

January 2024

Dear Utah Theatre Association Conference Participants!

Welcome to the **2024 DRAMA-CON: BEYOND!** We are excited to have you joining us for a fun conference in one week. There are a few items that we want to make you aware of so you can be 100% prepared when you arrive on January 18 at Weber State University.

CAREFULLY READ THIS WHOLE LETTER!

Check~In

Check in will begin at 12:00 pm on Thursday at the **Browning Center Lobby** (see attached maps) where you will receive all your materials. The first workshop session begins at 2:00 pm. You received a badge name color a few weeks ago that will determine what schedule you follow. Please take a minute to review your schedule ahead of time. It is basically the same schedule as last year. You received an email on December 17th with your badge information and production assignments.

Parking

Attached you will find a map for parking with bus information. The bus drop-off locations are clearly marked. Please make sure your bus drivers park in the indicated location. If they park at the Dee Event Center, it is free parking. There is a free shuttle right to the Browning Center. Plan for an extra 20 minutes if you park there. If you have individual cars, there is paid parking spots located around the campus.

Campus and Workshops

Our entire conference will be in two buildings on the Weber State campus. That means the students will not be traversing the campus. There will be lots of assistance from WSU student ambassadors and signs located through the buildings to help everyone get to their workshops. Students will have 15 minutes to travel from one class to another. **PLEASE HAVE YOUR STUDENTS CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE WORKSHOP THAT THEY WANT TO ATTEND IN CASE THEIR FIRST CHOICE IS FULL.** If a workshop is full, encourage the students to find another class instead of just not attending any.

****Some workshops will have special opportunities that allow the students to be able to perform in the Closing Showcase!**

Workshop Productions

- Weber State will be performing **“Jane Eyre”** during the **Friday afternoon** workshop sessions. If you didn't get a chance to see it, then you will have the opportunity to see it during that time. It's limited seating so it will be on a first come first serve basis. It begins right after lunch.
- We are happy to present **“Every Brilliant Thing”** performed by Utah Shakespeare Festival during the **Thursday sessions** and **Friday morning!** Please be aware that it deals with some triggering subject matter but is a beautiful interactive production.

Drama-Con Events

- **Buttons!**

- Hopefully you have created your own individual school's button to have at the conference. Each participant will be receiving a lanyard with their badge to attach as many buttons as they can collect. We want to encourage the schools to participate in this fun event by creating a button unique to you and your program. A fun idea would be to bring two buttons for the students; *one to keep and one to trade*. Hopefully your students will come home with a fun array of buttons as they meet and talk to other kids from around the state. The standard buttons that UTA is giving is 1 ¼" but you are welcome to design whatever you choose. Buttons will be for sale at the UTA Scene Shoppe as well.
- Feel free to bring buttons that were earned or traded from the previous year.

- *Costume Contest*

- See the attached form for guidelines about the costume contest.
- **Contest will begin January 18.** You may register two costumes for each day if you choose. To register, please go to the information desk where you will sign in and have your picture taken. Winners will be contacted and awarded on Saturday.

Guidebook

Once again, our conference guide will be on the "Guidebook" app. Please download the app **PRIOR** to coming to the conference. You can search for UTA's guide by searching the passphrase "**DRAMA CON 2024**". Access to the conference guide will not be available until January 15. More detailed instructions can be found in the included attachment. Free wifi is available on campus.

** For those students who do not have a phone, the schedule will be made available on our website in PDF form. **We will not have copies on site** so if you would like this, please print and make copies before coming to the conference. The "Schedule-at-a-Glance" is available on the website under Conference Prep. Please know that the schedule is subject to change.

Food

- **Box lunches** for students and chaperones will be handed out in the **Union Ballroom** starting at 11:45 am on **Friday**. Let your students know that there will be extra time after they eat and we *encourage them to visit the college and vendor displays during this time*.
- **TEACHER LUNCHEON** will be on **Friday** from 11:45- 1:00. Teachers are invited to come to the Skyroom in the Union building for a lunch buffet and be able to converse with each other without students. We will also be honoring our Service Award Winners. **Tickets were reserved for teachers/student teachers who were registered. This does not include chaperones. Your ticket will be in your information envelope that you will receive at check-in.**

Master Class Preparations

There are a few masterclass options during the conference where students will have the opportunity to work with our guest artists and professors to work one on one. If your students would like to work with them, have them **prepare either a monologue or a song**. No teacher nomination required. See the guide for those opportunities.

Open Jar Auditions

We have the great opportunity to have Open Jar from New York come and do an audition for their summer fellowship program. It is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. Their guest artists, Brian Martin, will award **a \$750 scholarship** to one of the students in their workshop! Attend this workshop on ***Saturday morning*** to have the chance to earn this scholarship. Please have the students **be prepared to dance and sing a 16-32 bar cut of music with sheet music** marked for an accompanist. Don't miss this amazing opportunity.

WSU Safety for Minors on Campus

As you have been notified, there are rules in place on campus for **the safety of minors**. By now, all adults attending should have a background check completed. Please fill out the following form for our records.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHMDKEbO56X6FVAoh9lNqNxy-CBfSJJgrahdSBun1u2bU_Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

*****Student waivers need to be collected by the teacher prior to the conference.*****

Again, we look forward to having you all attend! See you soon,

Lindsey McKinnon
UTA Executive Director