NO CANDLES OPTION

Welcome

Agenda

Recap of the year

Awards

During the sixth century before Christ, one of the writers of tragedy who won the approval of the priests at the Festival of Dionysus was Thespis. About 535 B.C. a new dimension was added to drama when Thespis, a prominent leader of the chorus, stepped from that group and recited portions of the drama alone, thereby becoming the first actor. We also believe that it was he who first used masks so that a person could portray more than one part. In honor of this early Greek playwright, all actors are called Thespians.

The International Thespian Society began in 1929. Named for Thespis, the goal of the Society is to give young adults a place for outstanding theatre where the standards of excellence in theatre arts will be advanced, and to honor those students who do theatre well. The Society continues to be guided by the principles of its founders: a belief that participation in the arts is an essential means of widening students’ cultural horizons and enriching their lives.

At this time we would like to honor all of our Thespians. Would those who have already been inducted please rise?

Those students and alumni currently standing earned the honor of being a member of the International Honor Society through hard work, sacrifice, and dedication, giving 100 hours or more to the art we all hold so dear. Thespians, we thank you and honor you for your work (applause)

Each year our Troupe elects officers. These are the students who are tasked with leading our Troupe through the school year, helping us to be a beacon of light to our community, reaching out and using our talents to brighten the world. At this time I am pleased to announce the officers for the 2014-15 school year. Officers, when you hear your name, please stand at your place to be recognized.

*Name Offi cers. Applause.*

Please be seated.

Today is a special day for two groups of Thespians – those who are leaving us to continue their journey elsewhere, and those who are just beginning their Thespian walk. At this time, I invite all graduating members of Troupe 3556 to please join me on the stage.

Before you stand students who’ve given much of their time through their high school careers to our department. Tonight, as they close this chapter of their lives, we take the time to recognize their achievements and thank them for all they’ve done for us.

*Start at one end, give student’s name, achievements, and points earned/rank. Medal around neck. Work way down until we’re done.*

Throughout your theatre career at Reynolds High School, your sacrifices and dedication have not gone unnoticed. As numerous as the grains of sand in these jars, so too has your effort been. Please pour the sand, representative of all your work, into the Thespian vessel.

Tonight is not just a night to say goodbye. While we send off our graduating seniors, we also have the privilege to welcome a new group of Thespians into the society. These students have earned the right to be called Thespians by doing excellent work in the theatre and it is with great joy that we invite them to join the ranks of so many others who’ve gone before them.

*Call students to the stage. Have seniors read a bit about what they’ve done to earn the honor and light their candles.*

In their respective final and first acts as President, Tabitha Card and Sarah Kudrna will lead you in the Society pledge.

TABITHA: I promise to uphold / the aims and ideals of the International Thespian Society. / I am a student of theatre and excellence is my ideal. / I promise to perform my part as well as I can; / to accept praise and criticism with grace; / to cooperate with my fellow Thespians / and work for the good of the troupe; / and to share my love of theatre.

SARAH: The pledge that you have just taken binds you to the principles and ideals of the International Thespian Society. As Thespians, we are called to do the tasks assigned to us, to cooperate with troupe officers and fellow students as well as teachers and administrators in helping to raise the standards of excellence in all areas of our experience. We are to refrain from any action that may hinder the work of the troupe and we are to conduct ourselves so that we may gain the respect of our school community. We welcome you as new Thespians and urge you to use your talents to act well your parts as you add your efforts to those of the members who’ve gone before you.

STEENSON: By the authority delegated to me by the International Thespian Society, I now declare you members of Troupe No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(school name).

 Congratulations and welcome to the International Thespian Society. Always remember our motto which comes from Alexander Pope’s ‘Essay on Man’: ‘Act well your part; there all the honor lies.’ At this time we ask that you step forward and sign your name in the membership book, as well as add your own sand to the Thespian vessel.

We are coming to the close of our evening, and there is but one act left for this year. At this time, I would like to invite all of those leaving our department this year to the stage.

The time has come for this show to close. Wherever your journey may take you, we hope that you will travel with us in your heart, holding dear the memories you made while you were a part of our department. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your lives for this brief time and know that you always have a home here with us. You have had many curtain calls while you were with us, and now it is time for the last one. Please bring our 2013-2014 season to a close with your final bow.

Thank you for joining us tonight. Enjoy your evening.

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Throughout your theatre career at Reynolds High School, you have been a shining light for the arts. It is with great joy that I light your candle, which represents all you’ve done to light the way for those who come after you.

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If the glow of the achievements of ages past in all art forms is to continue to brighten the path of humanity and help civilization grow, then the theatre must remain a vigorous part of that enlightenment and growth. As you now extinguish your candles, resolve to always let the flame glow in your hearts and fuel your desire to let your candle shine more and more brilliantly as you act well your part.

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