

TO: All New Mexico Theatre Educators

FROM: New Mexico Thespian Board



Greetings all! We hope you are well and safe and you have not had to face this nasty virus first hand. We have had several meetings and wanted to give you some information as we approach the new school year.

- We are providing you with the EdTA Re-Opening Guidelines. They are very helpful and offer good insight and tips for opening school. We hope to be able to use them soon!
- The NMAA is suggesting we should do either a virtual festival or hold off until later in the year to engage in activities. We want you to know all is not lost. We are currently planning to host a virtual festival 2<sup>nd</sup> semester with individual events as well as workshops.
- NMAA is supporting theatre activities and saying yes to extracurricular activities if the school and districts will allow it, following the NMAA guidelines and remaining active within CDC and NMPED guidelines to support the social emotional value of Theatre.
- The NMAA says No overnight stays or travel or tournaments at this time.
- Students will be able to participate in extracurricular and out of class meetings when regular in-person classes are resumed. Please to do not meet in person with students before it is deemed safe to do so. Students cannot interact in person until regular classes have resumed.
- Students CAN begin to select IEs for Conference.
- The NMAA one act is still being planned but not until next semester. We are looking at how the one act plays can proceed. Possibilities include:
  - o Prerecording small cast productions that can be viewed online by various judges
  - o Small performances with limited audiences
  - o Online live productions
  - o Performances specifically created for Zoom
- If you haven't already, you should consider looking into which publishing companies provide streaming services. It is illegal to simply record and post a show online without proper permission in place. ShowTix4U has partnered with MTI and Dramatist Play Services to offer numerous titles available to stream. Broadway Digital Media also offers software and camera rental packages that make it easy to set up a production with little or no audience. Other play producers and play companies are working fast to provide scripts that can be performed via Zoom and other streaming platforms.
- We all want to get back to live theatre! Hopefully, we can find some safe ways to keep our theatre programs going until we are back in our PACs!
- This year we will attempt to provide you with a monthly newsletter as information becomes available for you.
- Feel free to email your questions to [gael.natal@rrps.net](mailto:gael.natal@rrps.net) or [msouers@fms.k12.nm.us](mailto:msouers@fms.k12.nm.us) .
- We cannot wait to see you in person again soon!
- Side note: if you are as stressed as we are about online learning, Theatrefolk has a program called The Drama Teacher Academy and they provide numerous lesson plans for online learning. It is not free.
- If you are up to date on your EdTA Thespian dues, EdTA has Theatre Educator Pro under Resources on their website that provides FREE online lesson plans!
- NMSTF.org is the New Mexico State Thespian site. We will be updating it soon. You should be able to check back there for information.
- @newmexicothespians is our Instagram account. This is run by the NM student board.

Look forward to talking to you soon!

Gael Natal, Co-Director, NM Thespian Board