

# Bi-District 17/18 – 3A HS OAP Competition

March 24, 2025 at the Connally HS Auditorium (Waco, Texas)

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*Please complete your registration via the [Speechwire Entry Database](#) within 24 hours of advancing from your district competition. Additionally, please email me a high-quality photo of your company for the program.*

Congratulations on advancing from your district competition! I am incredibly excited to serve you and your students as you present the product of your countless hours of hard work!

*Don't forget to complete the [contest evaluation form](#) for your District competition!*

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## CONTEST STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Michael Donaldson**  
Contest Manager  
[mDonaldson@connally.org](mailto:mDonaldson@connally.org)  
(254) 640 – 5785

**Amaya Abalos**  
Host Site Coordinator  
[aaabalos@connally.org](mailto:aaabalos@connally.org)  
(254) 495 – 5834

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## JUDGE INFORMATION:

I am very pleased to announce that we have an OUTSTANDING panel of adjudicators to work with your students.

**Tonya Harper (acting judge)** began her theatre career at the age of 9, after she witnessed her first high school one act play contest at her local high school. After high school, she majored in theatre education at Baylor University and later did work in the masters stage management program at the Krannert Center at the University of Illinois. She then began her longest lifework with Texas theatre students, working with both high school and middle school artists during the course of her 27-year theatre educator career, directing full-length shows, musicals, cabarets, and competition one act plays. In the Fall of 2022, after her 40<sup>th</sup> UIL OAP (27 at the high school level and 13 at the middle school level), Tonya began a new journey in coordinating programs outside the classroom. During those 40 OAP seasons, she won and lost at every level – experiencing the excitement of advancing to the state meet multiple times, the agony of disqualification for time at the regional level, and the honored frustration of alternate placements all along the journey. Tonya's belief that theatre teaches its practitioners the greatest

levels of human empathy drives her desire to continue to work with young artists along their theatrical, and eventual life, journeys.

**Larry Carpenter** has been an adjudicator since 2010 and has judged more than 450 shows from all over Texas in all conferences and all levels. Larry has directed one-act plays in conferences 1A-5A, advancing to area, region, and state along the way. Additionally, he has directed more than 50 shows at the high school, middle school, elementary, and community theatre levels. Several of his students have gone on to either college or professional theatre in New York, California, Washington, and here in Texas. He is currently the Treasurer Elect for the TTAO Board of Directors and administers the Contest Manager trainings on behalf of the organization. He proudly serves as the Director of Fine Arts for Waco ISD.

**Phillip Taylor** has a Master of Arts in Theatre Education from the University of Houston and a BS from The University of Texas at Austin. He is a doctoral candidate at the University of Houston. As a director, he advanced to the UIL One-Act Play State Meet in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015, winning the State Championships in 2012 and 2013. He taught high school and middle school theatre in conferences 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A. He sponsored several other UIL Academic Events and coached students to the State Meet in Prose, Poetry, Persuasive Speaking, CX Debate, and the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition. He has conducted various theatre/speech workshops and OAP clinics for middle school and high school programs around the state. He has served as a UIL One-Act Play State Judge, as well as a TAPPS One-Act Play Regional & State Judge. He is an active member of Texas Thespians, TTAO, and TxETA, serving on various committees and boards. Currently, as the Director of Fine Arts for Austin ISD, he oversees various fine arts programs and initiatives that directly support 125 campuses.

***Please make plans to send your scripts via overnight mail to our adjudicators AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER ADVANCING. Make sure to include the following information on your script: "SCHOOL NAME, Bi-District 17/18-3A OAP at Waco Connally, March 24".***

**Tonya Harper**  
157 Hughes Road  
Whitesboro, TX 76273

**Larry Carpenter**  
7525 Brentwood Circle  
Waco, TX 76712

**Phillip Taylor**  
1305 Webberville Road  
Austin, TX 78721

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## **VENUE SPECIFICS:**

A complete unit set is available for all participating schools (including door and window units). A cyclorama is available for schools that wish to use it. The use of fog IS permissible in this venue.

This venue has an ETC Ion Console with a combination of LED and incandescent fixtures. There are 15 lighting areas, each controlled by subs (1-15). Washes and cyc lights are LED and available in any color.

The house sound system can be controlled from both the booth. Schools may use an aux cord to hook up to the sound system. It is recommended that schools bring their own sound systems to run from the wings. The venue has six wireless headsets for companies to use for communication between backstage and the booth.

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## **LOAD IN/LOAD OUT PROCEDURES:**

Upon arriving for your official rehearsal, please CALL ME at (254) 640 – 5785. A member of the contest staff will come to greet you and let you into the auditorium.

Please enter through the side door of the auditorium. As you pass the main entrance of CHS and head down Cadet Way, you'll see an alleyway on the left side that leads to the side/back of the auditorium. Buses will typically stay on the main road while unloading students and then go and park across the street at the football stadium. Trucks/trailers can be backed into the alleyway for easy unloading next to the auditorium doors.

Each school will load out immediately following their performance at the conclusion of their 7-minute strike period. Please have your bus/trailer positioned and ready to go as soon as your performance begins. Having a smooth load out process will help us keep the contest moving as quickly as possible.

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## **OFFICIAL REHEARSAL PROTOCOL:**

This is a ONE DAY contest. Rehearsals will occur in the morning and performances will begin in the afternoon. The rehearsal/performance order was determined through random draw and is determined based on show title:

### **Official Rehearsal Schedule:**

8:30 – 9:30 – District 17, Title C  
9:30 – 10:30 – District 17, Title A  
10:30 – 11:30 – District 18, Title B  
11:30 – 12:30 – District 17, Title B  
12:30 – 1:30 – District 18, Title A  
1:30 – 2:30 – District 18, Title C

The first moments of your official rehearsal will be reserved for me to check over your required paperwork/any prop weapons/alcohol, etc. During the rehearsal period, I must see the opening and closing sequence of your show as well as any instances of stage combat. Other than that, you can use the rehearsal period to do whatever you would like, but you must begin clearing the stage in the last 10 minutes of the period.

**\*\*If travel distance is a concern for your company, please reach out to me ASAP so that adjustments can be made.\*\***

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### **CONTEST PERFORMANCE ORDER:**

The director's meeting will occur at 2:45 PM. The first show will begin at 3:15 PM, and the remaining performances will occur on a rolling schedule.

The performance order is as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – District 17, Title C
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – District 17, Title A
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – District 18, Title B
- 4<sup>th</sup> – District 17, Title B
- 5<sup>th</sup> – District 18, Title A
- 6<sup>th</sup> – District 18, Title C

Critiques will occur **PRIOR** to the awards ceremony. Please make your way back to the house as quickly as possible to allow for us to start the process as soon as we can.

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### **COMPETITION ENTRY FEES:**

There is a \$1000.00 entry fee for each competing school in this contest. Checks should be brought with you to the competition and turned into the contest manager at the start of your official rehearsal.

Checks should be made out to:

Connally ISD  
ATTN: Michael Donaldson, UIL Director  
200 Cadet Way  
Lacy Lakeview, TX 76705