

# Surviving and Thriving in a Small School







# BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Register your attendance.

*Complete this form for each session you attend.*

Session numbers  
are in the program.

CAP  
CON  
2024



Rosters

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# Who are we?

**Craig Hertel**  
**[craighertel@gmail.com](mailto:craighertel@gmail.com)**

**Haley Hertel**  
**[haley.hertel@tiogaisd.net](mailto:haley.hertel@tiogaisd.net)**





# Common Struggles

## of a small school and OAP



### No budget

- Set
- Costumes
- Props
- Royalties and scripts



### No stage

- Creating a space
- Lighting
- Sound



### Sharing Students

- Recruiting
- Scheduling



Teaching multiple subjects / no theatre background

# No budget?

## Costuming

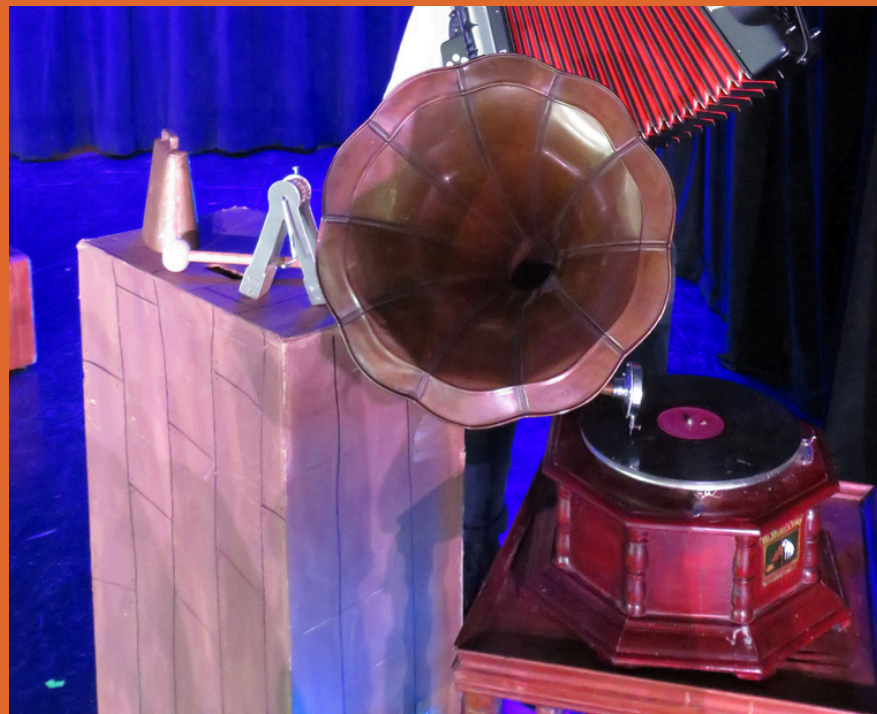
- Goodwill or other second hand stores
- Ask around - parents, community theatres, colleges, mass emails
- Beg and borrow
- Elegantly Frugal Costumes by Shirley Dearing
- Sewing / Pinterest
- Rent - last resort

## Set

- Unit set - accumulate a piece at a time
- Cubes, ladders, benches, umbrellas, trunks - creative uses for these
- Ask ag department to build
- Goodwill, garage sales
- Actors as scenery
- ASK!!!







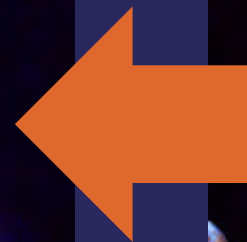
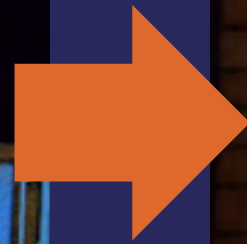
# Props

- Collect cardboard - ask custodians
- Pantomime props
- Kids bring from home
- Evaluate specialty items - can you use a common item creatively?
- ASK!!

# Royalties

- Public domain shows
- Dramatists, Dramatic Publishing, Concord all have OAP rates
- Print vs digital scripts
- Smaller playwrights will sometimes work with you (Charles Mee, Finegan Kruckmeyer)











# Fund raising

Getting more bang for your buck

## Talent Show

\$3 ticket to get out of class  
Get donated prizes - Chick-fil-A, local restaurants, etc.  
People's choice award



Silent Auction  
Bake Sale  
Can be combined with any show  
Kids bring dessert, \$10 minimum  
Past show shirts auction



Fall show  
Public domain - nothing but profit  
Get little kids involved - wider audience and build program  
Get faculty involved  
Publicize like crazy - newspaper, school drop off



Haunted House  
Use unit set for walls, cut trash bags  
Build onstage, hallway, gym, etc.  
Partner with Fall Festival





## Summer Theatre Camp

- High school students run camp for elementary
- Prop building, theatre games and warm ups, puppets, dancing, etc.
- Cost - art supplies and snack



## Dinner Theatre

- Partner with FCS class/ FCCLA and split profit
- Parent sign up
- Tickets for meal and show or just show
- Reserved seating at extra cost
- Theme dinner with the show

## Headshot Stars

Parents can write notes to company on a cut out star for \$1; attach to headshot



## Write your own shows

- Halloween, Christmas
- Fairy tales
- Perform for public or elementary
- Senior Directed





# Summer Camp

[Sample Schedule](#)

[Sign Up Form](#)

# Talent Show

[Talent Show To Do List](#)

Tioga Theatre Presents...

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Summer Theatre Camp

for incoming 3rd - 6th graders

July 26-28 from 9 am - 12 pm

Students will learn theatre games, make props, learn a dance, and get to be in the HS Fall production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream!*

**\$45 per student** - includes a daily snack and one ticket to the performance!

Performances will be September 23rd, 24th, and 25th at the THS Cafetorium

Proceeds benefit the Tioga Theatre Department and their trip to Texas Thespians Festival!

## PARENT INFO

**CALL TIMES**

- SEPT. 18 - DRESS REHEARSAL FROM 5-6 PM ONSTAGE - COME IN COSTUME AND MAKEUP FOR PICTURES!
- SEPT. 23 - SHOW DAY! CALL AT 5:15
- SEPT. 24 - SHOW DAY! CALL AT 1:45
- SEPT. 25 - SHOW DAY AND STRIKE! CALL AT 5:15 PM

**THEATRE DEPT. WISHLIST**

**DANCE REVIEW VIDEOS**

**WHAT TO WEAR**

The right shows some inspiration pics along with a color palette at the top

- Anything you have at home can work! Please don't feel like you need to purchase a costume, but thrift shopping is always fun!
- Keep costumes loose and airy - wings are optional!
- You can add makeup if you want - anything whimsical!



# When to Spend?

## Clinics

- At your contest sites
- With reputable directors and adjudicators - consider style and experience
- Just ask clinicians about discounts!

## Royalties and Scripts

## Reusable Items

- Good versatile costume pieces
- Set pieces that can be reused
- Z RACKS!!





# No Stage?

## Rehearsing

- Gym, cafeteria, commons, classroom, hallways
- Tape out dimensions on floor with curtain legs – put stuff in the way
- Use environments that fit the scene – forest, playground

## Performing

- Gym and cafeteria
- Local churches
- Local park stages

## At Contest

- Rehearse your stage dimensions
- Use the entire stage – don't be afraid of taking up space
- Bring a tape measure or template – spike from edge of the apron, bring in legs





# No Stage?

## SOUND

- Run off iPad – borrow from library
- Run off phone on airplane mode
- Purple-planet.com
- freesound.org
- Storyblocks – \$60/month
- GoButton – free version
- Sound live onstage – actors, instruments, foley, speaker

## LIGHTING

- DIY Lighting – hunting flashlights, diy gels with binder dividers, chicken coop lights, Amazon LEDs
- DIY Dimmer
- Prepare your light person – use an old broken lightboard, sliders on paper, picture of the board from the contest site, writing a cue sheet



# Go Button

The screenshot shows a DJ software interface with a dark background. At the top left, there is a green button labeled "Go 2" and a red button labeled "Stop". To the right of these buttons is a digital display showing "00:37". Below the buttons is a playlist of nine songs, each with a colored circular icon (1-9) and a progress bar. The second song, "I've Got The Question Right for Live 2", is currently playing, indicated by a large white number "2" and a red octagonal stop sign icon. To the right of the playlist, there are three buttons: "Fade In", "Loop", and "Fade Out". A vertical volume slider is on the far right, with a yellow bar at the top and a green bar at the bottom. A "DIM" button is also visible above the volume slider.

# DIY Dimmer





CUE INFORMATION			LIGHT AREAS/WASHES/CYC																					
Cue #	Time	line	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Area 11	Area 12	Area 13	Area 14	Area 15	RW	BW	GW	RC	BC	GC	
2 Blackout																								
1		opening																						
2	1	my assistants at today	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80						
3	0	Chp. 1	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80										100		
4	2	My early years are	80	80	80																	100	100	
5	2	"After we had rowed about..	80	80															100			100	100	
6	2	Years go by	80	80	80																	100	100	
7	0	the real world	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80				100		75
8	0	what more could possibly			80					80									100			100		
9	1	and stay out! dirty ole sea	80	80	80																	100	75	

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## COMMUNICATE

Create a calendar as early as possible and share with entire staff and all interested students  
Over communicate!!

## INDIVIDUAL SCENES

Work individual scenes with those specific actors instead of entire company

## APPEAL TO OTHERS

Get football coach/players in fall show  
Go to concerts and sporting events  
Use instruments, dance, or other strengths in your shows

## GET CREATIVE

Lunches, before school, after school, activity periods, finished early in class  
Start the rehearsal process earlier in the year

Date	Place	Time	Event	Who
5/23-26	Cafetorium	Class	Midsummer Auditions	All interested +
5/25	Cafeteria	6:00 PM	Thespian Induction	High School
7/24	Cafetorium	1:00 PM	Leadership team meeting	Senior leads
7/25	Cafetorium	1-4 pm	Camp set up	Midsummer Co
7/26-28	Cafetorium	9 - noon	Midsummer camp	Company + Bab
8/8	First Day	8:00 AM	First Day of School	All
9/11	Cafetorium	1-4 pm	Rehearsal	All
9/18	Cafetorium	1-4 pm	Rehearsal	All
9/18	Cafetorium	5-6 pm	Rehearsal	All + Baby Bullo
9/23	Cafetorium	6:00 PM	Midsummer Performance	All + Baby Bullo
9/24	Cafetorium	2:30 PM	Midsummer Performance	All + Baby Bullo
9/25	Cafetorium	6:00 PM	Midsummer Performance	All + Baby Bullo
9/26-27	Cafetorium	Class	Dinner Theatre Auditions	Production
9/28-30	Galveston	All Day	Hertel gone to TxETA	Hertel
10/28	Cafetorium	7-10	Haunted House	Tech
11/6	Cafetorium	1-4 pm	Tech Rehearsal	All
11/11	Cafetorium	6:00 PM	Dinner Theatre	All
11/16-18	Grapevine	All Day	Texas Thespians	Thespian mem
???	Cafetorium	TBA	Middle School OAP Public Performance	Anyone who ca
???	????	TBA	Middle School OAP Rehearsal and Contest	Hertel
11/20-21	Cafetorium	Sign up for slot	OAP Auditions	All



# Sharing Students



# In charge of JH OAP also?

- Have a few high school "helpers" you trust
- Choose what you're comfortable doing
  - Approved list
  - Shows you know
  - Shows you've been in

# No time for OAP?

- Consider shows that are episodic
- Break your script down into units/scenes/sections
- Divide and conquer scenes
- Come into every rehearsal with a plan
- Set a memorization date for students
- Accept you have no time and just dive in!



# Final Pieces of Advice

Have a good  
attitude



The kids are  
looking at  
**YOU**



Embrace  
the things  
that are  
great about  
small  
schools



# Questions?

Feel free to get in touch with us.

Don't forget your survey!

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# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Registration link,  
presentations and handouts  
are available on the website.

*Remember to register your  
attendance for each session.*

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Handouts & More