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THESPIANS™

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

*September 2020*

# Fall Fun!



*Welcome back, thespians!*

The September issue of the Iowa Thespians newsletter contains all kinds of games and puzzles the theatre kid in you has been searching for! From a crossword to test your knowledge of Iowa Thespians lingo to a thespian word search, there is something for everyone! Additionally, Hannah and Maria provide some words of reassurance for those who need to hear. Enjoy this issue of Iowa Thespian's newsletter and have some fall fun!

# It's Okay to Get Knocked Down

*Right now*, students are facing some rough times. We are dealing with something no one else in our family has ever had to deal with, and it shows. I feel that whenever we need to vent about our circumstances, we are shot down by adults saying things like “it could be worse.” Yes, though it could be worse and we could be not getting any sort of school year, we have the right to be upset. We also have the right to be confused. Everything, and I mean everything about school this year is new. It is new and completely different from anything we've known to be true in the past. Personally, I always put this heavy pressure on myself to remain positive when things get hard, and that should always be the goal to; if you get knocked down get right back up. But if I don't even let myself get knocked down, and take that time to heal from whatever has got me down then, it will all bottle up and become a much bigger problem down the line. Take time to heal yourself and your mind, especially right now. Know who you can go to when you need to vent, your family, friends, teachers, counselors, administrators, etc. Stay safe and healthy, Iowa Thespians. We love you and cannot wait to see you again!

-Hannah Wilson, STO Membership

## Theatre is BACK

*As we return to school*, whether it is online or in person, life is a little bit more normal than it was 4 months ago. Although it is hard to stay positive sometimes, we need to be thankful we are getting closer and closer to normal. For Senior, we just closed our play *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* and we are starting a one act/ short film festival this week. Also, auditions for speech are coming up! This said, there are ways to adapt this strange school year. Here are some ideas for your school to continue doing what you love in a safe way.

- Take a 5 minute break every 30 minutes
- Always wear your mask
- Social Distance
- Have a livestream for your performances so the audience can be kept smaller
- Bring your own marked water bottle
- Select pieces that could be done over zoom, if necessary
- Limit the amount of makeup so students aren't so close
- Perform outside (courtyard, football field, etc.)

- Wipe down every surface after use

With it being my last year, I know I want an amazing one and so does every other high schooler. By following these simple rules, we can make it a great one. Adjusting your rehearsal to incorporate these tips could keep you in school longer than anticipated.

-Maria Markus, STO Junior Thespians

## Thespian Word Search

A	D	E	N	K	L	A	H	X	L	W	Q	Y
J	K	E	L	H	C	E	T	S	Z	C	N	K
W	H	J	A	A	N	B	G	Y	O	P	E	V
Q	W	H	R	U	D	U	K	L	F	E	F	S
P	F	D	D	J	E	E	P	L	F	D	W	C
W	R	Y	U	I	F	O	P	S	K	L	T	F
G	R	D	S	X	N	A	I	P	S	E	H	T
A	C	O	S	T	U	M	E	I	U	O	G	O
P	Q	T	A	C	A	J	U	F	T	P	D	R
D	C	U	H	N	J	G	D	S	Q	I	P	I
A	U	R	T	B	V	I	E	K	L	O	D	X
H	I	D	F	T	T	H	G	I	L	E	O	S

WORD BANK:

Drama

Acts

Thespian

Tech

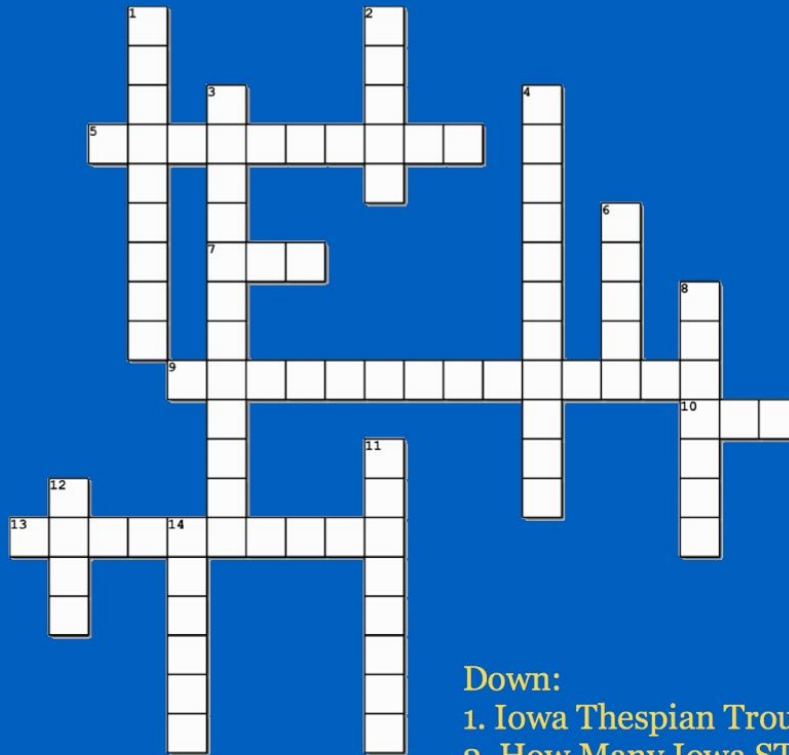
Light

Stage

Costume

-Madeline Murphy, STO Special Projects

# Iowa Thespians Crossword



## Across:

5. Iowa Co-Chapter Director from Troupe #69
7. One Thespian Point = \_\_\_\_ Hours of Thespian Work
9. Iowa Co-Chapter Director from Troupe #3994
10. How many International Thespian Officers are there in each term?
13. The Iowa Virtual Cabaret was called the “\_\_\_\_ Cabaret.”

## Down:

1. Iowa Thespian Troupe #228
2. How Many Iowa STOs are There Currently?
3. Iowa Thespian Troupe #1470
4. Iowa STO Chair
6. “Act Well Your Part, There All The \_\_\_\_ Lies.”
8. The Name “Thespian” Comes From This Greek Playwright and Performer.
11. An Actor or Actress.
12. What Month is ITF?
14. What Month is the Iowa Leadership Day Held in?

# Hello, Iowa Thespians!

*As I speak to you,* I am just about a week away from opening night of Pleasant Valley High School Troupe #856's fall play - which I am directing! Although this is my first time directing, I have served as an AD/SM (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) before. Being a director, actor, techie, or even a theatre lover is very... interesting right now. While there are so many difficult things about the way theatre works during COVID-19, there are plenty of experiences that I have had that have already made me a more well-rounded thespian after working during these times. For example, I've noticed how much more important projection is for actors! Wearing masks muffles a lot of words, so the more you project, the better you will be able to be heard. In addition, with a mask covering half of your face, facial expression and emotion is harder to exude, but acting through the eyes will get you through that. I've also learned how hard it really is to cast people. There is so much talent, but only so many spots available in a cast. One of the biggest lessons I've learned from years of auditioning is that every audition is an experience that you use to make you better the next time you audition. No audition goes to waste. As a director, I really believe that the best thing that I have experienced so far is the utter passion of each and every person involved in the company. It has been amazing to see everyone put their everything into this show to make it the best it can be. Next time you get the chance, thank your director and in turn, understand how happy they are to have you there. Before I leave, I must subtly plug my show. 26 Pebbles by Eric Ulloa will be shown live at Pleasant Valley High School on October 9th and 10th, 2020 at 7:00p.m. I hope to see you there! Stay safe and happy, Iowa Thespians. We love you.

All of the love,

-Erica Heiselman, STO Secretary

## Broadway Trivia!

- 1) What type of school did Frenchy drop out of, in "Grease"?
- 2) Which iconic Broadway songwriter(s) are to thank for the music of Dear Evan Hansen, The Greatest Showman, and Dogfight?
- 3) In Mama Mia, how many dads does lead character Sophie have? And for bonus points can you name them?
- 4) What is the name of the man-eating plant in the musical Little Shop Of Horrors?
- 5) What is the longest running show on Broadway? Bonus Point: When did it open?
- 6) Which composer and lyricist penned the music for Into The Woods, Follies, and Company?
- 7) Who first starred as Jenna in Waitress on Broadway?
- 8) What musical are these lyrics from? "This diva needs her stage baby"
- 9) Which Oscar-winning musical is getting a 2020 remake courtesy of Steven Spielberg?
- 10) The Phantom's mask in Phantom of the Opera covers which side of his face? Left or Right?

- 11) Who played the witch in the original production of Into the Woods?
- 12) Andrew Rannells originated which role in The Book of Mormon?
- 13) Who starred as Sally Bowles in the movie version of "Cabaret"?
- 14) What musical based on "Madame Butterfly" was set during the Vietnam War?
- 15) What is the musical adaptation of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"?
- 16) What musical was based on "Pygmalion"?
- 17) What songwriter wrote "Kiss Me, Kate" and "Anything Goes"?
- 18) What high-flying musical was shut down in 2014 after numerous cast injuries?
- 19) What you may see, some enchanted evening, across a crowded room?
- 20) Who's your favorite STO?

Answer Key:

- 1.) Beauty School 2.) Benj Pasek and Justin Paul 3.) Three; Harry, Sam, and Bill 4.) Audrey II
- 5.) Phantom of the Opera; 1986 6.) Stephen Sondheim 7.) Jessie Muller 8.) Rent 9.) West Side Story 10.) Right Side 11.) Bernadette Peters 12.) Elder Price 13.) Liza Menneli 14.) Miss Saigon
- 15.) Spamalot 16.) My Fair Lady 17.) Cole Porter 18.) Spider Man: Turn off the Dark 19.) A Stranger
- 20.) Any of them, they're all amazing people :)

## STO Update

*Yet another busy month for the Iowa STO!* This month, the Iowa State Thespian Officers took a different approach to bettering theatre in our schools: working individually. We decided to suspend our biweekly meetings for the month of September so we could focus on bettering ourselves and our troupes.



Considering the uncertainty that is still very prevalent, even seven months into the pandemic, there were simply too many independent variables in all the exciting new initiatives we wanted to roll out. Hopefully we all have more information to work with in October!

Further, though the STOs enjoyed bettering ourselves and our troupes at an individual level, we are so excited to get back to planning awesome things together in October, so stay tuned to the Iowa Thespians social media profiles (found at the bottom of this page) for all the amazing content that is sure to come next month!

*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\_ThespianSTO!

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