

January 2022

Dear Utah Theatre Association Conference Participants!

Welcome to the **2020 DRAMA-CON: RE!** We are excited to have you joining us for a fun conference in just over a week. As you are now registered there are a few items that we want to make you aware of so you can be 100% prepared when you arrive on January 20 at Southern Utah University.

CAREFULLY READ THIS WHOLE LETTER!

Check~In

Check in will begin at 12:30 pm on Thursday at the Sherman Student Center on SUU campus (see attached maps) where you will receive all your materials. The first workshop session begins at 3:00 pm. You received a badge name color a few weeks ago that will determine what schedule you follow.

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 Events Center (Building # 21) on the 800W side of the building. They can then move and park in lot #10 or 11. There is construction going on near there (Corner of 800W and 200S) for a new building so the drive in front is blocked, however the curb is painted yellow and states buses only off the street.

*****MASK MANDATE*****

Due to current circumstances, we require masks to be worn at all times. This includes large theatres, small workshops, and all evening performance venues. Many of our traveling guest artists agreed to attend as long as all participants were wearing masks. We ask that you, as the teachers, assist us in making sure everyone is compliant with this requirement. We will ask students to leave if they are not wearing them correctly. We understand that some of your schools do not require this, but as we are a large conference, we still ask that you value our stance.

Drama-Con Events

• Buttons!

- Hopefully you are beginning to create 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 20. 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 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 “**DRAMA CON 2022: RE**”. The passphrase to get in is “**DRAMA CON**”. Access to the conference guide will not be available until January 14. More detailed instructions will be made available on the UTA website at that same time. 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 Ballroom at the Student Center 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.
- During lunch and dinner breaks not hosted by UTA, there are many eateries on campus or within walking distance.
- **TEACHER LUNCHEON** will be on **Friday** from 11:45- 1:30. Teachers are invited to come to the Starlight room in the Student Center 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 Nomination (with Dallyn Bayles)

This year we have a chance to have two different workshops to do acting a song master class. If you would like to **nominate** one of your students to have the opportunity to work with this artist at one of these workshops, **please respond to this email with the name of the student and your school.** We ask that the student prepare a 16-bar audition but know the entire song and bring the full sheet music. Names will be drawn out of a hat during the workshop.

There is a chance your student will not get chance to work with Dallyn, but they will learn a great deal just by attending the workshop. We will notify you prior to the event from which your student will be chosen. There is a chance that one or two of the students will be picked to perform and the Closing Event on Saturday!

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. They will be offering two scholarships. Their guest artist, Jack Sippel, will award **a \$600 scholarship** to one of the students in his workshops and the second scholarship will be an **\$800 scholarship awarded to one of the students at the Saturday Audition.**

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

Lindsey McKinnon
Conference Administrator