



**junior
theater**
Festival
'14

Information Packet

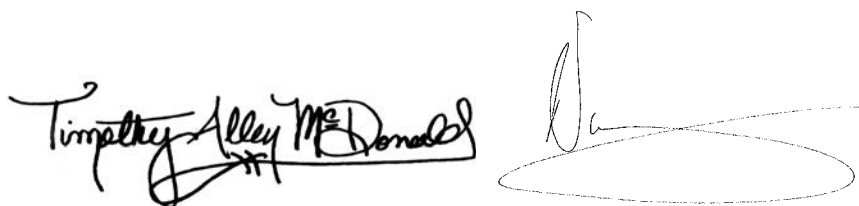
JANUARY 17, 18, 19, 2014
COBB GALLERIA CENTRE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

WELCOME TO THE 2014 JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL!

JTF 2014 is just four short months away!! Plans are underway to ensure that this festival takes our favorite 4000 musical theater lovers (yes, that includes you,) on a journey they will never forget. As you prep your show and begin making your logistical arrangements, our JTF team is confirming over 150 special guests and adjudicators, selecting colors for 12 different pods, traveling across the country to rehearse with New Works Showcase groups, designing an amazing 32-page souvenir program, and creating individualized schedules for over 90 different groups to make sure JTF 2014 is the best festival yet!

So go ahead and start your journey. First, sit back in your comfy chair. Next, throw on the soundtrack to your favorite musical. Then, read everything in this packet, which will be your roadmap on how to get the most out of your JTF weekend in Atlanta.

Looking forward to seeing you in January,



Timothy Allen McDonald & Nick Manos

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WHAT TO DO NEXT

1. **READ EVERYTHING IN THIS PACKET**

This packet will give you all the information you need to prepare for the 2014 Junior Theater Festival (JTF). Even if you have been before, there are new programs and procedures in place this year, and you won't want to miss anything.

2. **SELECT YOUR SHOW**

Choose the show your group will be performing for adjudication. Any MTI Broadway JR. or KIDS Collection show licensed by your group between 2011 and 2013 is eligible for adjudication at JTF 2014. If you want to present a show you haven't licensed before, you will need to contact your MTI representative to get the performance license and materials.

3. **DISTRIBUTE CHAPERONE AND PARENT LETTERS**

These letters are located in the back of this information packet. The first, a letter for your chaperones, details their responsibilities while at the festival. The second, an informational letter for the parents of your students, describes what their children will experience at the festival and what parents should expect if they attend.

4. **FILL OUT AND RETURN YOUR FORMS**

Your completed JTF 2014 Group Forms and all payment are due to iTheatrics by **October 15, 2013**. Remember, every person attending the festival must be registered with a group. Once we receive all of your completed forms and payment, we will assign your group a Friday rehearsal time (if requested), your specific Saturday workshops, and your seats in the MTI ShowSpace Theatre for the entirety of the festival. **This means, the earlier you send your completed material, the better seats you will have. And the more likely you are to have your first choice of workshop and a Friday rehearsal time.**

5. **MAKE YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Groups attending the festival are responsible for making their own travel, lodging and food arrangements (except for Saturday and Sunday lunches). The more arrangements you make now, the happier you will be come January.

6. **SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATIONS**

See page 6 for specific details about the Freddie G Experience, the Playbill Community Service Award, the Sharidan Giles Technical Theater Scholarship, and the JTF Student Internship for college students. Have the appropriate person fill out each application and submit them to iTheatrics by November 15, 2013.

7. **COME TO ATLANTA AND SIGN-IN**

At Festival Sign-in, you will receive all festival materials including your JTF t-shirts, meal vouchers, official schedules, etc. To expedite Festival Sign-In, you will select a specific sign-in time on your Group Forms. Choose the earliest time slot possible. New groups must sign in by 6:30pm so they can attend the New Group Orientation at 7:00pm.

JTF 2014 SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

7:00pm Festival Sign-In Opens

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

11:00am Festival Sign-In Continues

12:00pm Open Studio Rehearsals Begin

5:00pm Professional Development Orientation

7:00pm New Group Orientation

8:00pm Director's Reception

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

7:45am Festival Kick-Off

8:30am Adjudications

12:15pm Staggered Lunch Begins

2:45pm Student Workshops

Teacher Workshops

Choreography DVD Auditions

5:00pm Dinner

8:00pm Disney Musicals New Works Showcase

9:30pm JTF Dance Party

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

9:00am Sunday Kick-Off

9:15am Pathways to Success

Choreography DVD Callbacks

Broadway JR. Slam Rehearsals

JTF All-Stars Rehearsals

Technical Theater Workshops for Teachers

Broadway JR. Slam

10:30am

11:00am Freddie G Teacher Awards Ceremony

11:30am Staggered Lunch Begins

2:00pm Special Guest Presentation

3:15pm Freddie G Student Awards Ceremony

4:30pm Dinner

7:30pm Professional Production at the Cobb Galleria Centre

FESTIVAL LOGISTICS

LODGING

Although lodging is not provided by the festival, we can help you find appropriate accommodations. There are two official *Festival Host Hotels*, the Renaissance Waverly Hotel and the Embassy Suites. To reserve rooms at either of these host hotels, you will need to go through the Festival Hotel Coordinator, who can be emailed at Hotel-Info@JuniorTheaterGroup.com. You will not be able to book these rooms by calling the hotels directly. Room reservations in these hotels will be prioritized based on the order in which we received your completed registration and registration fee. If we are unable to accommodate your hotel needs within the 2 official festival host hotels, we have secured a festival group rate at 1-2 *Festival Recommended Hotels*, where you will be able to call the hotel and make your own reservations. Information about these hotels will be given out by the Festival Hotel Coordinator. Or, you are free to arrange your own lodging at any other hotel as there are a number of options in close proximity to the Cobb Galleria Centre. You can check out the Cobb Centre's website at cobbgalleria.com. Click on the *Destination* button and then the *Hotels* button to see all of the hotels in the area. Please be aware, while some hotels are in walking distance of the Cobb Galleria, there are major freeways and intersections that you would need to cross, so please plan accordingly.

MEALS

Lunch is provided on Saturday and Sunday for all participants. Vegetarian options will be available if ordered in advance. Vouchers for these meals will be distributed at Festival Sign-In and the meals will be distributed in the Cobb Galleria Centre.

Groups are responsible for arranging their own breakfasts and dinners. There are a number of food options in close vicinity to the Cobb Galleria Centre, including sit-down restaurants and a mall food court. You can check out some options at cobbgalleria.com. Click on the *Destination* button and then the *Restaurants* button to see the dining options in the area. Please be aware there will be many groups eating at the same time, so for a sit-down meal, make reservations for your dinners on both Saturday and Sunday in advance.

Breakfast Option

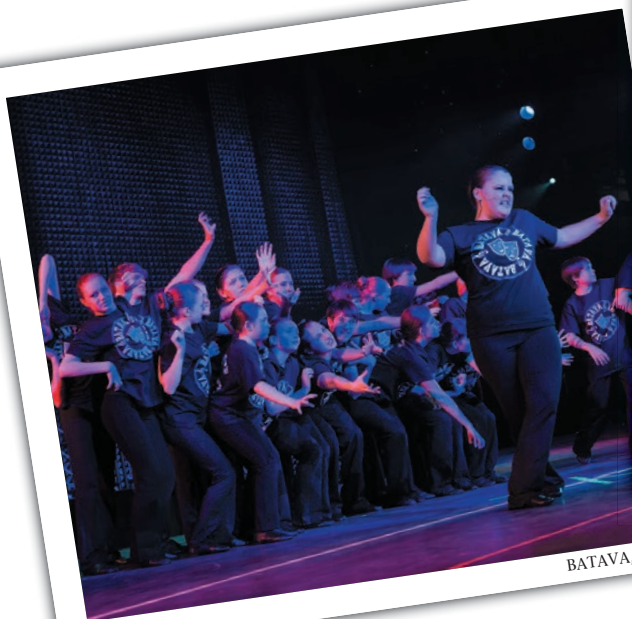
As a breakfast option on Saturday and Sunday, we are offering breakfasts for \$10 apiece. The breakfasts will be distributed in the Cobb Galleria Centre and must be ordered and paid for in advance by filling out the order sheet included in your JTF 2014 Group Forms. **You cannot purchase these during the weekend of the festival.**

TRAVEL

The entire festival will take place at the Cobb Galleria Centre. Each group is responsible for their own transportation to and from the Cobb Galleria Centre, where there is ample parking available. Please be aware that there is no convenient form of public transportation between the Atlanta airport and the Cobb Galleria Centre, so make your travel arrangements in advance.

FESTIVAL SIGN-IN

Festival Sign-In will take place by the Grand Ballroom in the Renaissance Waverly Hotel and we will be open on Thursday from 7:00pm until 9:00pm and on Friday from 11:00am until 7:00pm. To expedite the sign-in process, you will select a two hour time slot to sign-in. On the Group Information Form, select the earliest time slot possible you are able to sign-in. It will take approximately 15 minutes for you to complete Festival Sign-in and you can come at any time within your two hour time slot. Bring one director and at least one other adult to the sign-in table where you will receive all festival materials including your JTF t-shirts, meal vouchers, official schedules, etc. New groups must sign in by 6:30pm on Friday to allow for plenty of time to get to New Group Orientation (for directors only) at 7:00pm. Professional Development participants may sign in at any time we are open.



BATAVA, JTF 2013



Disney's *Newsies* performance, Mike Faist and Kara Lindsay

FESTIVAL APPLICATIONS

The Festival Application Packet contains complete descriptions and detailed information on how to apply for the Freddie G Experience, the Playbill Community Service Award, the Sharidan Giles Technical Theater Scholarship, and the JTF Student Internship.

The Freddie G Experience Award is presented to eight (8) individual teachers and includes an all-expense paid trip to NYC for master classes, performances, and celebrations. Award recipients will be up to seven (7) educators attending JTF 2014 selected from an application and interview process and one (1) lead teacher of the Freddie G Broadway Junior Spirit Award winning organization. Additionally, the organization the teacher is representing at the festival will receive a \$5000 cash award to support their musical theater program.

The Playbill Community Service Award is given to one organization attending the festival in recognition of work their students have done in giving back to their community through service projects. These projects can be anything from hosting a weekly afterschool program for younger students, to holding a food drive, to bringing a performance to a nursing home or community center. Five (5) semi-finalists will be chosen for this award and their organization will be featured on Playbill.com before the festival. Additionally, Playbill.com will give the winning organization a cash award of \$500 to be used toward continuing their service project.

The Sharidan Giles Technical Theater Scholarship is awarded to a middle or high school student who most exemplifies commitment, curiosity, collaboration and creativity in technical theater. Established in honor of the late JTF stage manager and former technical director, Sharidan Giles, who mentored many technical theatre artists, the scholarship includes a cash award of \$500 to be applied toward furthering their technical theater training, as well as a mentorship session from a technical theater professional.

The JTF Student Internship is open to college students who have previously attended the Junior Theater Festival. Interns provide general festival assistance throughout the weekend and attend a special master class with members of the Junior Theater Festival staff. This is the perfect program for a former student who has shown maturity, leadership skills, and a desire to learn about all aspects of theater.



The entrance to JTF 2013

AT THE FESTIVAL – FRIDAY

OPEN STUDIO REHEARSALS

Groups may sign up for a half hour rehearsal time on Friday by checking the appropriate box on the JTF 2014 General Information Form. These rehearsals will take place in an assigned rehearsal room in the Cobb Galleria Centre or the Renaissance Waverly Hotel. These rehearsal rooms are not the same as your performance space, but will be spacious enough for your group to rehearse and will come equipped with a CD player. There are limited rehearsal spaces available, and these are assigned by iTheatrics on a first-come, first-served basis once completed forms and payment are received. Please bring your CD with you to this rehearsal as we cannot guarantee there will be an iPod option.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRACK ORIENTATION

Teachers and directors attending on the Professional Development Track (without a group) will receive a special welcome from the festival staff and learn the ins and outs of the festival in order to maximize their experience.

NEW GROUP ORIENTATION (MANDATORY)

If this is the first year your group is attending JTF, come to this special meeting for directors at 7:00pm. At this meeting, we talk through the festival schedule, answer any last-minute questions about the weekend and hopefully allay all of your fears.

DIRECTOR'S RECEPTION

Artistic staff of each group are invited to a reception at 8:00pm where they will have a chance to meet festival workshop leaders, adjudicators and special guests. Dress casually and join us for an hour of adult camaraderie to start off the weekend.



AT THE FESTIVAL – SATURDAY AM

ADJUDICATION

WHAT IS ADJUDICATION?

Each group presents up to fifteen minutes of a Broadway JR. or KIDS Collection show for a small panel of professional theater artists (aka adjudicators) and other festival attendees. Each group is assigned to a pod with seven other groups similar to theirs in terms of student age and type of organization. These eight (8) groups remain together for the entire adjudication process on Saturday morning, watching and performing for each other.

Before your specific performance, your group is given approximately twenty minutes to warm up in a separate room equipped with a CD player. Following the presentation, adjudicators talk directly to the student performers, highlighting specific impressive areas of the presentation and also offering constructive feedback to encourage further growth.

Following your adjudication and feedback session, your cast and creative team will be escorted to another room for a moderated discussion about what they experienced and how they interpreted the adjudicator comments. This discussion time is a great chance for students to reflect and celebrate their accomplishments.

ADJUDICATION RULES AND GUIDELINES

- **Four (4) acting boxes** will be provided in each room. The dimensions are approximately 14" x 14" x 14" and have cut-out handles on two sides. The only other set pieces allowed are chairs that you would take directly from the first two rows of the audience. For safety, no one is allowed to stand on these chairs.
- There will be a **number line** placed on the front edge of each performance space to assist your students with their spacing throughout their presentation. Each number represents the amount of feet from center.
- **No costumes, make-up, set pieces or props** are allowed. The only exception is small hand props that are ESSENTIAL to the choreography. For example, mugs for the tavern dance in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast JR.* are acceptable. A mask for the Beast or books for Belle are not.
- **The performance space** will be carpeted and approximately 25' x 20'. There will be some offstage space on both stage left and right, but there are no curtains and no back cross-over space.
- **Groups may wear** either their festival t-shirts or their own show t-shirts for their presentation.
- **Performers must wear** shoes at all times.
- **Groups must provide** their own Accompaniment CD and CD operator.
- **Microphones** are not available.
- **Everyone in the Adjudication Room must be registered** for the festival with a group. Parents and/or guests of performers will not be admitted to any performance if they are not registered with a group.

SELECTING YOUR FIFTEEN MINUTES

- 1. Choose Your Musical.** Any MTI Broadway JR. or KIDS Collection show licensed by your group between 2011 and 2013 is eligible for adjudication at JTF 2014.
- 2. Narrow Down the Scenes and Songs.** You do not have to select one sequential fifteen minutes of your show, but make sure you select material that your students feel confident performing.
- 3. Honor the Author's Intent.** You are not allowed to add lines, change the order of songs, add characters, or in any way, change the intent of the piece.
- 4. Make Sure You are Telling a Story.** While it is impossible to tell the whole story in fifteen minutes, make sure you select scenes and songs that highlight your students' ability to tell a story.
- 5. Ask The Following Questions.** When you think you have a good fifteen minute selection, read it aloud and ask yourself the following questions:
 - Is there a story being told? (Does your selection have a beginning, middle and end?)
 - Is there a good balance between solos and group numbers, scenes and dialogue?
 - Does your selection allow the students to shine and feel confident?
- 6. Read The Adjudication Rules and Guidelines.** Read the information on page 8 to make sure your presentation can be accomplished without breaking any of the festival rules.

WHAT THE ADJUDICATORS ARE LOOKING FOR

Our adjudicators believe that engaging storytelling is the key to a good performance. Standout student performers are connected to the words, know why their characters are singing or dancing and are appropriately expressive in their presentation. These attributes are more important than being able to do a perfect triple pirouette with no connection to the story. For more detailed information, check out the JTF 2014 Adjudication Rubric on page 11. This rubric will be completed by each adjudicator and these forms will be mailed to the director approximately one month after the festival.

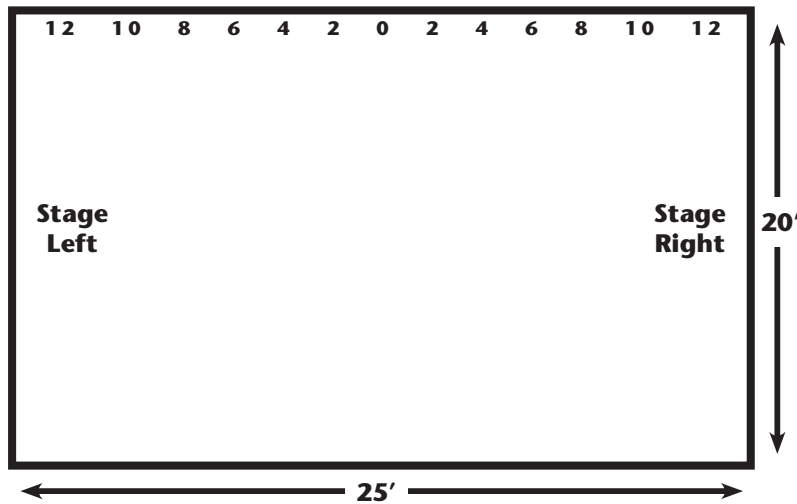
WATCHING THE OTHER PERFORMANCES

Students will have the opportunity to watch a number of other groups in their pod perform. This is their chance to discover other shows and support their peers. Your group's individual schedule will clearly detail which performances your group will be watching. Failure to attend these performances and be a supportive audience will affect your group's adjudication score.

ADJUDICATION TIPS

FROM THE JTF STAFF

1. Mix it up. Don't choose all up-tempo songs or all ballads. A heartfelt scene or song is just as inspiring and entertaining as a large group dance number.
2. Plan a fourteen minute presentation, rather than a full fifteen minutes, to ensure you don't go over time. Remember, you are performing live. There will be laughter and you will want to hold for applause. Also, you don't want to be penalized for performing too long.
3. Rehearse your presentation in a 25'x 20' area to give your students an idea of how much room they will have when they perform. Set up your rehearsal space like the one pictured below to allow your students to rehearse as they will perform at the festival.



4. Focus on your actors. Without costumes or scenery, your students' bodies, faces, and voices become even more essential to the clarity of the storytelling.
5. Encourage students to be attentive and engaged audience members by giving them something to watch for in each of the performances. In any spare time, find out what they learned from watching the other groups or an element of one performance they specifically enjoyed.
6. Read the Adjudication Rubric on page 11 to see exactly what the adjudicators are going to be looking for in your presentation.

ADJUDICATION RUBRIC

Group Name:

Show Title:

Adjudicator:

Start Time:

End Time:

1. General (25%)

Overall:	Overall impression	5	4	3	2	1
Ensemble:	Performers work together as a team	5	4	3	2	1
Commitment:	Committed in all aspects	5	4	3	2	1
Transition:	Effectively used throughout	5	4	3	2	1
Pacing:	Intentional and appropriate	5	4	3	2	1
Sub-Total						<input type="text"/>

2. Music (25%)

Storytelling:	Story and emotion conveyed through singing	5	4	3	2	1
Intonation:	Intonation (pitch) is accurate	5	4	3	2	1
Diction:	Lyrics are understandable	5	4	3	2	1
Precision:	Rhythms and cut-offs are accurate	5	4	3	2	1
Expression:	Vocal variety and dynamics used throughout	5	4	3	2	1
Sub-Total						<input type="text"/>

3. Dance (25%)

Storytelling:	Story and emotion conveyed through movement and choreography	5	4	3	2	1
Style:	Appropriate to the setting and themes	5	4	3	2	1
Execution:	Performed cleanly and precisely	5	4	3	2	1
Variety:	Variety in tempo, style and pattern	5	4	3	2	1
Creativity:	Imaginative and interesting choreography	5	4	3	2	1
Sub-Total						<input type="text"/>

4. Acting (25%)

Storytelling:	Story and emotion conveyed through dialogue	5	4	3	2	1
Objective:	Actions are motivated	5	4	3	2	1
Characterization:	Characters developed are appropriate to the story	5	4	3	2	1
Physicality:	Face and body are connected	5	4	3	2	1
Articulation:	Dialogue is heard and understood	5	4	3	2	1
Sub-Total						<input type="text"/>

Bonus:

"Wow Factor":	Performance transcends and inspires (Up to 3 pts.)	<input type="text"/>
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Penalties:

Overtime:	Minus 1 pt. for every 15 seconds over allotted 15 minutes	<input type="text"/>
Behavior:	Minus up to 5 pts. for inappropriate behavior as audience members	<input type="text"/>

Total points

5 = Perfect throughout the entire performance, no errors
4 = Excellent through most of the performance, with a few minor defects
3 = Good performance, but lacked consistency throughout
2 = Fair performance with basic weaknesses clearly identifiable
1 = Needs improvement

AT THE FESTIVAL – SATURDAY PM

FOCUSED STUDENT PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS

Students attend performance workshops that cover the basics of musical theater performance and are offered at different skill levels. Pick the perfect workshop based on your group's skill level. For more information, see the JTF 2014 Group Forms.

STUDENT TECHNICAL THEATER WORKSHOPS AND ALL-STARS

Each group is encouraged to bring students interested in technical theater to the festival to take part in the Student Technical Theater Workshops. During these workshops, students learn about lighting, sound, costume and scenic design. Select students from these workshops are chosen as JTF Technical All-Stars and are invited to work alongside JTF professional technical staff on both the Disney Musicals New Works Showcase and the Awards Ceremonies.

CHOREOGRAPHY DVD AUDITIONS

Our Broadway Junior scouts will be identifying outstanding dance and musical theater students during adjudications. Selected students are invited to attend this special workshop and audition for Resident Broadway JR. Choreographer Steven G. Kennedy for casting in future Broadway Junior DVD shoots.

WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS

These workshops cover everything from ensemble building, advanced vocal techniques to marketing and advertising strategy. Additional technical workshops will be offered on Sunday morning.

DISNEY MUSICALS NEW WORKS SHOWCASE

See presentations from new shows that will join the Broadway Junior Collection in the next few years, performed by invited student groups from across the country. This event is a true highlight of the festival each year.

JTF DANCE PARTY

Dance the night away (well at least a couple of hours) at the JTF Dance Party immediately following the Disney Musicals New Works Showcase.



AT THE FESTIVAL – SUNDAY AM

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

This exciting main stage panel features past Broadway Junior students who have recently embarked on their professional careers and have found success in their chosen fields.

JTF PERFORMANCE ALL-STARS

During your Saturday morning presentation, our adjudicators will be keeping an eye out for engaging performers to be acknowledged as JTF All-Stars. Two students from each group will be selected to join the All-Stars for rehearsal on Sunday morning and to perform in one of two All-Star only group numbers on the main stage.

THE BROADWAY JUNIOR SLAM

Think of it as Project Runway, Broadway Junior style! The names of four directors, music directors, choreographers, and a number of students are drawn randomly, assembled into production teams, and assigned a song from a Broadway Junior show. After one hour of rehearsal, these groups perform for all festival participants on the main stage.

TECHNICAL THEATER WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS

The technical theater workshops will cover everything from the director-designer relationship to designing costumes and sets, to creating everything on a budget. Best of all, there will be plenty of time to ask your individual questions.

SPECIAL GUESTS

You never know who will turn up at the Junior Theater Festival! Last year we honored Alan Menken and were treated to a 30 minute impromptu concert of his most classic songs. Past guests have included: Stephen Schwartz, Jeanine Tesori, Skylar Astin, Zac Efron, and the cast of NBC's SMASH. So stay tuned!

FREDDIE G TEACHER AWARDS CEREMONY

This Awards Ceremony shines the spotlight on teachers and organizations that have done outstanding work bringing the Broadway Junior spirit to life. The following awards will be presented.

- The Freddie G Experience Award (up to eight teachers)
- The Playbill Community Service Award (one group)
- The Broadway JR. Spirit Award (one group)

AT THE FESTIVAL – SUNDAY PM

FREDDIE G STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY

The Student Awards Ceremony will highlight wonderful student achievements of the weekend. There will be a number of awards handed out as well as performances from selected outstanding productions. The following awards will be presented.

GROUP AWARDS

- Outstanding Performance (up to 8 recipients)*
- Excellence in Acting (up to 12 recipients)
- Excellence in Dance (up to 12 recipients)
- Excellence in Music (up to 12 recipients)
- Excellence in Ensemble Work (up to 12 recipients)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Excellent Individual Performance: Female (up to 12 recipients)
- Excellent Individual Performance: Male (up to 12 recipients)
- Excellent Student Direction/Choreography (up to 12 recipients)
- Excellent Achievement in the Broadway JR. Slam (up to 12 recipients)
- All Festival Performance: Female (1 recipient)
- All Festival Performance: Male (1 recipient)
- Inspirational Student Award: (up to 2 recipients)
- Sharidan Giles Technical Theater Scholarship Award (1 recipient)

**Adjudicators and festival producers will select up to eight Outstanding Performances to be featured in the Freddie G Student Awards Ceremony on Sunday. Outstanding Performances are chosen based on your adjudication scores in comparison to the other groups in your adjudication category (i.e. Middle School, Academy A).*

SUNDAY EVENING PERFORMANCE

Stay tuned for an announcement regarding the Sunday evening performance. We can't wait to share all of the exciting details with you!



Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School, JTF 2013

FESTIVAL CHECKLIST

Here is a checklist to keep you on track for JTF 2014. Post it on a bulletin board or wall, anywhere you look each day to keep you on track.

- Send in your registration form and \$600 registration fee (*Congrats – Step 1 is done!*)
- Confirm exact number of people attending with your group
- Distribute & collect Video/Photo Release Forms to everyone attending
(*This includes students, directors, chaperones, family members, etc.*)
- Distribute Parent and Chaperone letters
- Take or select your group photo
- Fill out all of your JTF 2014 Group Forms
- Collect participation fees from everyone attending
(*\$195 per person until October 15, 2013. \$205 per person after that date*)
- Compile your applications – The Freddie G Experience, Playbill Community Service Award, the Sharidan Giles Technical Theater Scholarship, and the JTF Student Internship
- Organize your meals, housing, and travel
- Mail or email the following forms and payment to iTheatrics by October 15, 2013:
(*Please note: These forms are in the word documents attached to the email sent by Lindsay in early September.*)
 - General Information Form
 - T-Shirt Form
 - Saturday Workshop Selection Form
 - Festival Logistics Sign-Off
 - Breakfast Option
 - Souvenir Program Photo
 - Payment Form
 - Video/Photo Release Forms
- Mail applications for the following to iTheatrics by November 15, 2013:
 - Freddie G Experience Award
 - Playbill Community Service Award
 - Sharidan Giles Technical Theater Scholarship
 - JTF Student Internship

If emailing, save forms and photo with the name of your group and send to:
Lindsay@itheatrics.com

If mailing, please send to: iTheatrics
ATTN: Lindsay Weiner Lupi
628 West 52nd Street, Suite 1F
New York, NY 10019

JTF 2014 GROUP FORMS AND PAYMENT DUE: October 15, 2013
APPLICATIONS DUE: November 15, 2013

Please note: No refunds will be offered after October 15, 2013.

Souvenir program photos and t-shirt forms received after October 15, 2013 will not be honored.



Dear Junior Theater Festival Chaperones,

JTF brings together kids from all over North America to celebrate musical theater. And we couldn't do it without chaperones like you! Your assistance will truly make a difference for the students in your group. And by the way, you are going to have an incredible experience too!

We care about student safety. Therefore, your main responsibility is to make sure there are chaperones with your students at all times. There must be one chaperone per every four students at all festival events. If you have more chaperones than are necessary, that is wonderful! Consider creating a schedule so each of you can take a break when needed.

When the director of your group comes to Festival Sign-In, he or she will receive a packet of schedules, detailing the exact times and locations of each event specific to your group for the entire weekend. This will clarify where you and your group need to be at all times. Make sure to get a copy from the director and keep it with you.

On Saturday, chaperones must be with students during all aspects of adjudication (including warm-up, performance, discussion and photo), lunch, student workshops, the Disney Musicals New Works Showcase, and the JTF Dance Party.

On Sunday, chaperones must be with students during Pathways to Success, lunch, the evening performance, and both Freddie G Teacher and Student Awards Ceremonies. You do not need to chaperone students who attend the Choreography DVD Auditions/Callbacks, the All-Star rehearsals, or Slam rehearsals, although you are welcome to walk your students to these events.

Other responsibilities include making sure your students put their best foot forward all weekend and are respectful throughout the festival as both participants and audience members. Please make sure they are in their hotel rooms and in bed by a reasonable time and honor all hotel rules.

By the way, while awards are a part of the Junior Theater Festival, this is not a competition. Anything you can do to encourage **celebration** over competition assists in creating a positive atmosphere and a successful JTF.

And lastly, please be supportive of your group's creative team. Many times while you are chaperoning, your creative team will be attending receptions, workshops and training. For them to get the most out of these opportunities, it's important they know their kids are representing them and their community well. This training helps them create a stronger musical theater program in your community. You are all working together to create a positive and incredible experience for your students that will follow you home. Don't forget to thank your creative team and fellow chaperones with a bottle of water, words of encouragement or a pat on the back.

Thank you for making this commitment and ensuring that JTF 2014 is a smashing success. We look forward to seeing you in January.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Allen McDonald". The signature is stylized and includes a small mark at the end.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Manos". The signature is very stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the bottom.

Timothy Allen McDonald and Nick Manos
Junior Theater Festival Founders



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for sending your children to the Junior Theater Festival. JTF is the largest celebration of young people performing musical theater in the country, and your child is in for the experience of a lifetime. At the festival, he or she will:

- Perform in front of and receive feedback from theater professionals
- Meet new friends from all over the country
- Sing, dance and act his or her way through student workshops
- See showcase performances of brand new shows
- Take in pearls of theater wisdom from our special guests

The schedule is jam-packed with activities to keep brains active, feet moving and put smiles on their faces. Oh, and they'll probably be exhausted when they come home!

If you plan on attending the festival, remember you must be registered with your child's group. You may not register separately. Your registration includes, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, a festival t-shirt, a souvenir program and an all-access pass to the festival.

Your group's chaperones, creative team, and students have specific duties, a fast-paced schedule and events they need to attend. Go ahead and take advantage of all the festival has to offer and rest assured your child is busy and having a great time.

By the way, while awards are a part of the Junior Theater Festival, this is not a competition. Anything you can do to encourage celebration over competition assists us in creating a positive atmosphere and a successful JTF.

JTF is a one-of-a-kind event and we can't wait for January to get here! From Broadway celebrities to theater education professionals to the amazing students that travel from all over the country, this year's festival is sure to be an unforgettable experience. And we know it's thanks to parents like you, who work tirelessly to ensure your child experiences the transformative power of the arts!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Allen McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Manos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Timothy Allen McDonald and Nick Manos
Junior Theater Festival Founders