



## 2014 National Championship Tournament: Information and Registration Package

March 7, 2014

ARTa returns to Mt. San Antonio College for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual American Readers Theater Championship tournament May 3-4, 2014. As always, the 2014 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 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.

In addition to readers theater, ARTa will once again offer an experimental individual event: **Performance of Original or Found Literature**. The event will be held and awards given provided at least three different schools field entries in the event.

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

Best wishes,

Jimmy Nguyen and Wade Hescht  
ARTa 2014 Co-Tournament Directors

Tournament questions: [jimmy@jimmywin.com](mailto:jimmy@jimmywin.com)

Entries: [Billy.W.Hescht@lonestar.edu](mailto:Billy.W.Hescht@lonestar.edu)

Facilities: [lreinhart@mtsac.edu](mailto:lreinhart@mtsac.edu)

Web: [www.readerstheater.org](http://www.readerstheater.org)

Facebook: American Readers Theater Association

## Hotel Information

Once again, we have secured a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn West Covina Starting May 2. The rate is \$105/night for a nonsmoking double plus 10% tax and includes a complimentary breakfast. Mention ARTa when you call. **The block is not guaranteed – please make reservations soon.**

HAMPTON INN –WEST COVINA      3145 E Garvey Avenue North, West Covina, CA 91791-1701  
Phone: (626) 967-5800      Contact Person: Kristina Echols

## Directions and Parking

All ARTa 2014 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](http://www.mtsac.edu/maps). Finals are in Feddersen Recital Hall.

We were able to secure free parking on Saturday and Sunday in student parking lot D. This is the lot to the south of building 26D adjacent to Temple Ave. You can drive into the staff lot D (where we used to park) and drop off students and sets, but need to park in the lower student lot (it's still very close). Please note that you will be cited if you park in the staff lot – unless you have a CA exempt vehicle. Disabled and metered spots are always enforced. For Sunday's final rounds in the recital hall, Student Lot G (north of Building 26) will be open and not cited that day for finals-only guests.

## Entries:

Enter via email to [Billy.W.Hescht@lonestar.edu](mailto:Billy.W.Hescht@lonestar.edu) by **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** 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)
- 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.

### **Entry for the Experimental Individual Event (Performance of Original or Found Literature):**

- Name of competitors (single entry or duo entry permitted – one per person)

**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 4, 2014 ARTa fees are:**

Annual school membership*	\$30
Annual individual membership*	\$15
ARTa Participant fee	\$25 per person (judge, student, coach or guest) to cover breakfast Sat. and lunches on Sat. and Sun.
Entry fee:	\$100 per theater \$10 per Experimental Event slot
Judging:	\$100 uncovered fee per theater. One judge covers one theater and will typically judge 4-5 rounds. We always need extra judges – even for a half day. Please consider helping out!

Checks should be made payable to

## **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.

**For the experimental individual event, anyone is eligible to enter.**

## 2014 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 1 at 6pm Pacific (or sooner). The following is the tentative competition schedule:

### ***Saturday, May 3, 2014***

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 and Experimental Individual Event Box Lunch provided by ARTa
1:30-3:00pm	Readers Theater Round III
3:00-4:45pm	Readers Theater Round IV
5:00-6:30pm	Readers Theater Round V

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 9:10am. 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 4, 2014***

9:00	Postings and continental breakfast
9:30-11:30 am	Semifinals <classrooms will not be open early for practice>
12:00 pm-1:15 pm	World Premiere Final (tentative) and Lunch
1:15	Announcement of Finalists
2:00	Final round: NEW LOCATION 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.

### ***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 Female Performer**

*for the female performer whose individual performance is deemed the most outstanding*

#### **Outstanding Male Performer**

*for the male performer whose individual performance is 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.

## Experimental Event: Performance of Original or Found Literature

Can you bring words to life through performance and make a meaningful point? The speaker will perform a single piece or multiple pieces of literature (from any literary genre) originally written by the speaker and/or "found" by the speaker. The goal should be to communicate a substantive message, while also entertaining and/or emotionally moving an audience, through literature, characterizations, and performance. Although not required, speakers may include introductory comments to explain the performance. A manuscript may be used but is not required. **Maximum time limit is 7 minutes** including any introduction.

## 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](mailto: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.