



January 26, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to participate in Drama Festival 2009: the 50th Annual High School Drama Festival to be held on Friday, May 1, 2009. If you've attended before, we look forward to seeing you and your students again this year. To those who have not yet attended the Oswego Festival, we hope you may join in this celebration of theatre.

The spring Drama Festival production will be *Into the Woods*, presented by the Theatre and Music Departments. This enchanting musical features music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. The plot centers on a baker and his wife who seek to reverse a curse placed on them by the witch next door. On their way to a happily ever after ending, they meet Cinderella, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, two princes, one cow and its owner Jack. Fairy tales are fractured in this witty, irreverent and poignant musical adventure. Stage direction and choreography are by Jonel Langenfeld-Rial, with music direction by Todd Graber. The production features scene design by Tim Baumgartner and costume design by Kitty Macey.

The tentative agenda for Drama Festival '09 is as follows:

8:00-9:00	Registration and Welcome	Tyler Hall / Waterman Theatre
9:00-Noon	School Performances	Waterman Theatre
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Ballroom, Hewitt Union
1:10-2:00	School Performances	Waterman Theatre
2:15-5:15	Workshops	
5:30-7:00	Dinner	Ballroom, Hewitt Union
6:15-7:00	Entertainment T.B.A.	Hewitt Union
7:30	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Waterman Theatre

This year we will expand the workshop sessions from two time slots to three. In an effort to provide a more intimate setting for the "response to the scenes," performing schools will be assigned to a small group workshop session with the respondent.

WOULD YOUR GROUP LIKE TO PRESENT A ONE-ACT PLAY OR SCENE(S) FROM A FULL-LENGTH PLAY OR MUSICAL? We can accommodate seven to nine. The scene must be no longer than 20 minutes. The setting should be minimal, since set up and strike time for each scene is limited. Some basic furniture can be supplied, and our Technical Director will be in touch with you regarding what elements you might bring. A specific floor plan will be provided to schools performing.

If you submit a scene, the final date for submissions is **Thursday, March 5, 2009**. You will be notified if your scene will be included by Friday, March 13. We will keep a list of alternates in case of a cancellation. A letter will follow in early April listing the program and instructions for registration. The choice of scenes for the festival will be made by the coordinator (with a committee) if there are more than nine submissions. The choice will be based on balancing a program (musical, classic, contemporary, original) and giving a school that may not have performed before, a chance. Please adhere to the submission deadlines on the accompanying sheet.

We would like to know as soon as possible if you plan to attend. Since we have limited capacity in Waterman Theatre, we strongly urge you to send us a close estimate of numbers attending by **Wednesday, April 8, 2009**. Our aim is to accommodate as many schools as possible. Groups will be accepted **until we reach capacity**.

Registration fee is \$27.00 per person and includes lunch, dinner, admission to all festival events and the evening performance of *Into the Woods*.

To reduce needless copying, we are placing the registration materials online only. You may download the general registration form, application to perform a scene, scene selection guidelines and a copy of this introductory letter from the website: www.oswego.edu/theatre

If you have questions, please call me at 315-312-2130 or email: mcole@oswego.edu. We hope to see you on Friday, May 1.

Sincerely,

Mark Cole, Chair
Department of Theatre
Drama Festival Coordinator