

# ACMA Theatre Parent Group

## Meeting Notes 10/2/18, 6-7:30pm

### Introductions:

- Shaun Hennessy: Theatre teacher at ACMA ([Shaun\\_Hennessy@beaverton.k12.or.us](mailto:Shaun_Hennessy@beaverton.k12.or.us))
- Tim and Catherine Healey: Theatre Parent Group (TPG) coordinators ([acma.tpg@gmail.com](mailto:acma.tpg@gmail.com))

### Thespian Society:

- Thespian troupe parent liaison: Jen Fife-Adams, [jfifeadams@gmail.com](mailto:jfifeadams@gmail.com)
- Students can become members of thespian or junior thespian society when they have participated in shows. Applies if on tech or in cast.
  - **High school thespian troupe:** 100 hours (50 at ACMA) of participation to be eligible; remaining hours can be outside of ACMA.
  - **Middle school junior thespian troupe:** 50 hours (25 hours at ACMA) to be eligible.
  - Students can carry over 50 hours from middle school junior thespian work to high school thespian troupe.
- Thespians have several benefits – free previews at other schools, a magazine subscription, audition info for colleges, and more.
- Students can still participate in thespian events, even if they aren't thespian troupe members.

### Fundraising:

- Goal is to self-fund the theatre department through ticket sales, but supplemental fundraising can help pay for students to attend State.
- Several student fundraising events planned throughout year:
  - Nov 1-2: Haunted House
  - Nov 16: Drag Night for Students
  - Feb 8: Acting Showcase
  - Mar 22: Karaoke Night
- Other opportunities throughout the year could include restaurant night-outs where we get a portion of sales. One we did at Pizzicato last year was really successful.

### Mission of ACMA Theatre Department:

- Our program is very much student-led, by design. Shaun wants the kids to learn by doing. He doesn't hire out tasks such as costume or set design to professionals.
- Parents' role is more to gently guide, mentor, and teach kids how to do skills (sewing, set construction, painting, etc.).
- Kids have opportunities to take on leadership roles (ex: set or costume design, stage management, etc.).
- Shaun teaches the majority of all theatre classes at ACMA, across grades 6-12.
  - David Sikking, another ACMA teacher, will be teaching Theatre 2 class in spring semester.

- Brian Bertram, an ACMA math teacher, directs some musicals and will direct our spring musical.
- ACMA theatre alumni and students collaborate to direct or adapt other plays.
- Portland Playhouse does our Fall Festival of Shakespeare show – *Much Ado About Nothing* this year.
- ACMA typically does ~5 shows a year, with auditions, callbacks, weekly rehearsals, and some weekend work parties. Performances are usually in the evening on Thur-Sat, often with a Saturday matinee, but there may be additional performances per show.
- Shaun intentionally schedules shows so that students have to pick which ones to audition for and participate in, the same as in the professional world. Students can't really be in all plays in a school year.
- We have a mix of shows on the main stage vs. the Blue Box, a smaller stage. Audience capacity for main stage shows is ~350-400. Blue Box is smaller and ~65.
- Blue Box shows sell out easier and often are cheaper to license and stage. Our goal with main stage shows is to have as many seats filled as possible!
- Scheduling performances on the main stage often is tricky and arranged the end of the previous school year. Multiple ACMA activities, like Dance West, choir, and band concerts, have to share performance times on the main stage.
- We have to pay royalties and licensing fees for nearly all of the plays we stage. Musicals cost more than plays, and main stage shows generally cost more than Blue Box.

#### **Ways Parents Can Volunteer or Participate:**

- You can choose ongoing roles, helping with a specific show, or other one-time opportunities as you have time and availability.
- We have several ways for parents to participate:
  - **Saturday work parties** – sewing, set construction, costumes, shopping for props/costumes, supervising kids, etc.
  - **Chaperoning field trips or thespian events** – contact Jen Fife-Adams to sign up to chaperone!
  - **Support for specific shows** – concessions, ushering, ticket sales, publicity, coordinating cast meals, etc.
  - **Fundraising**
  - **Committees for different functions** – promotions, costumes, fundraising, thespian troupe liaisons, etc.
- **All volunteers MUST complete the Beaverton School District volunteer application and background check, before volunteering. This is a district-wide policy** and applies to nearly all TPG activities (concessions, work parties, ushering, etc.).
  - The application is quick to complete, takes about 2 weeks to process, and, once approved, is good for 2 years.
  - Learn more, read FAQs, and access applications/background check [here](#).
- All parents should log their volunteer hours through the BSD system. It helps the theatre department get credit for all the work done, plus it can help build a case for more resources for the department.
- Email us at [acma.tpg@gmail.com](mailto:acma.tpg@gmail.com) if you have a special skill or want to participate in any of the subcommittees, and we'll connect you with the right people!
- A note on field trips and parent permission slips:
  - The district is getting very strict on parent permission forms.

- ACMA usually needs student signups and parent permission forms turned in 30 days in advance, to allow time for planning and special medical considerations.
- It's best for students to take signed permission forms straight to Maria Iverson in the main office.
- Parents can also fax or email a photo of the signed form to Maria ([maria\\_iverson@beaverton.k12.or.us](mailto:maria_iverson@beaverton.k12.or.us)).

## Upcoming Shows and Events

### Show: *The Laramie Project*

- Main Stage show that opens in 3 weeks! Oct. 25-27.
- Will have a silent auction at intermission to sell cornhole projects from Shaun's tech class.

### Fundraiser: Haunted House

- **Student auditions are this Fri, 10/5** (open to middle and high school). Auditions will be pretty loose and informal.
- Signup sheet is in the hallway outside Shaun's office in the PAC.
- Parents who have ideas or want to help can email Shaun.
- **Haunted House will be in the PAC on Nov. 1 & 2, 6-9pm.**
  - Open to the public, but intended more for middle and high school (not little kids).
  - \$5 entry for first time through, \$1 for subsequent times through on same night.
  - Will have concessions.

### Show: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Fall Festival of Shakespeare)

- Directed by Portland Playhouse
- Common classes: Oct 10, Nov 7. Kids need to turn in signed parent permission slips.
- ACMA shows: Blue Box, Nov 8-10. May add a Sun matinee.
  - Note: It's a large cast and smaller number of audience seats. Shaun will limit online ticket pre-sales to 65 per show.
- Fall Festival at the Winningstad downtown:
  - Performance: Sun, Nov 18 (12-4:30pm)
  - Tech rehearsal the previous day (Sat, Nov 17, ~9-11:30am)
  - TBD how transportation will work for the Winningstad.
- **We'll need parent chaperones to help supervise at the Winningstad (tech rehearsal and day of performance).**

### Show: *Hamlet*

- Auditions Oct 29-30, callbacks Nov 1-2
- Blue Box show, Jan 10-12