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony.
10. **CINDERELLA:** Santino Fonatana, who originated the role of the Prince in the 2013 Broadway production of Cinderella, won the Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical in 2019 for his performance in *Tootsie the Musical*. He also voiced the main antagonist Prince Hans in the Disney film Frozen.

- Olivia Mick, SPECIAL PROJECTS STO

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

School's out! We have two more months of relaxation before returning to the classroom, so here are some activities you can do to make the most of your summer!

- ★ **Bond with your troupe!** You can become closer with your fellow Thespians by having a picnic, playing yard games, or having a movie night! Be sure to include incoming freshmen and those who may be interested in joining, to establish the welcoming environment we know theatre can be!
- ★ **Put your theatre skills to use!** Get together with some of your friends or troupe members, and play improv games or put on a short cabaret. See if you could perform your acts for your community to get more interest in your school's theatre program!
- ★ **Read!** I'm not the biggest fan of reading books, and if you're like me, you're probably tired of hearing people telling you to read. But, there's so much more to read than just books. Just to name a few opportunities, you could read scripts, news articles, or interactive stories.
- ★ **Go on walks!** Whether with a sibling, friend, or (if you or your neighbor has one) a dog! Walks are a great way to clear your head, exercise, and soak up the sun!
- ★ **Travel!** With covid restrictions being lifted, the list of places to go grows! Whether it's a short road trip, or a family vacation, it's good to get away and go for an adventure.
- ★ **Spend time with family and pets!** During school time, schedules are hectic at times, so with your free time, remember to make time to spend with your loved ones.

- Brooke Richardson, MEMBERSHIP STO

THESPIAN SUMMER WORD SEARCH



SUNSCREEN
SUNSHINE
FRIENDS
PIRAGUA

FIREWORKS
SWIMMING
SPLASH
KARAOKE

POLAROIDS
MEMORIES
DANCE
BEACH

THESPIAN
SUMMER
THEATRE
MASKS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The STOs recognize that the past year was devastating for a lot of people. The pandemic, cultural and political movements, the derecho, and so many other factors aided in the creation of a terrible year for us and those around us. To the Iowa STO, it is of utmost importance that you all know we are here, we value you all, and we will listen to everyone. Many negative feelings were prominent last year, and we have made it a goal of ours to restore some level of normalcy this year. We hope to help bring back some of the love, joy, and beauty that theatre brings into our lives with some exciting news!



With that being said, we are thrilled to announce that our 2021 Thespians Leadership Day and our 2021 Iowa Thespians Festival will be fully in-person events!! Leadership Day will return to its 2019 home at South Tama County High School in Tama, Iowa on Saturday, August 7th. This year, our keynote speaker will be arts advocate and 2019 Miss Iowa, Emily Tinsman. We are thrilled to finally be hosting our first in person event since the Festival in November 2019! Be ready for a day packed with workshops, activities, and building connections with Iowa

Thespians! Registration for that event has opened and will remain available until July 22nd. Also, Iowa Thespians Festival will return to the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. This two day long event will be packed with workshops, performances, activities, and so much more! Registration will open in early August, so be on the lookout for that! You will not want to miss these events, and we are so excited to be able to interact with and meet Iowa Thespians this year!! <3



- **LUIS AVALOS, STO CHAIR**

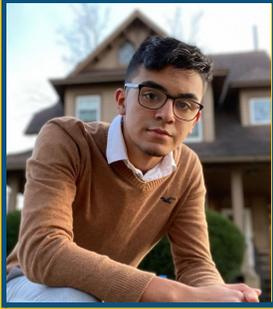
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A 2022 STATE THESPIAN OFFICER, BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INFORMATION HERE: <http://www.iowathespians.org/stocandidates.html>



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