August 2017
at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival
Westlake High School Theatre Student Application

Our school was chosen for inclusion in the festival after a rigorous selection process involving a review by the American High School Theatre Festival Board of Advisors, a group of renowned college theatre professionals. Selections are based on recent bodies of work, community involvement, philosophies, and recommendations.

**AHSTF Mission Statement**

The American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) was developed to allow top performing arts students and directors to showcase their skills on an international stage. Our festival provides an amazing opportunity for participants to travel to London, England and Edinburgh, Scotland to experience the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

AHSTF runs in conjunction with the Festival Fringe, the world's largest performing arts festival. Each August, thousands of performers, directors, writers, producers and countless other artisans, as well as over 500,000 arts enthusiasts, converge in Edinburgh for the Festival Fringe. AHSTF's commitment to performing arts allows students to experience this event as both performers and audience members. In addition, AHSTF begins with two days in London, England, where students have the opportunity to explore Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and experience London's enduring and world famous West End Theatre District.

AHSTF is designed to complement high school arts programs and is dedicated to the lessons that both the arts and educational travel teach our youth. Traveling to the Fringe and participation in AHSTF is a life-changing experience for students, who will likely learn as much about themselves as the places they visit. Students return from AHSTF inspired to set high goals for their future and are equipped with new knowledge to help achieve them.

For more information regarding this trip, please plan to attend the Theatre Parent Scotland Information Session on **Monday, February 8th at 6:30pm in the Theatre Room/rm 111**.

**Contact:** Meredith Yanchak, Director
myanchak@eanesisd.net
Tentative Trip Dates:

Our two week trip is scheduled to occur during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August of 2017. The Fringe Festival will run through (approximately) August 4-27, 2017. Travel may start in late July 2017.

The AHSTF organization strives to accommodate schools in their choice of trip dates. I have already put in a request for the earliest dates available to prevent students from missing the start of the school year.

Current juniors: Please be aware that your college arrival/orientation dates may fall within these dates. It will be your responsibility to communicate your travel dates to your college/university and to make any arrangements for late arrival as needed. In my experience, schools are typically fairly open-minded about travel as long as it’s for educational purposes!

Sample Group Itinerary (from 2016 Festival):

Day 1
Groups depart from their hometown airports and head overseas to the United Kingdom

Day 2
Groups arrive in London, England and are met by a licensed Blue Badge Guide who will lead them on a panoramic bus tour of London.
The groups are transported by bus to their accommodations, where they will check-in and get settled.

Day 3
This is a free day and each person is provided a tube pass of the day. Each group will attend a theatre performance in London's historic West End Theatre District. Groups may also opt for workshop at the National Theatre or Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Day 4
Load luggage onto trucks for delivery to accommodations in Edinburgh. Groups will be transported to Edinburgh by train. Upon arrival in Scotland, groups will be met by a licensed Blue Badge Guide who will lead them on a guided sightseeing tour of Edinburgh.

Day 5 & 6
Technical Rehearsals
Visit International Collegiate Theatre Festival College Fair

Day 7 - 12
Performances and Audience Viewing Begin! (4 performances and 4 scheduled audiences per group)
Guided full day sightseeing excursion
Attend an evening performance of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
Enjoy a traditional Ceilidh Scottish Dance

Day 13 & 14
AHSTF Closing Ceremony and travel home!
Cost:
The AHSTF lists the cost per student from 2015 at approximately $6500 (airfare costs are not released until one year prior to the trip). This covers:

- Round-trip airfare from Austin to London
- Housing in London
- Housing in Edinburgh (dormitory style)
- Most meals (two per day in Edinburgh, other meals TBD)
- Motorcoach service for all airport and venue transfers, as well as sightseeing
- Guided tour of London
- London theatre ticket
- Train from London to Edinburgh
- Guided tour of Edinburgh
- Technical sessions for theatre performance in Fringe venue
- Performance sessions in Fringe venue
- AHSTF Ceilidh
- AHSTF Closing Ceremony
- Guided excursion to Stirling Castle
- Evening security
- City bus passes and/or rail passes depending on accommodations

We are currently working on fundraising ideas to help students cover the cost of the trip. (In short, don't panic. We have over a year to plan!)
A full payment schedule will be released once applications have been reviewed/accepted.

A deposit of $100 is due with this application which will go towards the cost of your trip. Should the application be reviewed and denied, the $100 will be refunded to you.

Please note:

- **Student applicant must be currently enrolled in a Theatre Arts course at Westlake High School.**
- **Student applicant must also have participated in at least one Westlake Theatre Department production.**
- **Student must be in good overall standing (disciplinary & academic) with WHS and the Theatre Department.**
- **Student must be willing to accept any role (cast/crew) that is assigned to them for the production at AHSTF and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and strictly adhere to trip rules/regulations.**
- **Student must be willing to participate in rehearsals outside of class time during the 2016-2017 school year AND summer of 2017 in preparation for our trip. (A rehearsal calendar will be distributed in the coming school year.)**
- **Student must commit to the payment schedule as will be determined in Spring 2016.**
Student Name ____________________________________________________

Current Grade Level  9  10  11

Email Address ____________________________________________________

Cell Phone # ______________________________________________________

1. Parent/Guardian Contact:
   Name ___________________________  Phone ___________________________
   Email Address _____________________________________________________

2. Parent/Guardian Contact:
   Name ___________________________  Phone ___________________________
   Email Address _____________________________________________________

Application Questions:
(please TYPE your responses, limiting them to 2-3 paragraphs)

1. Explain and describe a time you have learned something specific from participating in a Westlake Theatre production.

2. If accepted into the company of the AHSTF trip, how could you benefit the group as a whole?

3. What are you looking forward to the most about the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and travel to the UK?

Faculty Recommendation:
Use the form attached to gain a recommendation from a WHS faculty member (outside the theatre department) who knows you as a student. Please remind them to turn in their recommendation form by February 22, 2016.

Please submit your application with all supplementary materials and $100 refundable deposit by February 22, 2016.
Checks should be made payable to: Eanes ISD (memo: Westlake Theatre - AHSTF).
Teacher Recommendation Form  
Westlake Theatre Department  
American High School Theatre Festival 2017  

Student Name _______________________________  
Grade Level _______________  

Teacher Name _______________________________  
Subject _______________  

This student seeks a recommendation from you to participate in the American High School Theatre Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland in the summer of 2017. This is a two-week trip in which students will be expected to conduct themselves as upstanding members of the Westlake community, as well as perform on an international stage for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.  

Please complete this recommendation form and submit to Meredith Yanchak via mailbox in NGC or to room 111 (Theatre classroom - NGC) no later than February 22, 2016. Thank you!  

Please rate the applicant’s potential for success based on your experience in the following categories:  

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<thead>
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<th>No basis for judgement</th>
<th>Below average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Above average</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>One of the top few ever encountered</th>
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<td>Openness to new situations and people</td>
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<td>Ability to maintain focus</td>
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<td>Takes responsibility for own actions</td>
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<td>Respect for others</td>
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<td>Ability to collaborate with a group</td>
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<td>Independence and maturity</td>
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<td>Bouncing back after setbacks, academic or otherwise</td>
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<td>Work ethic &amp; time management</td>
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Additional comments:  
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