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Note from the Festival Chair

The Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS) invites you to the 67th New York State Theatre Festival, November 20-22, 2026! We return to Rome, NY, and we're back in the newly renovated Rome Community Theater (RCT). The Festival will be three jam-packed days of outstanding shows, feedback from world-class adjudicators Annette Procnier and Jumbo Schimpf, and time to swap theatre stories with old and new friends from across the State. It's an extra special year, since the winner(s) from TANYS who compete at the Eastern States Theatre Association (ESTA) Festival could potentially perform at the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) national Festival in June 2027.

As they explored potential themes, the Festival Committee reviewed movie musicals from the era that the Festival began. They noted that the film version of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* came out in 1958, starring Mitzi Gaynor, Rossano Brazzi, John Kerr and Roy Walston. And this year's Festival theme was born: **Some Enchanted TANYS!**

Take time to download and read this *Callboard* cover to cover. It includes a preliminary Festival schedule, how to pre-order your Festival shirt, info on the Saturday night Banquet and BMI Supply Design Competition, how to get the special Festival hotel rate, and more. Plan to participate in the Broadway tune singalong at the Banquet! This year, Outstanding Achievement Merit Awards will be presented at the Banquet – with Excellence and Meritorious Achievement Merit Awards presented to recipients who are in the theater at the opening of each performance session, or between shows within a session.

Remember to bring something to donate to the Festival's Silent Auction, and be sure to bid on the variety of items that will be available. We'll also have 50-50 raffles during the weekend. All funds raised from these activities go to the companies whose winning Short Productions continue on to ESTA, to help with their ESTAFest costs. Also back this year are the Festival Banquet centerpiece and costume contests. Dust off your navy uniforms, coconut bras and grass skirts, and bring them along to join our theme fun!

For 2026, TANYS has a **new, lower Festival performance session rate of \$20 per session** (does not include meals). We hope this will encourage everyone, from local residents to friends and family of performing companies, to attend and enjoy all the Festival productions. We request that all attendees pre-register, either online at [TANYS.org](https://www.tanys.org) or by mailing the form in this *Callboard* – and please arrive at the start of a session, not in the middle.

We know that if you come to Festival, you'll have a GREAT time. We look forward to having you attend the entire Festival weekend, and take in all the fun we have planned for our "Enchanted Evenings!"

John Parker, 2026 Festival Chair

Note from the TANYS President

Your TANYS Board of Trustees works very hard year-round to establish the policies and procedures and manage the programs that make our organization and its members stronger. Recently, the Board and I took a hard look at some of the issues we deal with that needed more attention. As with many organizations, our Board meetings (held quarterly) often don't give us enough time for extended reflection, perspective and discussion. It was time for a Board retreat.

On the weekend of June 26-28, seven TANYS Board members and our Administrative Secretary met at Cayuga Community College in Auburn, with an additional three Board members attending via Zoom. We spent Friday evening deciding how we would make the best use of our time as we shaped our weekend schedule. I led a discussion on change and what we must do (and perhaps not do) to achieve the changes we know we need. We agreed on the most important topics we needed to address, and began tackling them on Saturday, giving each topic equal time. Our goal was to vote on all key decisions as policy before leaving on Sunday.

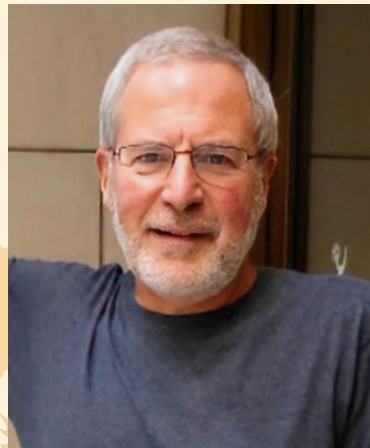
A few "efficiency tools" emerged during our discussions. The action plans for all initiatives clarify the responsibility of each participant, with deadlines for each related task. Two new task forces grew out of

this approach. One addresses promotion of what TANYS offers, including increased use of video and social media to attract and educate new individual members and theatre groups. The other task force is working to reintroduce regional representation to increase TANYS awareness and involvement throughout the State. You'll be hearing more from these groups soon.

On Sunday morning, we held a Board meeting where we officially voted on the decisions and initiatives we formulated over the weekend. Afterwards, as we all prepared to return home, the most common remark I heard was "We got so much done!"

To help us achieve our goals, TANYS is seeking passionate volunteers to help us grow and thrive. We're especially in need of support in two key areas: grant writing to secure vital funding for our programs, and technical assistance with website content updates, email and social media marketing, and creating and editing videos to keep

our outreach fresh and engaging. Whether you're an experienced professional or simply eager to learn and contribute, your skills can make a real difference in strengthening our mission and expanding our impact. Interested? Contact me at rogersouth@aol.com.



Roger Paolini, TANYS President

See you in Rome, November 20-22, for the 2026 TANYS Festival!

Note from the TANYS Administrative Secretary

Do you know that TANYS members can nominate deserving theatre individuals or companies for TANYS awards? Consider the movers and shakers you know, and nominate them for one of these awards:

▪ **Fredric Blumberg Distinguished Volunteer Award:** Recognizes an individual under the age of 65 who has faithfully provided significant and valuable service to community theatre for 15 years or more.

▪ **Sherman C. Ward, Jr. Distinguished Volunteer Award:** Recognizes an individual over the age of 65 who has faithfully provided significant and valuable service to community theatre for more than 25 years.

▪ **Shirley Cockrell Community Theatre Excellence Award:** Recognizes a company that provides exemplary service to its community and aspires to maintain the highest level of artistic achievement. This is the only TANYS award (other than the Ruth R. Legg Memorial Scholarship) that includes a monetary award, in addition to a framed certificate.

All award nominations are due to TANYS by **October 31**. Information on each award and how to apply is at TANYS.org/awards.html.

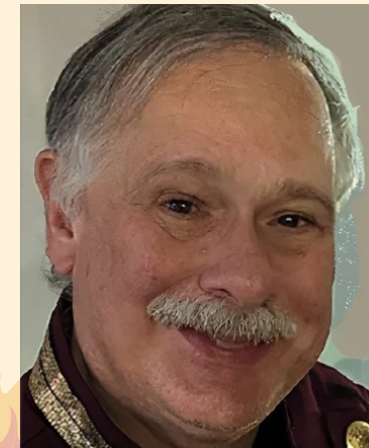
The TANYS Board recently made the following decisions about our printed materials:

- To save on printing and mailing costs, both the Spring and Fall issues of our *Callboard* newsletter will now be available exclusively for download on the TANYS website. Current and recent members on the TANYS postal mailing list receive a postcard with a link or QR code to access the newsletter. **Please share that link/QR code with others in your theatre company!**
- Our annual Festival program will be trimmed down to save on printing costs. The longer historical information that we've traditionally included in the program will now be available on the TANYS website.

TANYS continues to find ways to inspire excellence in theatre communities. By reducing costs for our printed materials, we can allocate more funds to our annual Festival and our nationally-recognized adjudication program.

One more reminder: please plan to renew your membership at Festival! It saves TANYS the time and cost of sending out renewals. See the information on membership in this *Callboard*.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Callboard* – and that your evenings continue to be enchanted. If you have any questions on the information here, or anything else TANYS-related, feel free to email me at info@tanys.org.



John Parker, TANYS Administrative Secretary



Welcome back Annette G. Procnier

Annette Procnier has worked in community, educational and professional theatre for over 50 years. She is a director, designer, stage manager, play polisher, adjudicator and workshop leader.

Since 1979, as a director and dramaturg, Annette has worked for 18 different theatre companies in Canada and the United States, and her productions have won awards and critical acclaim. She is one of the founders of two professional theatre companies in Canada, has served on the boards of opera and theatre companies, and has represented Canada internationally and on the board of Theatre Canada.

As an adjudicator, Annette has participated in festivals in Europe, Canada, Japan, Ireland and the United States, and has judged over 200 festivals in 40 years. She has adjudicated the World Theatre Festival in Monaco for IATA, the World Festival in Halifax, the Liverpool International Theatre Festival, the Maytime Festival in Dundalk, Ireland and the Yakumo International Theatre Festival in Japan. She is proud to have adjudicated the Tournament of Plays for the US Army Europe 13 times. In 2027, Annette will adjudicate AACTFest for the 5th time.

Annette is the author of the only book on adjudication, *Do You See What I See?* She is a fellow of AACT, and the proud recipient of the Mort Clark International Achievement Award.

In recent years she has worked extensively with playwrights in Canada and the United States on script development, and has been a judge in several playwriting competitions including the AACT New Play Fest, the Texas Not for Profit playwriting competition and Playwrights of Spring for Theatre Starts.



Welcome back Jumbo Schimpf

Jumbo Schimpf has worked professionally on scores of productions with dozens of companies since 1998. He has served in a wide range of positions in theatre including actor, carpenter, director, producer, and stage manager. He has lectured on various theatre arts for a variety of schools and during his tenure as Education Director at Greenlight Theatrical.

Jumbo has most recently taught as adjunct faculty at Rowan University. He served as a Trustee at South Camden Theatre Company for 5 years until 2015, and was named one of their charter company members. He has adjudicated and judged a variety of festivals for local theaters, the English-Speaking Union, Delaware Theatre Association, and the Eastern States Theatre Association.

Enter the BMI Supply Design Exhibition and Competition by MID-NOVEMBER!

The 2026 TANYS Festival is just around the corner. And that means the annual BMI Supply Design Exhibition and Competition will also take place November 20-22, 2026. We'll be back at Rome Community Theatre in Rome, NY. (Sorry, not Italy... shucks, maybe someday! LOL!)

C'mon – the actors ALWAYS get to demo their stuff. **Let's KNOCK 'EM OUT with our tech contributions!** You do NOT need to have a show performing at the Festival to enter the BMI Supply Design Exhibition and Competition.

Since 2008, BMI Supply of Glens Falls, NY has been sponsoring the Design Competition and Exhibition at the annual TANYS Festival. TANYS is grateful for their continuing support – and 2026 is no different. Now we're looking for YOU to enter and display your awesome tech: sets, lights, costumes, props, or some other unique, special tech element you created!

Due to the great turnout in our past virtual Exhibitions, we plan to allow both virtual and at-Festival entries this year.

Goto TANYS.org/BMI-Design-Competition.html for specific requirements on how to enter. Either a TANYS member company or an individual member may enter.

On the above web page is an entry form asking for all the pertinent information about your entry. All entries require a Design Statement (500 words max) that explains your process as you developed the design. We recommend that you show your research in this statement. You'll also need photos of your work. And (if available) you can also add sketches and other documentation.

Start gathering those memories and photos of your productions from the past year, and put together a presentation for the Exhibit. **If you want to submit a virtual entry, the deadline is November 13. At-Festival entries must be submitted by November 16.**

Many of you won Merit Awards for your tech work. We sure would LOVE to see your exhibit showing just why you deserved that recognition. Think about it!





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TANYS Festival 2026 preliminary schedule

The 2026 TANYS Festival will take place Friday, November 20 through Sunday, November 22 at Rome Community Theater, 8911 Turin Rd, Rome, NY. We anticipate that each performance session will include multiple productions.

The final, full schedule – with specific times for the TBD items below – will be determined after productions are selected on October 25, invited companies agree to perform, and the technical rehearsal schedule is finalized. The final schedule will be in the Festival program, on the TANYS website (TANYS.org), and announced via email and social media. The specific times shown on this preliminary schedule will not change.

The Festival will conclude early to mid-afternoon on Sunday, after the TANYS Annual Meeting and Festival Awards Ceremony. All Festival awards will be announced immediately after the meeting concludes. Silent Auction results, and payment for bids won, will take place 15 minutes after Performance Session IV concludes.

FRIDAY November 20, 2026

Afternoon (time TBD)..... **Registration opens:** *Rome Community Theater, 8911 Turin Rd, Rome*
6:30 PM House opens
7:00 PM..... **Opening Ceremony:** *Rome Community Theater*
Including presentation of Excellence and Meritorious Achievement Merit Awards
Time TBD..... **Performance Session I:** *at Rome Community Theater*
Time TBD..... **Afterglow:** *El Jarocho Mexican Restaurant and Bar, 1305 Floyd Ave, Rome*
(for SUPERPASS holders ONLY)

SATURDAY November 21, 2026

Morning (time TBD) House opens
Time TBD..... **Performance Session II:** *at Rome Community Theater*
Including presentation of Excellence and Meritorious Achievement Merit Awards
Time TBD..... **Lunch:** *Delta Lake Bible Conference Center, 8912 Turin Rd., Rome*
(for SUPERPASS and a la carte LUNCH ticket holders ONLY)
Time TBD..... **Performance Session III:** *at Rome Community Theater*
Including presentation of Excellence and Meritorious Achievement Merit Awards
6:00 PM **Banquet Cocktail Hour with Appetizers and Cash Bar:**
Delta Lake Inn, 8254 Fish Hatchery Rd, Rome
(for SUPERPASS and a la carte BANQUET ticket holders ONLY)
7:00 PM **Banquet Dinner with Entertainment** – *Delta Lake Inn*
Presentation of Outstanding Achievement Merit Awards - Accompanied Broadway musical singalong

SUNDAY November 22, 2026

Morning (time TBD) House opens
Time TBD..... **Performance Session IV:** *at Rome Community Theater*
Including presentation of Excellence and Meritorious Achievement Merit Awards
Time TBD..... **Lunch:** *Rome Community Theater* (for SUPERPASS & a la carte LUNCH ticket holders)
Time TBD..... **TANYS Annual Meeting and Festival Awards Ceremony:** *Rome Community Theater*

Festival 2026 contacts

VP Festival

Joan Luther
585-374-2356
luther_j@yahoo.com

Festival Chair/TANYS Administrative Secretary

John Parker
315-337-3254
info@tanys.org

Festival Registrar

Sharon Parker
315-337-3254
register4tanys@gmail.com

BMI Supply Design Competition & Exhibition Coordinator

Bob Frame
315-406-2139
framer@cayuga-cc.edu

Festival Technical Director

Sean Arnold
315-941-0123
arnold.sean1@gmail.com

Festival Silent Auction Coordinator

Elizabeth Saunders
315-225-4987
thesaundersclan4@yahoo.com

VP Adjudication Services

Paul Nelson
716-378-0353
paulnelson1979@gmail.com

Festival Emergency Phone

John Parker
315-225-4157

Note from the Festival Technical Team

The Rome Community Theater (RCT) technical staff is excited to welcome your productions into our facilities. Festival Technical Director Sean Arnold will provide technical, facility and scheduling information very soon after the Festival productions are decided on October 25, 2026.

The provided technical information will include Festival contacts; feel free to reach out to them with any questions. If your call is not answered, please leave a message, and they promise to get back to you as soon as possible.

This is a “national” Festival year, which means eligible productions at the 2026 TANYS Festival that continue in competition could potentially perform at the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) Festival in 2027, and must abide by AACTFest rules. An AACT Festival Commissioner, Katrina Ploof, will be present and involved in all technical rehearsals at the 2026 TANYS Festival. We will follow the typical AACT rules: start and end in a 10’ x 10’ box, 10 minutes maximum setup time (load your complete set on the bare stage), and 10 minutes to strike your set completely. Technical rehearsals are planned for 45 minutes, with an AACT Festival Commissioner approved exception to the AACTFest 2027 Handbook. **It is critical that all technical personnel for all performing companies review and be familiar with the AACTFest Handbook.**

Plan now for how you will transport and erect your set within these parameters, and rehearse your stage setup. When the TANYS adjudicators meet on October 25 to choose the Festival productions to invite and decide the performance slots, there’s not a lot of time until Festival. **Planning early is the key to avoid scrambling later!**

RCT and TANYS look forward to working with you to fulfill our promise of promoting excellence in theatre communities. We hope our technical staff and our RCT facilities will enhance your Festival experience. TANYS also hopes you encourage your fellow theatregoers to attend the 2026 “Some Enchanted TANYS” Festival, whether your company is performing or not!

Festival accommodations

The official 2026 TANYS Festival hotel is the **Hampton Inn**, 1352 Floyd Ave, Rome, NY. It’s a 15-minute drive from Rome Community Theater. The Hampton has set aside a block of rooms for the TANYS Festival, at a **special group rate of \$139 per night**. Free hot breakfast is included.

To get this rate, **RESERVE YOUR ROOM AS SOON AS YOU KNOW YOU’RE COMING TO FESTIVAL – DON’T DELAY!** Reserve either online or by phone:

- ONLINE at [Theatre Association Available Rooms - Hampton Inn Rome](#). **Be sure to read the important notes below before reserving online.**
- CALL the Hampton at 315-709-0000 and mention that you’re attending the TANYS Festival.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- If using the link above, check the dates that appear in the URL at the top of your browser – and, if needed, edit the URL so it reflects your check-in and check-out dates and the number of individuals in the room.
- **The ONLINE link above expires on November 2.**
- **The accommodations by PHONE are being released to the general public on November 2.** After that date, reservations will be honored on a space- and rate-available basis.
- All rooms are subject to tax. Tax-exempt status is only granted to reservations where a non-profit organization is paying for the rooms and the organization is tax-exempt. If your theatre company is paying for your accommodations, rooms must be registered under the company name and a tax-exempt form must be provided at the time of registration.

Other hotel accommodations in Rome, NY:

Fairfield by Marriott Inn and Suites

90 Dart Circle
315-334-4244

Ramada Inn by Wyndham

200 S. James St.
315-281-9954

We have heard that some theatre companies prefer all staying together in a more private setting such as a bed and breakfast. There’s a new B&B a quarter-mile from RCT: Petal & Bloom Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast, 9094 Turin Rd. in Rome. It has 5 private suites and can hold up to 17 guests. Call 315-225-3365 if interested.



Other Festival fun

The 2026 TANYS Festival will feature LOTS of fun activities besides performances and adjudications. To take part in these activities, plan to come to the theater at least 30 minutes prior to the start of a session, or during any scheduled breaks. Questions? Contact Festival Chair John Parker at info@tanys.org.

Silent Auction

Each year at Festival, TANYS conducts a Silent Auction of items donated by theatre companies or individual attendees. Past items include artwork, jewelry, gift baskets, theatre-themed items, Festival-themed items and regional New York state items. Consider bringing an item to donate... be creative and have fun with it! We ask that all donations indicate a dollar value amount, so we can determine a good price to start the bidding.

And be sure to participate in the bidding. Bring your cash or your plastic! Our motto is "Bid high and bid often." Silent Auction items make great holiday gifts. All the money raised is provided to the Festival's top winning company(ies) that will travel with their show to the ESTA Festival in Spring 2027. We urge that ALL companies participating in Festival bring a Silent Auction donation from their region! Bidding will close 15 minutes after the end of the Sunday performance session.

Membership Raffle

Join or renew your 2027 TANYS membership at Festival in the membership area. We plan to have several FABULOUS prizes to raffle off to all who join or renew! Prospective members can also turn in the form that's in your Festival goody bag. The membership prize raffle will be held during the Sunday Annual Meeting.

Banquet Costume Contest

Last year, we admit it wasn't easy to construct a costume for our Route 66 theme. But this year's *South Pacific*-based theme "Some Enchanted TANYS" lends itself to plenty of creative costuming ideas. The sky's the limit! The costume winner, selected by the Festival adjudicators at the Saturday night Banquet, will receive a theme-related prize.

Banquet Centerpiece Contest

Last year, there was only one Route 66-based centerpiece, an excellent one created by Jane Jenkins. This year we hope all companies attending the Saturday night Banquet use their imagination and create a theme-based centerpiece. Once again, the Festival

adjudicators will select the winning entry for a themed prize at the Banquet.

50-50 Raffle

At the last Performance Session on Saturday, AND at the Saturday Banquet, TANYS will hold a 50-50 raffle. Like the Silent Auction, all funds raised from these raffles go to our Festival winner(s) for future Festival cycle competition.

Concessions

RCT will be selling coffee, soda, candy and other light snacks at the concession window. On breaks, or before a Performance Session starts, stop by and purchase items of your choice (which can be brought into the theater).

If you're looking for fancier coffee and other types of treats in the morning, just north of the theater at 9000 Turin Rd. is a new bakery, "Nonna's Bakery." Their hours of operation Friday to Sunday are 8AM-3PM.

Entertainment

We plan to kick off the Festival with a short musical number. But the entertainment doesn't stop there. At our Afterglow, we'll have our "hard" theme quiz – so study up on your *South Pacific* trivia. At our Saturday night Banquet, we're planning a Broadway tune singalong. And, we promise some more REALLY FUNNY emcee jokes!

TANYS Merchandise Sale

Besides the Festival shirt sale mentioned in this *Callboard*, TANYS will be selling legacy shirts from past Festivals at "fire sale" prices... plus other TANYS items such as snack dishes, aprons, pot holders, cell phone chargers and more! Plan to do some early Christmas shopping for your loved ones. And look for a merchandise discount coupon in your goody bag.

NEW! TANYS Photo Booth

TANYS has created an Insta-worthy photo booth, planned to be located outside the theater as you walk in. Pose for selfies with your crew, then share on social media with a TANYS Festival hashtag – let all your friends know you're enjoying Festival 2026! You may even win a prize for the best post.

Download the 2026 TANYS Festival registration form

Since *Callboard* is now digital, you can download a hard copy of the 2026 Festival registration form at [TANYS.org/2026-Festival.html](https://tanys.org/2026-Festival.html). Fill out and mail the form with your check to the address on the form.

Or you can register online with a credit card. Visit the above web page, and follow the link to our Eventbrite registration page!

2026 TANYS Festival Registration Form
November 20-21-22, 2026

Theatre Company (if applicable): _____
Name: _____
Name for your Festival badge (if different from above): _____
Preferred Pronouns (optional): _____
Mailing Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
Any special dietary needs for TANYS meals? _____

Choose SUPERPASS REGISTRATION or A LA CARTE REGISTRATION

1) SUPERPASS REGISTRATION – includes the following:

- Friday night Afterglow (with late night appetizers)
- MEALS: Saturday lunch, Saturday night Awards Banquet dinner, Sunday lunch
- PERFORMANCES: All 4 sessions (Friday evening, Saturday morning & afternoon, Sunday morning)

Refer to the CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS below, then circle the amount(s) you wish to purchase:

	TANYS Member*	Non-Member	Qualified Participant**	Student (with ID)
Postmarked by 11/14	\$125	\$185	\$125	\$90
LATE registration: postmarked AFTER 11/14	\$135	\$195	\$135	\$100

2) A LA CARTE REGISTRATION – refer to the CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS below, then circle the amount(s) for the items you wish to purchase:

	TANYS Member*	Non-Member	Qualified Participant**	Student (with ID)	CIRCLE desired Performance Session(s)
Performance Session (EACH)	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	
Saturday Lunch	\$20	\$25	\$20	\$15	FRI evening
Saturday Banquet	\$50	\$60	\$50	\$45	SAT morning
Sunday Lunch	\$20	\$25	\$20	\$15	SAT afternoon SUN morning

CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS

*TANYS Member: You are a PAID Individual Member of TANYS. This is NOT the same as belonging to a theatre company that is an Organizational TANYS member.

**Qualified Participant: Adjudicator, TANYS Board member, TANYS Festival Committee member, or working the Festival (pre-approved) – and ACTORS, DIRECTORS, AUTHORS and TECHNICAL or RUNNING CREW for a Participating Company invited to perform at Festival

Mail your registration form and check (payable to TANYS) to:

Sharon Parker
TANYS Festival Registrar
PO Box 4143
Rome, NY 13442
315-337-3254
register4tanys@gmail.com

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Registrations postmarked after 11/14/26 will incur a \$10 LATE registration fee

Reminders from the Festival Registrar

Hello everyone! We're looking forward to the "Some Enchanted TANYS" 2026 Festival! As your Registrar for the Festival, I have a few reminders to make your experience easier. **Remember: being a member of TANYS will save you some money, as will buying a Superpass for the weekend.** If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

There are four (4) registration categories – TANYS Individual Member, Non-Member, Qualified Participant or Student:

- **TANYS Individual Member** does NOT mean that you belong to a theatre company that's an Organizational member of TANYS. **It means you are a paid Individual member of TANYS.** If you joined TANYS in October-November 2025, you are still considered a member for this upcoming Festival. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please contact TANYS at info@tanys.org.
- **Non-Member:** If you are not a paid Individual member of TANYS, you must register at the Non-Member rate. HINT: if you become a TANYS member now for \$30, you'll instantly **SAVE \$30** on a Festival Superpass! Just indicate on the registration form that you're interested in becoming
- a member, include your \$30 Individual Crew level payment with your Festival registration, and I'll have a membership card waiting for you when you pick up your registration packet.
- A **Qualified Participant** is an **approved participant** at the Festival, such as TANYS Board Members, Adjudicators, Festival Committee – or the actors, crew members, directors or authors for theatre companies who are performing at the Festival. These individuals **MUST** be listed on the participating company's registration form to get the Qualified Participant rate.
- A **Student** is a high school or college student with a current student ID. Please bring your student ID with you to check in at the TANYS registration table.
- If you're not buying a Superpass, go to the **A LA CARTE** section of the registration form and circle the items you want to attend under the category that applies to you.
- **NEW this year: a LOWER \$20 cost to attend a single Performance Session!** This does not include any meals for that session. Pre-registration is still requested.

You can register for Festival online or by mail. To register online and pay by credit card, go to the TANYS website (TANYS.org) and click the Registration link. To register by mail and pay by check, download, print and complete the registration form on the TANYS website (one form per person), and mail your check (payable to TANYS) **no later than Saturday, November 14.** Any registrations postmarked after that date will incur a late fee of \$10 – so be sure to register EARLY!

Sharon Parker
TANYS Registrar

PO Box 4143, Rome, NY 13442
register4tanys@gmail.com
315-337-3254

One company's AACTFest experience

The 2026 TANYS Festival begins the road for a company to potentially participate in [AACTFest 2027](#). As such, TANYS is spotlighting a member company's AACTFest experience. GoJo Clan Productions (at that time known as M&M Productions), specifically Albi Gorn, authored this article for *Callboard*.

"In 2009, I had the good fortune to have my play, *Gornisht*, selected to go the AACTFest in Tacoma, Washington after being successfully selected by adjudicators to advance at both the 2008 TANYS Festival and the 2009 Eastern States Theatre Association Festival. Now, over the years, I have gone to theatre festivals all over the country, and even to a national festival in England. But I have never been as blown away as I was that year in Tacoma.

"When I was waiting at the airport for my plane, I ran into a company from Region 1, New England. They were veterans of prior AACTFests and they told me that I was in for a treat. And they were so right.

"First, the productions. One after another, I watched as sets were constructed right before my eyes, some complex, some simple, but all beautifully tailored worlds for their actors to live in. And the shows ran the gamut from serious musicals to mesmerizing dramas to funky comedies. Every region had a representative show, including one from overseas military bases (if you can imagine all these service members hysterically bopping their way through *Feiffer's People*!).



"And of course, the acting, singing, staging and directing was primo. Every aspect of theatre was on full display. Everything was done with the same fervor and love of theatre that is the hallmark of community theatre everywhere in the world. There were awards as is typical of theatre festivals. My show didn't win anything. But my actors all agreed, the true prize was getting to perform in front of our theatre community buddies from all over the country.

"And an unexpected perk for me was meeting all these 'buddies,' socializing and discussing what we've just seen and trading theatre war stories, including folks talking about how plays performed at AACTFest sometimes get invited to perform in other countries, from Ireland to South Korea.

"I've wanted to go back ever since, and had a couple of close calls. Maybe this year I'll find my way back. AACTFest 2027 will be in Rochester, Minnesota the weekend of June 15-19.

"But the road to the national AACT Festival starts with the TANYS Festival, and having your show adjudicated and selected to go. Remember, there is a strict 60-minute time limit for each production. But what one can do on stage in 60 minutes, as I saw underscored for me in Tacoma, is artistically limitless.

"Hopefully, I'll see you at TANYS, ESTA (Spring 2027) and then later at AACTFest (June 2027)."

Albi Gorn
GoJo Clan Productions

Growing the next generation of theatre with NYSTEА

Are you involved in high school theatre as a teacher, advisor, director, parent helper, costumer, tech person? Maybe some (or all!) of the above? If not, do you know someone who is?

Each winter, the New York State Theatre Education Association (NYSTEА) hosts its Student Conference at the Villa Roma Resort in beautiful Callicoon, NY. This high-spirited weekend is packed with fun and educational theatre workshops, performances, and special events. The 30th Annual Student Conference will take place January 8-10, 2027.

If you're a high school theatre teacher/advisor/director, TANYS encourages you to bring your students to this conference. Students in grades 10-12 attend workshops given by professionals in the field, and they can network with hundreds of other theatre students across New York State in a fun, safe environment. Deadlines for attending are approaching fast! For more information, check out the website at [NYSTEА.org](https://www.nystea.org).



Many high school theatre programs find great value in being members of both TANYS and NYSTEА. The unrivaled TANYS adjudication program can help students and directors continue learning

their craft. If student participants in an adjudicated production are lucky enough to be recognized with a Roving Adjudicator Merit Award, it can be a wonderful tool for directors to advocate for their theatre programs in their school community and with their school administration.

NYSTEА also hosts a Professional Day of Learning for Theatre Educators, alternately held in New York City and upstate NY in September. This year's Professional Development event will be in NYC at Northeastern University NYC (formerly Marymount Manhattan), September 26-27, 2026. For more information, go to [NYSTEА.org/professional-learning1.html](https://www.nystea.org/professional-learning1.html).

Theatre transforms lives, and all children should have access to theatre education. NYSTEА is the leading organization in theatre education devoted to championing innovative, transformative, and inclusive experiences for all students by broadening cultural awareness and embracing diverse perspectives to enrich society. Member benefits include professional development opportunities (Certified CTLE Provider), the annual statewide Student Conference, collaboration with the State Education Department and other arts collectives, arts advocacy, and Honors Excellence in Theatre.

Bonus! TANYS members receive a discount on membership in NYSTEА – and NYSTEА members get a discount on TANYS membership. Contact me at dramamom4562@gmail.com for further information on NYSTEА.

Colleen Law-Tefft
TANYS Board member and NYSTEА Representative

TANYS Promotion Task Force

The TANYS Board of Trustees had a productive retreat at the end of June, where we took an honest look at needs and gaps in our organization. One very important need identified was better promoting TANYS to gain a wider audience. A Task Force was formed, and has met twice since the retreat – focusing first on refining and pinpointing what TANYS has to offer, then putting action plans in place to execute those ideas.

Many of our plans are still in the discovery and early planning stages; we're considering this our "listening tour year" as we make final plans and iron out details. Our Promotion Task Force is dedicated to focusing on what TANYS offers and finding new and creative ways to promote those offerings to new and expanding audiences.

Get ready for the evolution!

TANYS Promotion Task Force
Colleen Law-Tefft, Chair

Members:

Shirley Cockrell
Cynthia Nagle
Paul Nelson
Roger Paolini

TANYS Festival Banquet

We're pleased to share the menu for the TANYS 2026 Festival Banquet, Saturday, November 21 at the Delta Lake Inn in Rome!

6:00-7:00 PM Appetizers:

- Fruit, cheese, crackers

7:00 PM Dinner buffet:

- Salad
- Rolls
- Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Garlic Whipped Potatoes
- Cappelletti Pasta and Broccoli Alfredo
- Chicken Romano
- Grilled Steak Portobello
- Dessert

This year, the Banquet features a Broadway singalong, the popular costume contest and centerpiece contest, a 50-50 raffle and the presentation of TANYS Outstanding Achievement Merit Awards earned by adjudicated member companies during this Festival cycle (November 1, 2025 through October 24, 2026). Join us for an evening of great food, celebration and FUN!



TANYS Adjudication Program update

The Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS) seeks meaningful ways to serve our members. We've enjoyed long and productive partnerships with many groups throughout NYS, and it continues to be a privilege to work with all our member companies.

TANYS serves non-professional theatre across the state, including community and educational theatre programs. We take great pride in offering our annual Festival, a celebration of theatre from all regions of the state – along with educational opportunities including workshops and adjudications.

We hope to keep expanding to serve additional organizations with the **TANYS onsite adjudication program**. This educational program engages the theatre community on many levels, and serves to both grow and encourage theatre excellence across our state.

What is adjudication? How does it work?

Adjudication is an opportunity for a group of theatre practitioners to hear constructive, objective feedback about your production from a colleague who's invested in your organization and its continued success and development.

- **When should an adjudication happen?** An adjudication can take place during the rehearsal process or during the run of your production. The requesting company decides the timing that will work best for them.
- **What's "for learning" vs. "for Festival?"** All adjudications focus on learning, but "for Festival" adjudications also serve as a vehicle to potentially be invited to perform at the annual TANYS Festival.
- **Are there different types of adjudication?** An adjudication can focus on the entire production, or can be requested to focus only on the technical elements of a production.

- **Who can attend?** Those who attend an adjudication can include cast, crew, staff, audience, your theatre company members, etc. – that choice is up to the theatre company requesting the adjudication.

Enhanced services that TANYS provides in our adjudication program

1) Promotion of Merit Awards using YOUR photos

TANYS promotes the Merit Awards earned by member companies at their adjudicated productions in social media (Instagram and Facebook). Ideally, we want to **use your preferred photos** in this promotion. Please make sure you send us your photos along with your responses to your awards notices.

Each photo should be **no larger than 1 MB in file size, in JPG or PNG format, and cropped to SQUARE dimensions (not vertical or horizontal format)**. This will help us post your awards more quickly in social media. Instagram requires square cropping of photos when cross-posting via Meta to Facebook and Instagram (which is our process). If photos are not square, Instagram will auto-crop them – and we prefer not to risk cutting off arms, tops of heads, etc.

2) For educational institutions: Promotion to your administrators

TANYS wants to promote your theatre program's work and successes to all key administrators in your district or on your campus(es). When your adjudication is assigned, please make sure you send us the contact information (name, position, email address) for your school Superintendent, Principal, Dean, Arts Coordinator, and any other key individuals.

3) For community theatres: Promotion in your region

TANYS wants to promote your organization's work and successes in your region. When your adjudication is assigned, please make sure you send us the contact information (media organization name, individual's name if possible, email address) for the local media outlets you value.

TANYS seeks potential adjudicators

We continue to look for invested and qualified individuals to join the TANYS adjudication team. Interested individuals should have a combination of the following traits and skills:

- A passion for theatre
- Love of travel
- Strong collaborative sense/purpose
- Strong public speaking skills
- Knowledge and exposure to multiple theatrical disciplines
- A background in education

If you feel that you qualify and would like to be considered for TANYS adjudication training, email paulnelson1979@gmail.com or call/text (716) 378-0353.

Reminders and practical tips about TANYS adjudication

1. TANYS Organizational member companies **must schedule all adjudications via the Online Request Form** on the TANYS website: [TANYS.org/onlineAdjReq.html](https://www.tanys.org/onlineAdjReq.html). If you have any problems using this form, email tanysfest@gmail.com.
2. **Adjudications for 2026 Festival consideration must take place from November 1, 2025 thru October 24, 2026.** Please note that this year, this submission window end date is one week earlier than in previous years for companies considering submitting for the 2026 Festival.

3. **The 2027 Festival cycle window** opens on October 25, 2026. The end date in 2027 is yet to be determined, but will be approximately 4 weeks before the 2027 TANYS Festival.

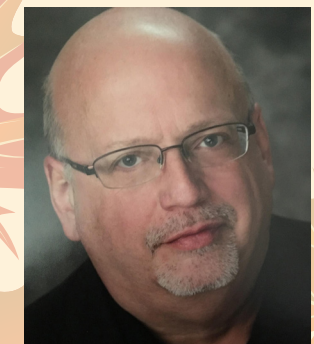
4. **Adjudications for Festival consideration** should **ONLY** be requested if the company intends (if invited) to present their production at the TANYS Festival, which is always in November.

5. **Requests for TANYS adjudication** (whether for learning only or for Festival consideration) should ideally be submitted at the onset of your rehearsal process – but **MUST** be submitted a minimum of one (1) month prior to your desired adjudication date.

6. **Adjudication Evaluation forms** provide valuable post-adjudication feedback that we very much appreciate – and that we use to continually improve our process. Please remember that this evaluation is intended to be an assessment of your experience with the adjudicator at the adjudication. It is **NOT** an evaluation of any awards that were or were not received.

Anyone interested in discussing the TANYS adjudication program may email paulnelson1979@gmail.com or call/text (716) 378-0353.

Much success in all your theatrical endeavors!



Paul Nelson
TANYS VP of Adjudication Services

TANYS People's Choice ballots and Festival evaluation

TANYS provides two ways for Festival attendees to provide feedback: the People's Choice Awards and the Festival Evaluation. We hope you'll take a few moments to complete both!

People's Choice Awards

Before the TANYS Annual Meeting on the last day of Festival (Sunday, November 22), you'll be asked to fill out your **People's Choice ballot**. Only Superpass holders who attended all Festival productions are eligible to vote for these Awards. The People's Choice ballot will **ONLY** be available on paper for Superpass holders, one per goody bag, so make sure to bring it with you to the Sunday performance session – there will be no extras available.

You can vote for one Favorite Production, up to four Outstanding Performers (please include both character and actor name), and Best Technical (for elements such as lights, sound, set and costumes). You'll turn in this form to the person collecting them near the registration desk after the last performance on Sunday. People's Choice winners will be announced during the Sunday Festival Awards ceremony.

We look forward to hearing your perspective on all elements of the TANYS Festival, so that we can bring you the best Festival experience possible in future years!

Festival Evaluation

All Festival attendees will also get a **Festival Evaluation form** in your goody bag. We ask that you fill this out and put it in the Evaluation box in the registration area after the Festival Awards ceremony before you leave on Sunday. (We'll also ask you to turn in your lanyard and badge holder, so we can reuse them – which helps keep costs down!)

The Festival Evaluation gives the Festival committee input from both performing companies and attendees. It includes questions about performances, workshops, food and festivities, registration practices and scheduling, and asks for feedback on the Festival adjudicators. We want to know what Festival events you participated in, what you liked, and what you think needs improvement for next year.

TANYS prefers that you fill out the Festival Evaluation form onsite and turn it in before you leave. If this isn't possible, you can complete an online version of the Evaluation. Instructions for this are printed in the Festival program, and are also included in the Festival goody bags. All online surveys must be completed by December 1, 2026.

2026 TANYS supporters

TANYS thanks the individuals and companies who support TANYS through their higher-level memberships and sponsorships. We GREATLY appreciate their generosity!

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TANYS HIGHER LEVEL MEMBERS

Angel Level Member Organizations

Confetti Stage
Genesee Valley Central School
Oswego Players
Rush-Henrietta Spotlight Theatre

Star Level Member Organizations

Adirondack Center Stage
Auburn High School Musical Club
Auburn Players Community Theatre
Baerhands Theater & Television Inc.
Between the Lakes Community Service Players
GoJo Clan Productions
Hand to Mouth Players
Harlequin Productions of Cayuga Comm. College
Lockport High School Drama Club
Palmer Opera House
Portville Central School Drama Club
South Seneca Middle-High School Falcon Players
Theater Design Inc.
Waterloo High School Drama Club
Wellsville Secondary School Theatre

Producer Level Member Organizations

Kalidas Theater
Seneca Community Players

Angel Level Individual Member

Albi Gorn

Star Level Individual Member

Paul Nelson

Producer Level Individual Members

Ann & Bob Frame
Jane Jenkins
Joan Luther
Cynthia Nagle
Anne Rodgers Pearl
Frances & James Ruoff

TANYS membership has VALUABLE benefits

The TANYS membership year runs from January to December. Please continue to support TANYS with your annual membership! We encourage both individuals and organizations to join or renew in person at Festival (using the form in your goody bag), or anytime online at [TANYS.org/member.html](https://tanys.org/member.html). This saves on postage costs when TANYS mails membership renewal reminders in January.

Individual TANYS Membership

Individuals who join or renew their TANYS membership from October through December get those extra months in their 2027 membership. They can also register for the 2026 Festival at the discounted Individual Member rate, whether for a Superpass or a Banquet-only ticket. **When you join or renew your Individual membership and then buy a Superpass, you'll SAVE \$30 over buying just a Superpass at the non-member rate!**

Those who join or renew at a higher level than basic Crew or Cast (at the Producer, Star or Angel level) get extra benefits, too – like FREE Festival Superpasses, FREE passes to Festival

performance sessions, and recognition in the TANYS *Callboard* and Festival program. And Angel level members get a free Individual membership in the American Association of Community Theatre.

Organizational TANYS Membership

Organizational memberships run January to December only. The Basic level rate increases after March 31, and again after June 30 – so make sure to join or renew before March 31 to pay the lowest membership rate. Only Organizational members of TANYS are eligible to request adjudications and potentially earn Roving Adjudicator Merit Awards.

Higher-level Organizational members get valuable extra benefits too – like FREE adjudications, a FREE Festival Superpass, FREE passes to Festival performance sessions, recognition in the TANYS *Callboard* and Festival program, and Festival discounts for their season ticket holders.

Thank you to all our members – we truly appreciate you. And we can't wait to see you at the 2026 Festival in Rome!

Looking for an original play?

Is your company looking for original plays to produce – either full-length or one-act? TANYS is in contact with playwrights who are looking for new venues for their unpublished works. The rights to these plays are held by the authors, so they are available at little or no cost to TANYS member companies.

And do you know of any writers who might like to be added to our small but growing pool of playwrights? This is a win-win for anyone either currently producing original plays, or interested in doing so in the future, so let's share our resources.

Also: if your company is interested in producing a one-act festival for the first time and you're looking for some advice, I'm your gal! I've been producing an award-winning one-act festival in the lower

Hudson Valley for over 30 years, and I'm more than happy to share my expertise.

Lastly, in case you didn't know: any original one-act play produced by a TANYS member company that's adjudicated in either 2026 or 2027 is eligible to be submitted to the next ESTA Original Works Festival, which will take place in Spring 2028. The only other stipulation is that the play must run under an hour. For more information, check out the ESTAFest website: [ESTAFest.org](https://estafest.org).

Interested in any of the above? Please contact me at apearl315@gmail.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Anne Rodgers Pearl
TANYS Playwrights & New Works
Committee Chair

Order your 2026 Festival shirt

Pre-order your short-sleeve or long-sleeve Festival shirt now! The 2026 Festival logo will be printed on the front, with all Festival productions and companies on the back.

We strongly suggest pre-ordering to get the color, size and style you want. Limited quantities, sizes and colors will be available at Festival, for \$2 more than pre-order prices.

Since *Callboard* is now digital, you can download a hard copy of the 2026 Festival shirt order form at [TANYS.org/2026-Festival.html](https://tanys.org/2026-Festival.html). Fill out and mail the form with your check to the address on the form.

Or you can order online with a credit card – just visit the above web page and follow the shirt pre-order link!



2026 Festival Shirt Pre-Order Form

Pre-order your short-sleeve or long-sleeve Festival shirt in ANY of the colors below! The 2026 Festival logo will be printed on the front, with all Festival productions and companies on the back.

We strongly suggest pre-ordering to get the color, size and style you want. Limited quantities, sizes and pre-order prices.

All pre-orders are due by NOVEMBER 6!

You can pre-order your Festival shirt in any of these 25 colors!

Safety Green	Orange	Military Green	Light Pink	Light Blue	Indigo Blue	Dark Heather	Charcoal	Maroon
Safety Orange	Cardinal Red	Graphite Heather	Sport Grey	Irish Green	Garnet	Black	Red	Royal Blue
Purple	Ash Grey	Carolina Blue	Gold	White	Navy	Forest Green		

Mail this order form and check (payable to TANYS) to:

TANYS
PO Box 4143
Rome, NY 13442

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____