



UACTT NEWSLETTER

Utah Advisory Council for Theatre Teachers

Empowering Utah's Theatre Educators for Student Success



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UPCOMING EVENTS

* UTA Conference Registration Due

December 1, 2025

Be sure to complete registration if you haven't already

* UTA Conference

January 22-24, 2026

This year it is located down at SUU

* UACTT Conference

July 8-10, 2026

The annual conference to fuel our fire as theatre teachers and artists

A Message from UACTT President

Elinda Nedreberg

Hello fellow theatre teachers,

Season's Greetings, everyone! I hope you are all survived the last few weeks before the break. As I think about this organization in my last month as president, I can only think about how grateful I am to each and every one of you. You all have, over many years, shown me what it means to truly have a community to rely on. You step up when someone needs costumes, props, or just reassurances that they are doing a great job. I know that my program would not be the same without so many of you.

Thank you all for the opportunity I have had to serve as your president. I hope all of your holidays are peaceful, restful, and full of everything you desire. You all are some of the hardest working people I know, and you deserve this break! Enjoy & Happy Holidays!

About Our President

Elinda Nedreberg has served as our president for 3 years but has been an experienced teacher teaching for 20 years. She has taught in Davis and Nebo School Districts, with the past six years at Tintic High School in Eureka, teaching Language Arts and Theatre. She loves music, reading, and hiking, and she is highly qualified to teach German but has never had the opportunity.



Teacher Feature

What piece of advice do you have for teachers?

My best advice is first, to be compassionate with yourself and craft a work/life balance that works for you. Your program doesn't need to look like anyone else's cause your students need what YOU can offer. Second, find more joy in the process rather than focusing on the product. You cannot control who loves your work, but you can create a space for students to feel seen, heard, and loved. The process matters.

Linze Struiksma

School: Alta High School

Years Teaching: 14

Hobbies: I travel a LOT and love playing travel agent to plan out everything. I also love singing, puzzles, books, baking, and spending time with those I love.

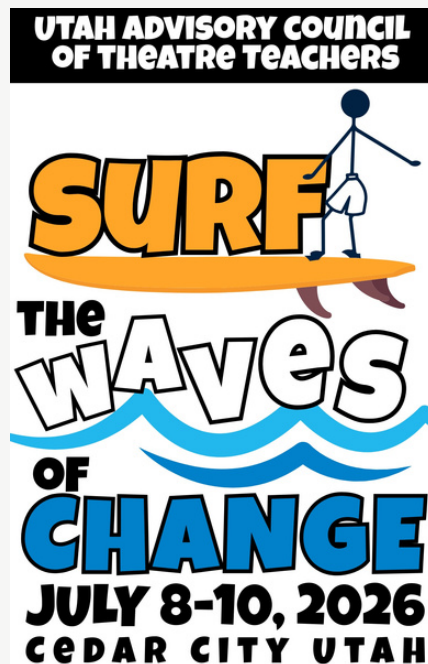
Treat: My favorite treat always switches... but anything with a sweet and salty combo - or anything with cheese! Oh, and I'm a Diet Pepsi girlie!



Facebook



One of the many perks of being a member of UACTT is access to networking and resources among other teacher. That's why we've created our Facebook group to help teacher connect, make friends, post questions, ask for assistance, or look for that random prop from the 1960's that only one person seems to have. It's all there! We would love for everyone to actively use the facebook group and support each other in creating impactful classrooms and productions.



2026 Summer Conference

Announcing our 2026 Theme & Dates

Hang loose with us next summer!! Theatre is always evolving, and so are we as educators. This year's theme, Catch the Waves of Change, is about embracing new ideas, fresh approaches, and innovative practices while staying rooted in what we love most about theatre. Join us for workshops, collaboration, and inspiration as we ride the waves together and shape the future of theatre education.

Get Involved!

We would JUMP for joy to have you help plan our 2026 conference! We know that you know how to plan an epic party so why not do it with your teaching besties?! Come be a part of the fun by helping plan next year's conference! Reach out to Melanie Day or Amanda Swanson.



UTAHACTT@GMAIL.COM



UTAHACTT.COM



@UACTT ON SOCIALS

Utah Theatre Association Conference

January 22-24, 2026

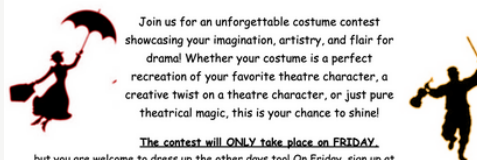


The Utah Theatre Association creates an annual conference where secondary education students and teachers have the opportunity to expand their knowledge of theatre, connect with theatre peers and professionals, and celebrate in the creation of educational theatre.

Conference Checklist ✓

- ☐ Register your school by December 1 and pay registration fee
- ☐ Book hotel and transportation
- ☐ Students sign Media Release Form by January 22
- ☐ Create and distribute student packing list
- ☐ Schedule a sub and create lesson plans
- ☐ Design, order, and distribute team gear (if applicable)
- ☐ Have a fun time! Meet a new teacher! Show your team spirit!
- ☐ Plan for post-mortem coaching following trip

DramaCon Costume Contest!



Join us for an unforgettable costume contest showcasing your imagination, artistry, and flair for drama! Whether your costume is a perfect recreation of your favorite theatre character, a creative twist on a theatre character, or just pure theatrical magic, this is your chance to shine!

The contest will ONLY take place on FRIDAY, but you are welcome to dress up the other days too! On Friday, sign up at the registration table and get your photo taken! The winners will be announced at the closing ceremonies on Saturday. Come dressed and ready to wow the judges! (Costumes must be appropriate for a school setting.)

Prizes:

- ★ First Place - \$150
- ★ Second Place - \$100
- ★ Third Place - \$50
- ★ Honorable Mentions - \$25

★ Best Group Costume - \$150 (Two or more people in the photo count as a group, and you can split the prize among all your participants.)



Don't miss out on the drama, the creativity, and the fun!

For questions or more information, contact utahtheatre@gmail.com



DramaCon Pin Trading!



We encourage all groups to create pins/buttons to trade with other schools!

Showcase the awesome productions you are doing this year!

Get to know new friends as you trade with them!

Build a collection over all your years attending DramaCon!

For questions or more information, contact utahtheatre@gmail.com

Questions About The Conference?

Website:

www.utahtheatreassociation.org

Contact:

utahtheatre@gmail.com



Lesson Learned

Each edition of the newsletter we share some advice and a lesson plan that you can find on our UACTT website. This month we are talking about acting skills in light of the competition season coming up.

Teaching Advice

When we are coaching students on improving their acting skills, it can become overwhelming to know where to start. We want to provide basic tips, tools, and reminders when working with young actors to get them ready for competition or the stage.

- **Start with intention:** Always ask, "What does my character want?" Clear objectives lead to stronger performances.
- **Use the body first:** Encourage students to physicalize character before worrying about lines.
- **Make specific choices:** Specific beats and actions are more effective than general emotions.
- **Practice active listening:** Acting is reacting—students should respond honestly to their scene partners.
- **The "What just happened?" trick:** Before each line, students silently think about what their partner just did or said to motivate the response.
- **Verb-based actions:** Replace emotions with playable actions (to persuade, to threaten, to comfort).
- **Stillness is powerful:** Remind students they don't need constant movement to be interesting. Characters should move when compelled to.
- **Change something each run:** Adjust volume, pace, or physicality to keep rehearsals exploratory.
- **Bigger is not better:** Truthful acting reads more clearly than exaggerated choices.
- **Commit fully:** Strong commitment makes even imperfect choices compelling.



Above all else, remind students that it's safe to **make mistakes** during the rehearsal process!

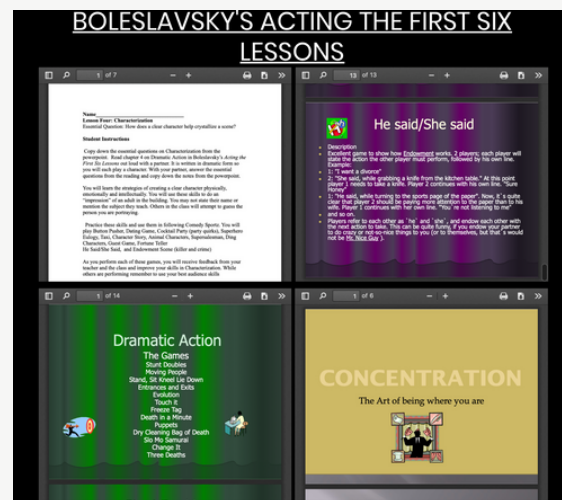
Did You Know?

We offer grants for workshops to be taught at your school. We also offer professional development scholarships for you to develop your craft and teaching practicum. Take a look at our website for more information!



Lesson Plan

Looking for a fresh way to teach acting skills? Visit our website and explore the unit of lessons under the "Acting" tab, all centered on the acting practitioner Boleslavsky. The unit includes ready-to-use slide presentations, handouts, and rubrics—everything you need to start teaching with confidence. Check this out and discover even more resources on our website!



Find these lesson plans and more at the UACTT website! Have great lesson plans yourself? Email us to have yours shared! As a teaching community we can empower each other to increase enrollment through engaging lesson plans.