



JTF WEST
INFORMATION
PACKET

February 5-7, 2027
Sacramento, California

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OVERVIEW

1. READ EVERYTHING IN THIS PACKET

This packet will give you all the info you need to prepare for the 2027 Junior Theater Festival (JTF). Forward it to any colleagues who are helping to facilitate this trip, and use it as a guide for parent meetings.

2. SELECT YOUR SHOW

Any currently licensable Music Theatre International Broadway Junior® (30-minute or 60-minute) or One-Act Musical is eligible for adjudication at JTF 2027, provided your organization has licensed it for a previous production taking place in January 2025 or later, or has a license for an upcoming production. If you want to present a show you haven't licensed before, contact your MTI representative to obtain the performance license and materials.

3. DISTRIBUTE CHAPERONE AND PARENT/GUARDIAN LETTERS

Located in the back of this packet, these letters are specifically for parents/guardians and chaperones of your students.

4. GO ONLINE, COMPLETE REGISTRATION MATERIALS, AND SUBMIT PAYMENT

Visit www.juniortheaterfestival.com and log in to your organization's account. On the dashboard, you will be prompted to fill out the group forms, upload your group photo, upload your release/waiver forms, and make your payment. These steps must be completed and payment received in full by 5:00 PM EST on Tuesday, November 10, 2026. Remember, every person attending the festival must be registered with a group in order to receive a wristband, which allows access to all festival events. Seating in the main theater will be prioritized based on the order in which your paperwork and payment are turned in.

5. MAKE YOUR TRAVEL, LODGING, AND FOOD ARRANGEMENTS

Groups are responsible for making their own travel, lodging, and food arrangements. The more arrangements you make now, the happier you will be when you arrive.

6. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATIONS AND CAST SPREADSHEET

See page 12 for specific details about the JTF Student Internship, Student Tech All-Stars, and the Freddie G Fellowship. These applications are due to iTheatrics by Monday, November 16, 2026. Your cast spreadsheet is due by Monday, January 4, 2027. We will provide a specific template to use for this spreadsheet, so stay tuned for more details!

7. COME TO WEST AND SIGN IN

At Sign-In, you will receive all festival materials, including your wristbands, JTF T-shirts, etc. A specific 15-minute Sign-In time will be assigned based on your response in the group forms.

JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL WEST SCHEDULE 2027

Schedule subject to change.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Festival Sign-In	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Optional Group Rehearsals	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Optional Group Photos	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	iTheatrics Audition	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
5:00 PM - 5:45 PM	PD Orientation	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	House Opens	Memorial Auditorium
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM	<i>Festival Kick-Off!</i>	Memorial Auditorium
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	Optional Group Rehearsals	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	Optional Group Photos	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	iTheatrics Audition	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Adjudication Rotations	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch	On Your Own
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Student Workshops	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Teacher Workshops	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Music Master Class	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	<i>Why We Tell The Story</i>	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	House Opens	Memorial Auditorium
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<i>Direct From Broadway</i>	Memorial Auditorium
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
7:30 PM - 8:00 PM	House Opens	Memorial Auditorium
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM	<i>New Works Showcase</i>	Memorial Auditorium

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	iTheatrics Video Callback	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Tech Olympics	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Social Media Ambassador Workshop	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Teacher Coffee Connect	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Parent & Guardian Panel	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	JTF All-Stars Workshop	Memorial Auditorium
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Student Workshops	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Teacher Workshops	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Music Master Class	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<i>Why We Tell The Story</i>	SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch	On Your Own
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	House Opens	Memorial Auditorium
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<i>Growin' Up Broadway</i>	Memorial Auditorium
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<i>Freddie G Awards Ceremony</i>	Memorial Auditorium
4:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
7:30 PM - 8:00 PM	House Opens	Memorial Auditorium
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<i>JTF Headline Presentation</i>	Memorial Auditorium

FESTIVAL LOGISTICS

LOCATION

The Junior Theater Festival takes place across two locations in Sacramento, California:

- **Memorial Auditorium**
- **SAFE Credit Union Convention Center**

Each group is responsible for their own transportation to and from the festival locations, where there is ample parking available. Be aware, the Sacramento International Airport is 15 minutes from the festival locations and there is no convenient form of public transportation. Please make your travel arrangements in advance.



HOTELS

Groups are responsible for securing their own lodging. There are two official festival host hotels: the Sheraton Grand and the Hyatt Regency. To book rooms at the festival rate, please contact our hotel administrator, Tammy Dinger, at tammy@itheatrics.com. If you are not interested in securing rooms for your group in an official festival host hotel, there are a number of hotel options in close proximity to JTF West. For more information on lodging options, visit www.visitsacramento.com.



MEALS

Groups are responsible for arranging their own breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. There are many dining options in the vicinity including multiple sit-down restaurants. For more information visit www.visitsacramento.com.

FESTIVAL SIGN-IN



FOR GROUPS

Festival Sign-In will take place at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center on Friday from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Keep an eye out for the big balloon arch. To expedite the process, each group will be assigned a specific time to sign in. Only the director and one other adult should come to Sign-In. Please do not arrive more than five minutes before your assigned time.

It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete the process. At Sign-In, you will receive your tote bag, JTF T-shirts, and wristbands. We recommend bringing a large tote, rolling cart, or other way to carry your materials, as some items may be bulky or heavy. Souvenir programs will be distributed digitally.



FOR PD

Professional Development participants must sign in at 5:00 PM on Friday at the Professional Development Orientation. Attendees that arrive after this time should report to the Info Booth in the Convention Center on Saturday morning to sign in.

WRISTBAND POLICY

At Festival Sign-In, the director will receive one wristband for each person who is paid and registered with your group. Every person who attends JTF is required to be registered with a group (or on the PD track) and wear a wristband at all festival events. This allows festival staff to ensure only those registered with a group can gain access to festival events, maintaining the safety of all in attendance.

Absolutely no wristbands will be sold at Festival Sign-In. A detailed Wristband Policy is located on page 15. We suggest copying and distributing this policy to the families of your students and getting personal sign-offs for your own benefit.

Wristbands are non-transferable.

MAINSTAGE EVENTS

All mainstage events take place in The Memorial Auditorium.

FESTIVAL KICK-OFF!

Friday, February 5, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

This year's Kick-Off will set the tone for the entire weekend with more energy, more surprises, and more festival fun than ever before. Many groups choose to bring an optional Spirit Stick — a tall, decorated staff to help their group stand out and stay together. Get ready to show off your JTF spirit loud and proud as we launch JTF West 2027 in style!

DIRECT FROM BROADWAY

Saturday, February 6, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Featuring Broadway's finest, this presentation will surely knock your socks off because you never know exactly who will turn up at JTF! Past guests have included Thomas Schumacher, Alan Menken, Jeanine Tesori, and more!

NEW WORKS SHOWCASE

Saturday, February 6, 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

See presentations from new shows that will join Broadway Junior in the next few years! Performed by invited student groups from around the world, this event is a true highlight of the festival each year.



MAINSTAGE EVENTS

All mainstage events take place in The Memorial Auditorium.

GROWIN' UP BROADWAY

Sunday, February 7, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Timothy Allen McDonald and SJ Arnegger sit down with JTF alumni, Broadway favorites, and industry pros who got their start in musical theater as kids. Expect candid interviews, live performances, and the occasional game, proof that what you learn on stage shapes who you become off stage.

FREDDIE G AWARDS CEREMONY

Sunday, February 7, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

This ceremony highlights the wonderful student achievements from the weekend. There are performances from selected productions, and a number of awards are handed out. See page 14 for a list of awards that will be presented.

JTF HEADLINE PRESENTATION

Sunday, February 7, 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

This special Broadway headliner presentation is curated exclusively for JTF audiences. This unforgettable event promises an evening of music, celebration, and community. We encourage everyone to dress to impress.



PLAYHOUSE EVENTS

These events take place in The Convention Playhouse located in the
SAFE Credit Union Convention Center



WHY WE TELL THE STORY:

Celebrating Connection and Community

Attend at your assigned time on Saturday or Sunday

Theater brings us together. Hear from panelists who discovered their spark, their people, and their place through the stage. Celebrate the joy of connection and the communities that theater creates with heartfelt stories and thrilling performances. This session is held in **The Convention Playhouse** in the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, and is scheduled when your group is not participating in student or teacher workshops.

MUSIC MASTERCLASS:

Techniques to Inspire Every Voice

Attend at your assigned time on Saturday or Sunday

Join us for a high-energy masterclass designed for both educators and students! Our professional team will work live with student participants on techniques like healthy belting and riffing, then invite the entire audience to jump in for an interactive musical experience. This session is held in **The Convention Playhouse** in the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, and is scheduled when your group is not participating in student or teacher workshops.

PARENT & GUARDIAN PANEL:

Supporting Young Artists Onstage and Beyond

Sunday, February 7, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

This panel is designed for the parents and guardians of our JTF students! Explore ways to advocate for your local musical theater program, support your young person's love of theater, and discover the many career opportunities available in the theater industry beyond performing. Hear from panelists representing higher education, technical theater, producing, and more. Please encourage your parents and guardians to attend this exciting panel on Sunday morning in **The Convention Playhouse** in the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING

*These events are specific to your group and are interactive elements of the festival.
Refer to your group schedule on the app for locations and times.*

ADJUDICATIONS

Adjudications take place on Saturday morning. All information on adjudications, including the Adjudication Rubric and Adjudication rules, can be found in the Adjudication handbook link below!

[ADJUDICATION
HANDBOOK](#)

ITHEATRICS VIDEO AUDITIONS AND CALLBACKS

Teachers choose up to **four (4) students** to audition for future iTheatrics video projects (including Choreography Videos). Pick students based on their “triple-threat” abilities, charismatic presence, and who have families who can support students both financially and logistically for up to ten (10) days in New York City. Auditions are held on Friday at your group’s assigned time. Selected students will return for callbacks on Sunday morning. Callback names will be posted to the JTF App on Saturday by 7:00 PM.

JTF PERFORMANCE ALL-STARS

During your adjudicated presentation, our adjudicators will be keeping an eye out for engaging performers to be acknowledged as JTF All-Stars. Two (2) students from each group will be selected to join the All-Stars for rehearsal on Sunday and will perform in an All-Star group number in the Memorial Auditorium.

OPTIONAL GROUP PHOTOS

Groups may request a professional group photo time. Digital photos will be scheduled on your assigned campus and emailed directly to groups after the event. Spaces are limited, assigned first-come, first-served, and not guaranteed if materials are submitted after November 10.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING

*These events are specific to your group and are interactive elements of the festival.
Refer to your group schedule on the app for locations and times.*

OPTIONAL GROUP REHEARSALS

Groups may request a half-hour rehearsal time on Friday by selecting the option in your online group forms. These rehearsals will take place in an assigned rehearsal room at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center. These rehearsal rooms may not be the same as your performance space. Groups must provide their own sound equipment (portable speakers recommended). Spaces are limited, assigned first-come, first-served, and not guaranteed if materials are submitted after November 10.

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SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADORS

Choose two students from your group to serve as Social Media Ambassadors! These students will attend a special pre-training session over Zoom with Broadway social media specialists. During the festival, they'll promote both your group and JTF on the ground, and on Sunday morning they'll take part in an exclusive in-person workshop. One team will be selected as our Social Media Ambassador All-Stars.

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STUDENT PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS

Students attend performance workshops on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday morning that cover different aspects of musical theatre performance. Acting and music workshops are specially curated for JTF student and are not level-based. Dance workshops are offered at different skill levels. Group leaders should select the most appropriate dance level for their students in the online forms.

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STUDENT TECHNICAL THEATRE WORKSHOPS

These workshops are designed for students interested in the artistry that happens backstage. Taking place on Saturday or Sunday at the same time as the Student Performance Workshops, participants explore lighting, sound, costumes, and scenic design while gaining hands-on insight into the world of technical theatre.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING

*These events are specific to your group and are interactive elements of the festival.
Refer to your group schedule on the app for locations and times.*

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Held on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, these educator workshops are designed to spark new ideas, share practical tools, and provide inspiration for your classroom and productions. All teachers attending with groups, as well as Professional Development participants, are invited to take part. A full workshop schedule will be provided at Festival Sign-In and through the festival app.

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TECH OLYMPICS

Directors select any four (4) students from their group to compete in a series of technical theatre activities, which will be set up in the style of an obstacle course. Tech Olympics are held on Sunday morning.



FESTIVAL APPLICATIONS

FREDDIE G FELLOWSHIP

The Freddie G Fellowship is presented to up to five (5) individual teachers and includes an all-expense-paid trip to New York City for master classes, performances, and celebrations. This year, fellowships will be awarded to up to five (5) educators who attend either JTF Atlanta 2027 or JTF West 2027 and are selected from an application and interview process. Additionally, each award winner's organization will receive a \$5000 cash award to support their musical theatre program.

TO APPLY

Complete the application and submit to jtf@itheatrics.com with your three letters of recommendation by November 16, 2026.

[FREDDIE G FELLOWSHIP
APPLICATION](#)

JTF STUDENT INTERNSHIP

The JTF Student Internship is open to any college student who has previously attended the Junior Theater Festival. Interns provide general festival assistance throughout the weekend. This is the perfect program for a former student who has shown maturity, leadership skills, and a desire to learn about all aspects of theater.

TO APPLY

Send the application to your alumni students and invite them to submit an application and letter of recommendation to jtf@itheatrics.com by November 16, 2026.

[JTF STUDENT INTERNSHIP
APPLICATION](#)

TECHNICAL THEATRE STUDENT ALL-STARS

The Technical Theatre All-Stars are chosen from an application and a letter of recommendation. Winners will shadow our JTF Tech Staff during the New Works Showcase and work the Freddie G Awards Ceremony!

TO APPLY

Send the application to your eligible students and invite them to submit an application and letter of recommendation to jtf@itheatrics.com by November 16, 2026.

[TECH THEATRE ALL-STARS
APPLICATION](#)

FESTIVAL CHECKLIST

FIRST UP:

- ☐ Register online and submit your registration fee (Congrats - Step 1 is done!).
- ☐ Confirm exact number of people attending with your group.
- ☐ Collect all your group information.
- ☐ Digitally distribute and collect a release/waiver for everyone attending.
- ☐ Take or select your group photo for the digital program.
- ☐ Collect participation fees from everyone attending.

Academies, Community Theaters & Private Schools.....\$360 per person
Public & Charter Schools.....\$345 per person

BY NOVEMBER 10, 2026:

Visit www.juniorthaterfestival.com and log in with your organization's credentials to fill out and upload the following:

- ☐ Group forms survey
- ☐ Release/waiver forms uploaded in a zip folder
- ☐ Group photo for the digital program as a JPG
- ☐ Payment Page

(All items above must be submitted digitally via the website except for checks, which should be made out to Junior Theater Group. Mail checks to Junior Theater Group, c/o iTheatrics, 1501 Broadway, Suite 1900, New York, NY 10036.)

BY NOVEMBER 16, 2026:

Optional

- ☐ Freddie G Fellowship Applications emailed to jtf@itheatrics.com
- ☐ JTF Student Internship Applications emailed to jtf@itheatrics.com
- ☐ Technical Theater Student All-Star Applications emailed to jtf@itheatrics.com

BY JANUARY 6, 2027:

- ☐ Group spreadsheet emailed to jtf@itheatrics.com. A template and more details will be sent out closer to this date.

No refunds will be offered after November 10, 2026.

Digital program photos and T-shirt forms received after November 10, 2026 may not be honored.

AWARDS

GROUP AWARDS

All-Festival Performance Group (up to 8 groups per festival)

These performances are nominated, discussed, and voted on by adjudicators and team JTF. To celebrate the innovation, storytelling, and heart displayed across adjudications, these groups will perform one number in the Freddie G Awards Ceremony on Sunday!

Excellence in Pod (1 group per pod)

This award will be granted during the Freddie G Awards Ceremony to the groups with the highest scores in their pods based on the adjudication rubric. These groups will receive a trophy!

Excellence in Acting (up to 2 groups per pod)

Excellence in Dance (up to 2 groups per pod)

Excellence in Music (up to 2 groups per pod)

Excellence in Ensemble Work (up to 2 groups per pod)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Outstanding Individual Performance (up to 2 students per pod)

Outstanding Student Direction/Choreography (up to 2 students or teams per pod)

Inspiration Award (up to 2 awards total given to individual or groups)

All-Festival Performance Individual (up to 2 students per festival)

Tech Olympics (8 students – 2 teams of 4 students each)

Performance All-Stars (2 students per group)

Groups that win Excellence in Pod may also win All-Festival Performance, although not guaranteed. All-Festival Performance groups will only win Excellence in Pod if their adjudication scores are the highest in the pod.

WRISTBAND POLICY

Every person who attends JTF is required to wear a wristband at all times. This will allow festival staff to ensure only those who are registered with a group can gain access to festival events, maintaining the safety of all in attendance.

READ THIS ENTIRE PAGE CAREFULLY, AND MAKE SURE EVERY PARTICIPANT IN YOUR GROUP IS AWARE OF THIS POLICY.

- At Festival Sign-In, directors will receive the wristbands for your entire group. We recommend teaching chaperones how to apply the wristband and then have them apply the wristbands to all of your students.
- Wristbands **MUST** be worn for entry into all festival events.
- Wristbands will not be available for purchase at the festival. All attendees must be registered with a group and paid in advance in order to receive a wristband.
- Wristbands feature a one-time-use, snap closure designed to last for the entire weekend. This closure will break if tampered with, making the wristband unusable.
- Wristbands **MUST** be worn securely on the wrist and cannot be slipped on and off.
- Wristbands are **NON-TRANSFERABLE** and **NON-REPLACEABLE**.
- If your wristband is faulty or breaks unexpectedly over the weekend, the person to whom that wristband belongs must bring the pieces of that wristband to the Info Booth. Festival staff will place a new wristband on their wrist.
- Wristbands are durable plastic and will not be damaged in the shower.
- In the rare case of medical conditions, such as a plastic allergy, JTF will make alternate arrangements. Please notify festival staff immediately.

QUICK TIP: Leave one index finger distance of space between your wrist and the wristband for comfort and security.

THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS WRISTBAND POLICY.



Dear Junior Theater Festival Chaperones,

JTF® brings together kids from all over the globe to celebrate musical theatre. And we couldn't do it without chaperones like you! Your assistance will truly make a difference for the students in your group. And by the way, you are going to have an incredible experience, too!

We care about student safety. Therefore, your main responsibility is to make sure there are chaperones with your students at all times. There must be one (1) chaperone per every four (4) students at almost all festival events. If you have more chaperones than are necessary, that is wonderful! Consider creating a schedule so each of you can take a break when needed. You do not need to chaperone students who attend the iTheatrics Video Auditions/Callbacks or the All-Star workshop, although you are welcome to walk your students to these events.

When the director or leader of your group comes to Festival Sign-In, they will receive an official group schedule detailing the exact times and locations of each event specific to your group for the entire weekend. This schedule will clarify where you and your group need to be at all times. Also, be sure to download the JTF App. Your group's schedule will be there, too!

Other chaperone responsibilities include making sure your students put their best foot forward all weekend and are respectful throughout the festival as both participants and audience members. Please make sure they are in their hotel rooms and in bed by a reasonable time and honor all hotel rules.

By the way, while awards are a part of the Junior Theater Festival, this is not a competition. Anything you can do to encourage celebration over competition assists in creating a positive atmosphere and a successful JTF.

And lastly, please be supportive of your group's creative team. Many times while you are chaperoning, your creative team will be attending workshops and training. For them to get the most out of these opportunities, it's important they know their kids are representing them and their community well. This training helps them create a stronger musical theatre program in your community. You are all working together to create a positive and incredible experience for your students that will follow you home. Don't forget to thank your creative team and fellow chaperones with a bottle of water, words of encouragement, or a pat on the back.

Thank you for making this commitment and ensuring that JTF 2027 is a smashing success. We look forward to seeing you in February.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Allen McDonald". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "T" and a prominent "M".

Timothy Allen McDonald
Junior Theater Festival Founder



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for sending your children to the Junior Theater Festival. JTF® is the largest celebration of young people performing musical theatre in the world, and your child is in for the experience of a lifetime. At the festival, they will:

- Perform in front of and receive feedback from theatre professionals
- Meet new friends from all over the world
- Sing, dance, and act their way through student workshops
- See showcase performances of brand-new shows
- Take in pearls of theatre wisdom from our special guests

The schedule is jam-packed with activities to keep brains active, feet moving, and smiles on faces. Oh, and they'll probably be exhausted when they come home!

If you plan on attending the festival, remember you must be registered with your child's group. You may not register separately nor will you be able to register onsite at the festival. Your registration includes a festival T-shirt and an all-access pass.

Your group's chaperones, creative team, and students have specific duties, a fast-paced schedule, and events they need to attend. Go ahead and take advantage of all the festival has to offer, and rest assured your child is busy and having a great time.

By the way, while awards are a part of the Junior Theater Festival, this is not a competition. Anything you can do to encourage celebration over competition assists us in creating a positive atmosphere and a successful JTF.

JTF is a one-of-a-kind event, and we can't wait for February to get here! From Broadway celebrities to theatre education professionals to the amazing students that travel from all over the globe, this year's festival is sure to be an unforgettable experience. And we know it's thanks to parents like you, who work tirelessly to ensure your child experiences the transformative power of the arts!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Allen McDonald". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "T" and a cursive "McDonald".

Timothy Allen McDonald
Junior Theater Festival Founder



JAZZ HANDS UP FOR
JTF WEST
2027!