

STUDENT HONORS

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

- **Playwriting Award**
Submissions are due in January.
See website for submission information: oregonthespians.org
- **Oregon Thespian Scholarships**
Due 1st Week in March.
See website for submission information: oregonthespians.org
- **The Alan J. Adams Tech Scholarship**
Due 1st Week in March.
See website for submission information: oregonthespians.org
- **Melba Day Sparks Scholarship**
Due 1st Week in April
See website for submission information: oregonthespians.org

Oregon Thespians offers \$500.00, \$400.00, and \$300.00 scholarships each year. Applicants for the Oregon Thespian Scholarship must be Thespian members in good standing. The committee chair, selects a committee of Troupe Directors and professionals to judge the scholarships and presents the awards at state conference.

The Alan J. Adams Tech Scholarship is available to a graduating senior who plans to pursue technical theatre as either a major or minor at any Oregon College or University. Well known for his skills in technical theatre, former Western Oregon State College theatre professor, Dr. Allen J. Adams has been honored by the Oregon Theatre Arts Association in the establishment of this technical theatre scholarship.

The first Melba Day Sparks-Henning scholarship was awarded in 1997. Scholarship money for students is available in different amounts, depending on the interest that the original endowment draws each year. The scholarship committee, made up of theatre advisors & professionals invited by Larry Daw, the endowment administrator, selects as many students as it deems worthy to receive monies from the interest the endowment draws. The scholarship is renewable.

Troupe Directors are also able to apply to the Melba Day Sparks-Henning Fund for financial assistance to attend the annual EdTA Conference. Contact the Chapter Director for further information.

PLAYWRITING AWARD:

Students may submit a play for adjudication and potential cash award and/or presentation at the State Festival. Submissions are due in January. Judges consist of Troupe Directors who do not have students entered, or judges may be outside people with knowledge of playwriting. The dollar amount and type of award shall be determined by the state board and announced no later than the first Saturday in February (to allow for possible presentation at the State Festival).

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Scholarships will be given according to the financial situation of the association. Each year Oregon Thespians will try to give one \$500, one \$400 and one \$300 scholarship. More may be given if funds are available and as voted on by the State Board.

Criteria for selection will include: High scholarship in all areas with a minimum GPA of 3.0. The student must be in their senior year (12) of school. All applications are due by the time designated by the scholarship committee chair or state board each year.

Scholarships will be given to those who will minor or major in theatre arts, are bonafide Thespian members of a troupe that is current with its dues, have significantly contributed to theatre in their school, community theatre and other activities. Judging will be done by a committee of three Troupe Directors or educational/theatre professionals, appointed by the state director or his representatives.

No one on the committee may be in any way related to or work with any of the students to be considered for the scholarship. Each member will judge independently from the others. The chapter director or committee chair will compile the results and present the scholarship awards at the April conference.

Each winner will be given a certificate and a letter of instruction informing them that they must submit proof of college registration. The check will be sent to the registrar to be applied to their account. No funds will be given directly to the students. It is recommended that all scholarship funds be sent directly to International who will oversee the distribution.

Each applicant will submit:

1. A transcript showing through the 1st semester of their senior year.
2. An official entry form.
3. A letter describing their activities in school theatre, other activities, their future plans, and any extraordinary circumstances.
4. Two letters of recommendation, one from the applicant's troupe director.

Melba Day Sparks-Henning, 1915 - 1993

Melba Day (Sparks) Henning was a leader among leaders for educational theatre. A teacher in the Portland, Oregon school system for thirty years, she established Thespian Troupe 124 at Jefferson High School in 1948 and Troupe 1782 at Madison High School in 1957. She served as Oregon's State Thespian director for eleven years, beginning in 1957, and hosted the 1966 national conference—the only national Thespian conference ever held outside of Indiana until 1994.

Ms. Henning was elected to the board of trustees in 1968, served as assistant international director from 1968 to 1970 and as international director from 1970 to 1972. During her term as international director, she spent more time at ITS's headquarters than at her own school. She developed the first written policies for volunteer leaders, designed the play marathon system now used at the Thespian Festival, and designed a successful campaign to raise funds for the current EdTA headquarters. She served on numerous other policy-forming committees (word has it that she holds the record on length of committee work sessions). An EdTA staff member once said of Ms. Henning, "Melba Day is a little Audrey Hepburn, a lot Loretta Young. She was an inspirational teacher who made sure her students set off on the right path in life."

Melba died December 24, 1993.