

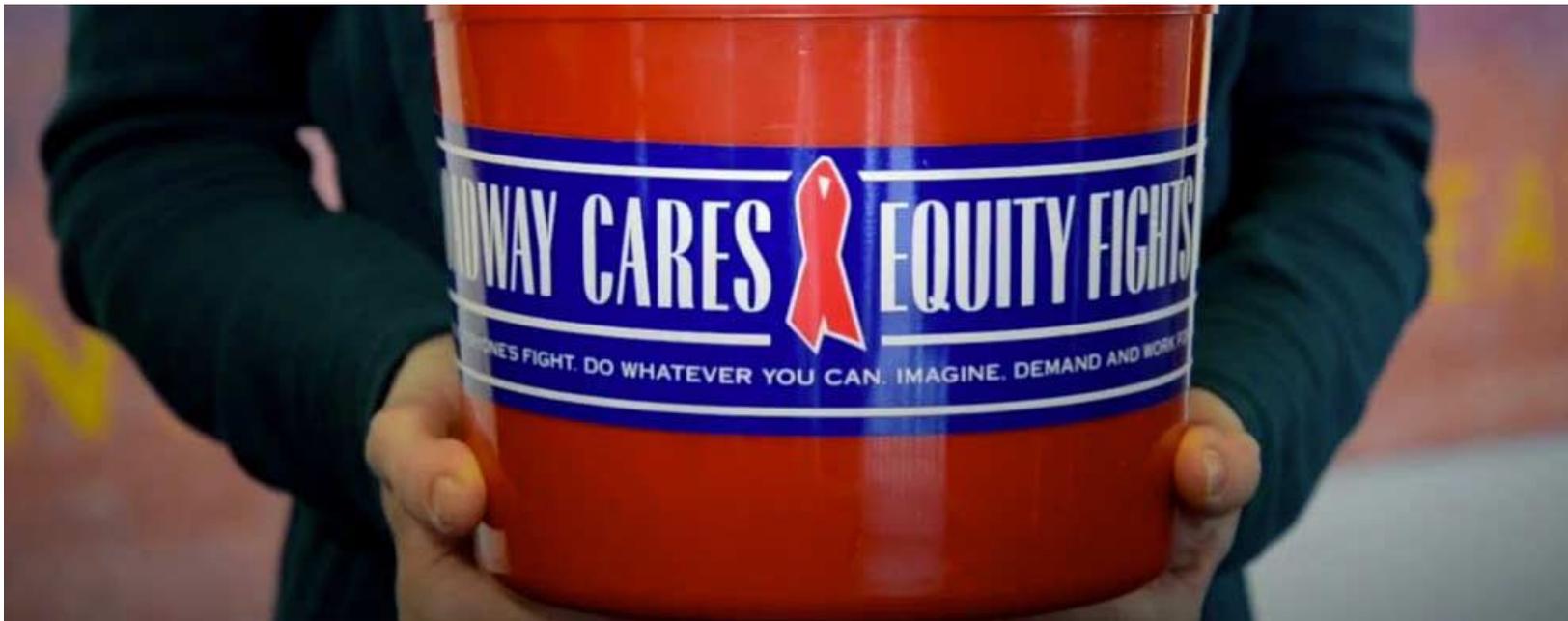


IOWA
THESPIANS™

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

December 2019

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS



[Amber Schute, Troupe 69](#)

Are you looking for new ways to create change nationwide and within your own community? There are many ways you can make a change but one amazing fundraising opportunity is Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS is an American nonprofit organization that raises funds for AIDS-related causes across the United States. It is the theatre community's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This organization helps men, women and children across the country receive life saving medications, health care, nutritious meals, counseling and emergency financial assistance to those living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses in all 50 states. **More and more schools are getting involved with this incredible organization, so why not start at your school?**

The red bucket movement is the signature fundraising campaign that Broadway Cares is most known for. This method is where you purchase red buckets and collect donations, usually after a show or

performance. There are multiple ways you can go about raising money. Here are some tips and tools to help you get started!

Audience Appeals

These are the most effective means of fund-raising. After your performance, have a couple of cast members deliver a speech explaining with the fundraiser is. Have volunteers from the cast or stage crew stand at the theatre exits with the red buckets to receive donations from the audience.

Does your production have posters and playbills?

Have your cast sign these items to sell for donations. **Organizing a signing party before or after your rehearsal is a great way for your cast and crew to come together for a great cause.** You can also offer backstage tours and photos with cast members in costume after the performance for an additional donation. This is a great way to get up close and personal with your audience so they can see how hard you've worked on your production!

Raffle

Is there any memorable props or items in your show people would want? Have audience members who donated put their name into a raffle to win something from the show. For an example if you were doing the show Mean Girls, have the raffle prize be the "Burn Book". This takes little effort and is easy to organize.

Submitting your donation is very easy! Complete and submit the Donation Submission Form and turn it in with your donations.

Checks should be made out to Broadway Cares. Please do not send cash. If you would like to submit your donation with a credit card, email Michael Di Bianco at dibianco@broadway.org to process the charge. If you are attending International Thespian Festival, there will be a Broadway Cares stand there! You can just bring your raised money to Festival and give it to the organization then!

This simple but effective fundraiser not only allows you to create change in your community, it also brings everyone together. It's such a great cause that will connect everyone, not only in the show but also with the audience! **Starting this fundraiser at your school will leave you feeling empowered, connected, and like you made a difference.**

Tips and Tricks for this Holiday Season

Casey Scott, Troupe 3994

- See shows, as always! It's the perfect season to get together with friends and family to check out what local schools or community theatres are doing near you.
- Check out the ITS Store for some awesome holiday gifts!



<https://www.schooltheatre.org/store/thespianspiritmerchandise>

- Begin brainstorming ideas for the DemocracyWorks Essay competition. Info about the contest can be found here:
 - <https://www.schooltheatre.org/programs/democracyworks>
- Drink some hot cocoa and relax! Happy Holidays!

Letter to the Editor: A Letter of Motivation

The motivation to keep going is all in our hands. Many students like myself find it hard to keep ourselves motivated and in tune with everything going on in our lives. Just know that there is always someone to help you whether that be your fellow thespians or anyone else that you can talk to. Always find a safe space. These areas can help you build upon your ideas, opinions, or points of view. They also help build up your confidence, communication skills, and sense of belonging. The biggest motivation in my life has been my troupe. If it had not been for their courage and strength, I would not be here or accomplished everything I have without them.

After you've found your comfort zone, step completely out of it. Conformity and comfort is the number one thing that prevents us from trying new things, always push yourself to new limits in a safe

and healthy way. **Don't be afraid to ask for help!** Many of us think that since we are out of our comfort zone, that we have to deal with it alone since we were the ones who placed ourselves there. That could not be any more wrong, we have a right and a need naturally as human beings to reach out and understand each other. It does not matter all the skills at that will be developed or have been will always be useful. Fear is what makes us the most nervous and anxious but the secret is that this fight or flight response can be channeled into a beneficial tool. The everlasting act of balancing our anxiety and our confidence is always a power struggle, one that many of us are confused by. This is normal, and always use that feeling, that pressure to cook and marinate your thoughts, ideas, passions, and struggles. This is the thing that has helped me keep going day in and day out. **Know that you will always have someone who has your back: yourself.** Be relieved that you can because you can.

Use that gut feeling and act upon this, all of these philosophies can not only relate to the world of theatre but to everyday life. Whether that be on or off stage **theatre has motivated me and my community to be better listeners, caretakers, companions, team workers, communicators, and people.** Why, because we are and always will be trapped in the everlasting loop that the fine arts have created for us one of unity and an initiation that was built on boldness and the outspoken nature of few has affected and will affect many more to come in the future!

Sincerely,

Julie Matta, Troupe 1038

STO Update

We held 2019 Iowa Thespian Festival on November 8th and 9th at University of Northern Iowa. Our 48 hour extravaganza was filled with lasting memories and lots of new faces! We conquered the test of time during our time warp adventure. The STOs are so happy to have met each and every one of you, and encourage you to continue to tell us (and your 2020 board) about your upcoming shows and events. We love hearing from you!!

Our delegation was filled with talented individuals who participated in IEs, Mainstages, Studios, workshops, the Iowa All-State Cabaret, college auditions, and so much more! We could not be

prouder of our Iowa Thespians and their love for theatre. Without our delegation, Festival wouldn't be possible.

As we look into the future, we want to hear from YOU. What did you like about Festival? What can the Iowa Thesopian Chapter Board improve for next year? Let us know! Send an email to iastochair@gmail.com and make sure to be as detailed as possible. Your opinion will help us ensure that 2020 Iowa Thesopian Festival is absolutely spectacular!



The 2019 Iowa State Thesopian Officers would like to thank each and every one of you for your passion and amazing leadership. Each and every Thesopian, troupe director, and troupe personnel has made our job enjoyable. We hope you continue to share and advocate your love of theatre at ALL levels! We love to hear and share your stories. You are the future of the Iowa Thespians— and we believe in every single Iowa Thesopian out there.

Signing off,

Joie Stoefen, Troupe 739

2019 Iowa STO Chair

Thespian Maze

Taylor Hammer, Troupe 38

START

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END

Directions

Follow the train spelling out “THESPIAN” to complete the maze! You may use letters diagonally, vertically and horizontally to spell. It may be spelled forwards or backwards. Goodluck!

In Other News...

Congratulations to the 2020 STO Board! We know they'll do a fantastic job serving Iowa Thespians in the year to come. Our board officially transitions at the Iowa Thespian Board meeting in January. Your 2020 State Thespian Officers are as follows:

Advocacy: Luis Avalos, Troupe #1038

Special Projects: Madeline Murphy, Troupe #2761

Communications: Barrett Edwards, Troupe #4274

Chair: Casey Scott, Troupe #3994

Secretary: Erica Heiselman, Troupe #856

Membership: Hannah Wilson, Troupe #542

Junior Thespians: Maria Markus, Troupe #69

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!

Contact Us:

Joie Stoefen, Chair: iastochair@gmail.com

Taylor Hammer, Vice Chair: iastovicechair@gmail.com

Casey Scott, Secretary: iastosecretary@gmail.com

Miles Latham, Communications: iastocommunications@gmail.com

Julie Matta, Advocacy: iastoadvocacy@gmail.com

Amber Schute, Membership: iastomembership@gmail.com

Anna Myatt, Junior Thespians: iastojuniorthespians@gmail.com

  Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @IA_ThespianSTO and visit us online at iowathespians.org!

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