



www.readerstheater.org

2017 National Championship Tournament: Information and Registration Package

March 25, 2017

ARTa returns to Mt. San Antonio College for the 17th annual American Readers Theater association championship tournament Saturday May 6 and Sunday May 7, 2017. As always, the 2017 championship tournament will feature 4-6 preliminary rounds of competition (based on entry size) with distinctive specialty awards nominated and selected by our illustrious jury, and a unique scoring method. And continuing the tradition, the top four finalist theaters will compete on a stage for final evaluation by a panel of entertainment industry professionals and experienced speech judges (as well as the coveted audience award) in a community-wide presentation. Students at any level are eligible to compete. ARTa and its national tournament continue to welcome new teams each year, and we hope that this year again brings new friends and more great performances.

One significant change for ARTa this year is the addition of a TEN MINUTE theater division – aka *10xRT*. Details follow later in the invitation. We hope this will encourage class theaters, hybrid teams, and forensics theaters in development to participate.

We are excited to see old friends and make new ones this May when speech and theater converge...and ART is bound to occur!

Liesel Reinhart
ARTa Board Chair

CONTACTS:

Tournament questions & entries: lreinhart@mtsac.edu

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Video questions: dcantrell3@mtsac.edu

ARTa research requests: lreinhart@mtsac.edu

Web address: www.readerstheater.org ...and please “Like” us on Facebook!

Hotel Information

Once again, we have secured a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn West Covina on 3145 E Garvey Avenue North, West Covina, CA 91791. The rate is \$139/night plus tax and includes a complimentary breakfast, free wifi and free parking. It's about 2 miles from campus.

<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/W/WCVCAHX-ART-20170429/index.jhtml>

Add group rate: ART

Or reserve by phone: (626) 967-5800 and mention ARTA 2017

Directions and Parking

All ARTa 2017 events (except finals) will be held in Building 26D at Mt. San Antonio College: 1100 N. Grand Avenue, Walnut, CA 91789. The college's phone number is (909) 594-5611. Maps and directions are available at www.mtsac.edu/maps.

Finals on Sunday are in the Design Technology Center near Building 26D.

The college was not able to secure free parking this year. We are getting some \$4 daily passes in advance and can add to your fees and we will have them at registration on the day of the tournament for you to take back to your vehicles. You can also purchase one directly at the machine in Lot H if you prefer. Any guests for finals will also need these permits.

Closest parking is in student log G (directly North of building 26) or student lot G, south of the building along Temple Ave. Don't park in staff lot D-2 directly south of the building or leave any vehicle unattended during drop off.

Entries:

Enter via email to lreinhart@mtsac.edu by **Friday, April 28** with the following information:

- School name, address and phone
- Contact person name, email and cell phone
- Name of each theater and all cast members
- Which theaters, if any, are ARTa World Premieres (first time in competition)
- Which theaters are in the TEN MINUTE division (see details later in invitation packet)
- Name of judge(s)
- Name of additional guests (if any) for whom you are buying a meal package. Remember that you must purchase meals for all attending students, coaches and judges.

Early entries appreciated. Entries after the deadline must be approved by the tournament director. All entries will be confirmed via email.

ARTa Membership and Fees

Membership is open to any individual or school interested in advancing the art of Readers Theater. School membership is required to enter teams in the readers theater competition. Individual memberships are available for people currently unaffiliated with a competition team.

ARTa is a non-profit venture. Membership dues and fees do not cover the costs of ARTa – it is underwritten by an annual grant from Mt. San Antonio College. Programs in dire financial need should contact the tournament director or host about entry fee deferrals. A limited amount of deferrals for entry fees only may be available on a first-come, first-served basis!

Through May 10, 2017 ARTa fees are:

Annual school membership	\$40
Annual individual membership	\$30
ARTa Participant fee	\$30 per person (judge, student, coach or guest) to cover breakfast Sat. and lunches on Sat. and Sun.
Entry fee:	\$100 per full-length theater \$50 per 10xRT theater
Judging:	\$100 uncovered fee per theater of any kind. One judge covers one theater and will judge 4-5 rounds. We always need extra judges – even for a half day. Please consider helping out!

Fees are assessed at time of entry. Drops still incur full fees. Checks should be made payable to: “Mt. San Antonio College ARTa.” ARTa is a non-profit venture supported by ongoing financial assistance from the Mt. SAC Department of Communication. Payment may be made in check or cash only. No credit cards accepted.

Eligibility

All theaters must consist of students who are currently enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or secondary school. Enrollment is subject to verification at the Tournament Director’s discretion. “Hybrid” theaters, consisting of students from multiple schools, are permitted. Please note on entry. Students under age 18 may not participate without a sponsoring school/coach and appropriate adult supervision. ARTa performance content may not be suitable for minors.

Event description: 10xRT (experimental event)

10xRT is an experimental event designed for theaters meeting all other requirements for the tournament that are no more than 11 minutes in length. They are not eligible for World Premiere or Jury Awards and will compete in their own division. A final round will be held if five or more theaters from multiple schools compete in all preliminary rounds. Judges and awards will be unconventional and theaters will be stopped if they reach 11 minutes. No judge discussion is held in this division. Participants are encouraged to watch the first two rounds of full-length theater performances before they begin competition.

2017 Tentative Tournament Schedule

A detailed competition format and schedule will be set after entries are confirmed and will be emailed to all teams by Thursday, May 4 at 6pm Pacific (or sooner). The following is the tentative competition schedule:

Saturday, May 6, 2017

8:00 am	Classrooms unlocked for practice*
8:30am	Breakfast and Tournament Registration (Continental Breakfast provided by ARTa)/Jury Photos
9:00 am	Opening Meeting for Directors, Performers, & Judges
9:30 to 11:00 am	Readers Theater Round I
11:15 to 12:45pm	Readers Theater Round II
12:45-1:30pm	Lunch; Box Lunch provided by ARTa
1:30-3:00pm	Readers Theater Round III; 10xRT Rd 1 & 2
3:00-4:45pm	Readers Theater Round IV
5:00-6:30pm	Readers Theater Round V; 10xRT Rd 3 & 4

NOTE: The Saturday schedule may be altered based on entries but will not begin earlier than listed and will not end later than 7:30 pm.

***For theaters, please note in your entry if you would like a practice room reservation.** You will be given a room number in advance and will have sole use of that room until 9:00am. A limited number of rooms are available and reservations are not guaranteed. All furniture in the room must be returned to original setup.

Sunday, May 1, 2017

9:00	Postings and continental breakfast
9:30-11:30 am	Semifinals <classrooms will <u>not</u> be open early for practice>
12:00 pm-1:15 pm	10xRT Final and World Premiere Final (tentative) and Lunch
1:15	Announcement of Finalists
2:00	Final round: Design Technology Center Auditorium Building 13
4:45	Reception for students and judges
5:15 pm	Awards Ceremony

NOTE: The Sunday schedule may be adjusted based on entries but will not begin earlier than listed and will not end later than 7pm.

Awards

ARTa provides unique and distinctive awards, different each year and always individually hand-drafted works of art.

Tournament Awards

Tournament awards will be given to each readers theater that advance to the semi-finals and beyond. A **“World Premiere Award”** will be given to the highest placing theater that makes its first competitive appearance (at any forensics or readers’ theater competition). Scripts should be substantially revised if previously performed in readers theater competition. The **“Audience Award”** will be given to the audience’s favorite theater in the Final Round, as determined by audience vote. The **“10xRT Award”** will be given to the top ten minute theater in the competition. “10xRT” performances are not eligible for the World Premiere Award.

Jury Award

ARTa recognizes that the art form of readers theater encompasses skills in a variety of areas and rewards those different achievements through the following special “jury” awards. Jury Awards are determined during prelim performances and advancement to elimination rounds is not required to be eligible. Jury Awards include:

Outstanding Individual Performers (2)

for the two performers whose individual performances are deemed the most outstanding

Outstanding Ensemble Cast Performance

for the theater cast which creates the most outstanding ensemble effect

Outstanding Achievement in Script

for the theater script deemed most effective

Outstanding Achievement in Music or Sound

for the theater which demonstrates the most effective use of music/sound

Outstanding Achievement in Set

for the theater which demonstrates the most effective use of set and/or set pieces

Outstanding Achievement in Blocking

for the theater which demonstrates the most effective use of movement and blocking

Outstanding Achievement in Costuming

for the theater which demonstrates the most effective use of costume or ensemble dress

Special Award for Creative Innovation

for the theater which presents an innovative and/or challenging theme OR best advances the art form through innovation

These honors will be determined by a special jury, whose members will view all of the readers theaters entered. (Each theater will be viewed by as many jury members as possible, but may not be viewed by the entire jury). The jury may serve as judges for the tournament, as well.

Competition Rules – Readers Theater

Generally, readers theater involves the performance of single or multiple original or existing literary works developing a theme or themes. Performance technique often includes the use of manuscripts. These are guidelines that competing theaters should be familiar with, but are not explicit rules of the tournament.

In keeping with ARTa's goal of advancing the art form, ARTc supports only the following strict rules:

ARTc Rule 1: All readers theaters entered must consist of three or more students.

ARTc Rule 2: The time limit for each performance is 25 minutes. Reasonable time for set up and take down shall be permitted and shall not be counted in the 25 minute time limit.

Therefore, use of any objects beyond the performers and the literature shall be at the discretion of the competitors and their directors. Artistic choices should be evaluated by their effectiveness, rather than compliance with explicit rules or norms.

Digital Video Recordings of Performances

ARTa will record at least one performance by each theater using a digital video camera. Entry into the tournament constitutes consent by the entering theaters and their members to allow ARTa to make and use these recordings. This recording will be done at no charge to the theater, and each theater entered will receive a free digital recording of its performance. Please email kklawitter@mtsac.edu if you are missing any DVDs from previous years. ARTa will maintain copies of all video recordings for archive purposes. We're sorry, but tapes of other teams' theaters cannot be provided due to copyright laws. Recordings of theaters will not be sold for profit or distributed;

ARTa will also video record some or all of the individual events performances, and recordings of the individual events performances may be used by ARTa and its licensees in any manner. Entry into the tournament constitutes consent to ARTa's recording of each Readers Theater performance and recording of each individual performer.

ARTa encourages scholarship in Readers Theater and will make its video archive available for suitable projects on written request.