

January 2023

Dear Utah Theatre Association Conference Participants!

Welcome to the **2023 DRAMA-CON: THEATRE BOOT CAMP!** 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 12 at Utah Valley University.

## **CAREFULLY READ THIS WHOLE LETTER!**

### Check~In

Check in will begin at 12:00 pm on Thursday at the **Noorda 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 as things are different than past years. If you are not sure what badge color you are, you can find those details on our website under the Conference Prep link and under “Schedule at a Glance”.

### Parking

Attached you will find a map for parking. The bus drop-off locations are clearly marked. Please make sure your bus drivers park in the indicated location. If they park at the Walmart, they will be ticketed. If you have individual cars, there is paid parking spots located around the campus. For ease of parking, download the “Passport” app and pay there to ensure no fines or parking issues arise during the conference. Full day parking is around \$10/day in most lots. **THERE IS NO FREE PARKING ON CAMPUS!**

### Campus and Workshops

UVU’s campus is unique because the entire campus is interconnected (which means we don’t have to walk around outside in the cold). There will be lots of assistance from UVU student volunteers and signs located through the buildings to help everyone get to their workshops. There is also an interactive map that you can access that will greatly help you locate your destination. 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!**

### Ensemble Shows and Performance Groups

Something new this year is that students will have the chance to see some ensemble shows on Friday and Saturday. From improv shows to devised theatre pieces to hip hop Shakespeare showcase, this is a fun chance for the students to experience theatre put on in all different varieties. Don’t miss out!

## 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 12. 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 "**DRAMACON**". Access to the conference guide will not be available until January 9. 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 two location starting at 11:45 am on **Friday**. One location is in the RL Hall and the other is in the SA Hall (refer to map). 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 and driving distance.
- **TEACHER LUNCHEON** will be on **Friday** from 11:45- 1:00. Teachers are invited to come to the Center Stage 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 Claybourne Elder)

We are happy to continue the opportunity for the students to participate in a master class with Claybourne to get personal feedback on an audition piece of their choice. If you would like to **nominate** one of your students to have the opportunity to work with this artist at your designated workshop session (according to badge color), **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 chosen, but they will learn a great deal just by attending the workshop.

## 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, Susie Carroll and Jacob Swain, will award **a \$750 scholarship** to one of the students in their workshop! Attend this workshop on Saturday morning (first two sessions—it will overlap the first breakout session at 10:15) 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. (See attached flier)

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

Lindsey McKinnon  
Conference Administrator