

January 2026

Dear Utah Theatre Association Conference Participants!

Welcome to the **2026 DRAMA-CON: LOCK IN.** 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 22 at Southern Utah University.

CAREFULLY READ THIS WHOLE LETTER!

Check-In

Check in will begin at 12:30 pm on Thursday at the **Student Center Ballroom (145)** (see attached maps) where you will receive all your materials. Workshops will begin at 2:00pm. You received a badge name color a few weeks ago that will determine what schedule you follow on Thursday and Friday. **Please take a minute to review your schedule ahead of time.** It is similar to years past, but important to review with the students. You received an email on December 13th with your badge information and production assignments.

Parking

Attached you will find a map for parking and we color coded the lots and buildings for the conference. Buses should drop off students in front of the America First Events Center (Building # 22) on the 800W side of the building. They can then move and park in lot #10 or 11. Due to a basketball game on Saturday it will be best to pick up students from the west side of Lot 2 or from the 300W side of the Auditorium Theatre.

Campus and Workshops

- Our conference will be in several buildings around SUU campus. There will be lots of assistance from SUU 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.

Ride the Cyclone

- Utah State University Eastern is bringing their production of “Ride the Cyclone” to be performed during the workshop sessions. This production will be a wonderful opportunity for kids to see another college production. It is not one of the evening performances, so if you wish to see it, make sure you refer to the guide to know what times it will run. It will also fill up two workshop sessions. It’s limited seating so it will be on a first come first serve basis. ****PLEASE REVIEW CONTENT MATERIAL before attending the show.**

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 “**DRAMACONLOCKIN**”. Access to the conference guide will not be available until January 20. More detailed instructions will be sent when the app is published and live. 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.

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/1FAIpQLSfHMDKEbO56X6FVAoh9lNqNxty-CBfSJQgrahdSBun1u2bU_Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

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

Drama-Con Events

• Buttons!

- CREATE YOUR BUTTONS NOW! This is such a fun tradition that gets better with more participation.
- 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.
- Buttons will be awarded by participating in certain events during the weekend.

• Costume Contest

- See the attached form for guidelines about the costume contest.
- **Contest will begin January 22.** 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 during the Showcase.

• Picture Bingo

- Another new event to participate in is a picture scavenger hunt! There will be bingo cards given at registration for the students to play during the conference for a prize. There will be prompts like “Take a picture of someone in a theatre theme shirt” or “share a new warm up game with someone”. Once they do

these, they can mark off their bingo card and come show them for a prize at the info table.

Food

- **No Student Lunch!** There will be many food options around campus during that time. *Please make sure chaperones will be present to help with crowd control.* Students will have the opportunity to visit vendor booths during this time as well.
- **TEACHER LUNCHEON** will be on **Friday** from 11:45- 1:15. Teachers are invited to come to the Starlight Room in the Sharwan Student Center 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.**

Performance Workshop Class Preparations

There are two workshops on Friday and two on Saturday where students will have the opportunity to work with our guest artists, Judine Somerville and Lisa Hopkins Seegmiller. Teachers, please fill out [this form](#) to nominate a student who you believe will come prepared and be open to working with one of these professionals. **They ask that the student comes prepared with an audition piece with sheet music and lyrics.**

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. Open Jar is New York City's most Broadway-integrated actor training program. The Institute provides select students one-on-one training with some of Broadway's biggest stars, directors, choreographers, agents and casting directors. It is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. Their guest artist, James Gray, 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.

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

Lindsey McKinnon
UTA Executive Director