



CA Thespians Scholarship & Fellowship Handbook 2026

CA Thespians offer scholarships and fellowships to students who demonstrate excellence in theatre, a commitment to their troupe & community, and a desire to give back to Thespians in the future.

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OVERVIEW - SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Senior Thespians may apply for *one* of the following. Senior Scholarships are disbursed directly to the awardees' future college or university:

The **Senior Scholarship in Performance** rewards the excellence of senior Thespians in theatrical performance. Max 1 applicant per troupe.

The **Senior Scholarship in Technical Theatre & Design** rewards the excellence of senior Thespians in theatrical crafts and design. Max 1 applicant per troupe.

The **Senior Scholarship for Future Theatre Educators** rewards the excellence of senior Thespians who intend to enter theatre education as a career. Max 1 applicant per troupe.

The **Senior Scholarship in Theatre Making** rewards the excellence of senior Thespians whose passion for theatre lies in areas outside the crafts of performance or technical theatre & design. Career/education paths could include: directing, playwriting, marketing, theatre company ownership or management, as well as others. Max 1 applicant per troupe.

The **Kathleen Conner Production and Management Scholarship** rewards the excellence of senior Thespians who intend to pursue a career in entertainment production or management. Career/Education paths could include: agent, theater management, Film/TV budgets, entertainment lawyer, producer, entertainment accountant, educator, or similar. Max 1 applicant per troupe.

Senior Thespians who have achieved the rank of Honor Thespian may *also* apply for the following:

The **Gai Jones Senior Honor Thespian Scholarship** rewards the excellence of Senior Thespians who have achieved the rank of Honor Thespian according to the bylaws of their troupe and/or the guidelines of the International Thespian Society. This scholarship is disbursed as a check directly to the awardee. Max 1 applicant per troupe.

OVERVIEW - UNDERGRAD SCHOLARSHIPS

Non-Senior Thespians may apply for *one* of the following Undergraduate Scholarships which are disbursed as reimbursements to the awardees after confirming their attendance at the specific program.

CA Thespian Undergrad Scholarships provide support for non-senior Thespians to attend extracurricular theatre or theatre-related programs, usually during the summer, with the intention that they will implement their new skills and knowledge for the good of their troupe. Max 2 applicants per troupe.

The **Ellis Jordan Scholarship** awards outstanding sophomore and junior Thespians by financing their attendance at the International Thespian Festival, with the intention of supporting their personal growth and strengthening their Troupe. Max 2 applicants per troupe.

OVERVIEW - FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships are teacher-nominated awards. Student Thespians should not fill out a Fellowship application; a troupe sponsor/director or a technical director may fill out the application nominating a max of one (1) junior **or** senior inducted Thespian from their troupe.

The **Nick Robinson Fellowship Award** provides a monetary award and a mentorship opportunity to junior and senior Thespians who are “multi-hyphenate creatives,” with the intention of fostering their growth and opportunity on non-traditional paths in theatre.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

To apply for a scholarship, applicants must follow the steps outlined below.

1. Applications are due Jan 31. Each application requires preparation; **we recommend that applicants gather materials early.** See the specific page for each scholarship for the requirements.
2. After the application period ends, Troupe Directors will be asked to confirm their recommendation of the applicants.
3. April 15 or earlier: Awardees will be announced at the State Festival. All applicants will be notified of the results of their application. Awardees will receive instructions on claiming their scholarship.

SELECTION PROCESS

In the effort to increase access to scholarships monies for all CA Thespians, and to equitably distribute these funds, the following judging processes will be followed:

- All identifying information such as name, school, and home city will be removed from applications before they are sent to the judges.
- Judges will score each application using a rubric. This ensures that all applications are scored against a common standard, rather than against other applications.
- Judges will also rank the applications in each category. In the case of a tie, judges' rankings will be used to make the final decision.
- There will be no synchronous interviews, and no second round of applications.

DISBURSEMENTS

All scholarship recipients will receive an email from the scholarship coordinator explaining the process to claim the scholarships for the program/event selected. If issued a scholarship, CA State Thespians does not register you for the program/event selected. All follow up is the responsibility of the recipient.

HOW TO APPLY

Be sure to consult the specific requirements of the scholarship you are applying for in the following pages.

Apply for the Gai Jones Senior Honor Thespian Scholarship here:

<https://edta-chapter-events.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/California/solicitations/1031/home>

Apply for all other CA Thespians scholarships here:

<https://edta-chapter-events.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/California/solicitations/1033/home>

CONTACT

Should you have any scholarship application questions please reach out to the scholarship coordinator by emailing scholarships@cathespians.org

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Avoiding Identifying Information

Applications with identifying information including, but not limited to, name, school name, and/or troupe # in the presentation, resume, website, and/or personal statement ***will not be considered***, so it's important that you avoid mentioning them in your application materials.

Here are some tips:

- Slate with your Thespian ID#, and the titles & playwrights of the plays you are working with (as applicable).
 - Do *not* slate with your name, school name, or troupe number.
- On your resume, use your Thespian ID # (instead of your name or contact info) as the header.
 - Do *not* include your name, school name, troupe number, or Troupe Director name anywhere.
 - Names of community or professional theatres & directors outside your troupe are allowed.
- Use the following (or similar) phrases in place of such information:
 - Your name: I, me, mine, or your Thespian ID#
 - Your school: my school, the school, our high school
 - Your troupe: we, us, my troupe, our troupe
 - Your home or school city: my city, our town
 - Your Troupe Director: my Troupe Director, my teacher, our director

We know this is a change from your usual training and standards, and we thank you for making the extra effort to ensure that the scholarship judging process is as fair as possible.

Performance Self-Tapes

How do I make the best self-tape of my performance?

Be mindful of your space and how you come across in the virtual performance area.

- The performance area should be approximately 5' x 5'.
- You may use one chair and one small table. You may not use any other set pieces, hand props or costumes.
- Clothing should be audition appropriate without being a costume.
 - All black is acceptable but not required.
- Slate should include Thespian ID# and title of play and playwrights of pieces, but *no* school, director names, or troupe number.

It is acceptable to show your face in performance videos.

Portfolio Self-Tapes

How do I make the best recording of my portfolio?

We recommend compiling a digital portfolio.

Here are the recommended steps:

1. Create your virtual portfolio in a slide deck such as Google Slides or PowerPoint.
 - Your portfolio may include photos or videos of finished work, works in progress, or photos/videos of your process.
2. Record yourself presenting your portfolio using a program such as Screen-o-matic, or share your screen in Zoom while recording.

You may also record yourself presenting a physical portfolio. Please set up the camera so that only the portfolio is visible.

Please do not include your face in the recording if possible. Production photos with your face are acceptable. Slate using your Thespian ID#; do *not* include your name, school, or troupe #.

Interview Self-Tapes

How do I make the best recording of my self-interview?

We recommend compiling a digital slideshow to accompany your self-interview, much as you would for a lecture or class presentation.

Here are the recommended steps:

1. Create your slideshow in a program such as Google Slides or PowerPoint.
 - a. You may include images that represent your work or the ideas you are presenting.
2. Record yourself using a program such as Screen-o-matic, or share your screen in Zoom while recording.

Please do not include your face in the recording if possible. Production photos with your face are acceptable. Slate using your Thespian ID#; do *not* include your name, school, or troupe #.

Disqualification

What happens if I use my name, school, or troupe # in my application materials?

Your application will be disqualified. It will not be scored, and you will not be considered for a CA Thespians scholarship.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP - PERFORMANCE

The Senior Scholarship in Performance rewards the excellence of senior Thespians in theatrical performance.

Each troupe may submit one (1) senior Thespian for the Senior Scholarship in Performance.

A successful applicant will...

- Be able to demonstrate excellence in theatrical performance.
- Enroll in a college or university as a performing arts or arts-related major or minor for the Fall term.
- Be recommended by their Troupe Director
- Be a Thespian in good standing with current troupe, with a current Thespian ID number
- Have a current email address which they check regularly; all correspondence will be conducted via email.
- Submit all required application materials via Open Water by date indicated on CA Thespian website.
- Note that auditions and presentations will be pre-recorded by the applicants and submitted virtually.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

Application Materials - Senior Scholarship - Performance

The following items will need to be uploaded with your application, so please prepare them in advance. Please refer to the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for important information on avoiding personal information in your application materials.

1. **Resume:** one page (8.5 x 11) resume which includes: performance and technical theatre experiences, training/related courses, special talents, club affiliations, honors, awards, and other theatre-related or relevant information.
2. **Personal Statement:** 500-600 word typed personal statement which includes:
 - The performing arts major/minor that you intend to pursue and why
 - Your aspirations and goals for your future
 - How involvement in Thespians has affected your high school experience, as well as your plans for your future
3. **Recorded performance**
 - A self tape of 5 minutes or less, in which you perform two memorized, contrasting monologues.
 - All monologues must be from published plays.
 - All selections must follow the festival guidelines for appropriate performance material. (PG-13)
 - See [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for self-taping guidelines in addition to the following:
 - i. Be mindful of your space and how you come across in the virtual performance area.
 - ii. The performance area should be approximately 5' x 5'
 - iii. You may use one chair and one small table. You may not use any other set pieces, hand props or costumes.
 - iv. Clothing should be audition appropriate without being a costume. All black is acceptable but not required.
 - v. Slate should include Thespian ID #, titles and playwrights of pieces, but *no* school, director names, or troupe number.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP - TECHNICAL THEATRE & DESIGN

The Senior Scholarship in Technical Theatre & Design rewards the excellence of senior Thespians in theatrical crafts and design.

Each troupe may submit one (1) senior Thespian for Technical Theatre and Design.

A successful applicant will...

- Be able to demonstrate excellence in technical theatre and/or design.
- Enroll in a college or university as a performing arts or arts-related major or minor for the Fall term, or a major or minor related to technical theatre or theatre design.
- Be recommended by their Troupe Director
- Be a Thespian in good standing with current troupe, with a current Thespian ID number
- Have a current email address which they check regularly; all correspondence will be conducted via email.
- Submit all required application materials via Open Water by date indicated on CA Thespian website.
- Note that auditions and presentations will be pre-recorded by the applicants and submitted virtually.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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Application Materials - Senior Scholarship - Technical Theatre & Design

The following items will need to be uploaded with your application, so please prepare them in advance. Please refer to the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for important information on avoiding personal information in your application materials.

1. **Resume:** one page (8.5 x 11) Resume which includes: performance and technical theatre experiences, training/related courses, special talents, club affiliations, honors, awards, and other theatre-related or relevant information.
2. **Personal Statement:** 500-600 word typed personal statement which includes:
 - The performing arts major/minor that you intend to pursue and why
 - Your aspirations and goals for your future
 - How involvement in Thespians has affected your high school experience, as well as your plans for your future
3. **Recorded presentation**
 - You have 5 minutes to present your technical theatre and/or design portfolio.
 - Your portfolio should illustrate your expertise and experience in a technical theatre or design area. This work can be theoretical or actual.
 - You may include photos, renderings, models, research and documentation, promptbooks, video clips, reports, plots, or other paperwork.
 - It is recommended to include a brief artist's statement with design submissions, or brief reflection statements with technical or craft submissions, to help the judges understand your approach to your work.
 - It is suggested that you create your presentation in Google Slides or a similar platform; your presentation should be recorded, and photos or video of yourself should be avoided.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP - FUTURE THEATRE EDUCATOR

The Senior Scholarship for Future Theatre Educators rewards the excellence of senior Thespians who intend to enter theatre education as a career.

Each troupe may submit one (1) senior Thespian for Theatre Educator.

A successful applicant will...

- Be able to demonstrate excellence in theatre, in capacities and roles that support theatre education as a career choice.
- Enroll in a college or university as a performing arts, arts- or education-related major or minor for the Fall term.
- Be recommended by their Troupe Director
- Be a Thespian in good standing with current troupe, with a current Thespian ID number
- Have a current email address which they check regularly; all correspondence will be conducted via email.
- Submit all required application materials via Open Water by date indicated on CA Thespian website.
- Note that auditions and presentations will be pre-recorded by the applicants and submitted virtually.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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Application Materials - Senior Scholarship - Future Theatre Educator

The following items will need to be uploaded with your application, so please prepare them in advance. Please refer to the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for important information on avoiding personal information in your application materials.

1. **Resume:** one page (8.5 x 11) resume which includes: performance and technical theatre experiences, training/related courses, special talents, club affiliations, honors, awards, and other theatre-related or relevant information.
2. **Personal Statement:** 700-1000 word typed personal statement which includes:
 - The performing arts major/minor that you intend to pursue and why
 - Your aspirations and goals for your future
 - How involvement in Thespians has affected your high school experience, as well as your plans for your future
 - your philosophy of educational theatre and why you have chosen to pursue becoming a theatre arts teacher.
3. **Recorded presentation**
 - You have 5 minutes to present any combination of the following:
 - Teacher or leadership portfolio
 - Stage manager's, director's, or AD's book(s)
 - Design portfolio
 - Video/DVD of plays, scenes or monologues directed or coached
 - Workshops or classes taught
 - Demonstration of teaching a skill/technique
 - Discussion of your motivation to become an educator
 - Other materials that demonstrate your interest in theatre education as a career
 - It is suggested that you create your presentation in Google Slides or a similar platform; your presentation should be recorded, and photos or video of yourself should be avoided.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP - THEATRE MAKING

The Senior Scholarship for Theatre Making rewards the excellence of senior Thespians whose passion for theatre lies in areas outside the crafts of performance, education, or technical theatre & design. Career/education paths could include: directing, playwriting, marketing, non-Western performance styles, theatre company ownership or management, or others.

Each troupe may submit one (1) senior Thespian for Theatre Making.

A successful applicant will...

- Be able to demonstrate excellence in theatre and a passion for pursuing theatre avenues outside performance, technical theatre/design, or theatre education.
- Enroll in a college or university as a performing arts or arts-related major or minor for the Fall term, or be able to explain how their selected major or minor supports a career in theatre.
- Be recommended by their Troupe Director
- Be a Thespian in good standing with current troupe, with a current Thespian ID number
- Have a current email address which they check regularly; all correspondence will be conducted via email.
- Submit all required application materials via Open Water by the date indicated on the CA Thespian website.
- Note that auditions and presentations will be pre-recorded by the applicants and submitted virtually.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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Application Materials - Senior Scholarship - Theatre Making

The following items will need to be uploaded with your application, so please prepare them in advance. Please refer to the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for important information on avoiding personal information in your application materials.

1. **Resume:** one page (8.5 x 11) resume which includes performance and technical theatre experiences, training/related courses, special talents, club affiliations, honors, awards, and other theatre-related or relevant information.
2. **Personal Statement:** 500-600 word typed personal statement which includes:
 - The major/minor that you intend to pursue
 - Your aspirations and goals for your future, and how this major/minor supports those goals.
 - What benefits you have received from your theatre experience, and
 - How your involvement in Thespians has influenced the pursuit of your goals
3. **Recorded presentation**
 - You have 5 minutes to present compelling evidence of any or all of the following:
 - Your excellence in theatre as demonstrated by previous theatrical experience or work
 - Your aspirations or plans for a future in theatre making
 - Your inspiration for pursuing a theatre path outside of performance, technical theatre, design, or education
 - It is suggested that you create your presentation in Google Slides or a similar platform; your presentation should be recorded, and photos or video of yourself should be avoided.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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KATHLEEN CONNER PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Kathleen Conner Production and Management Scholarship rewards the excellence of senior Thespians who intend to pursue a career in entertainment production or management.

Career/Education paths could include: agent, theater management, Film/TV budgets, entertainment lawyer, producer, entertainment accountant, educator, or similar.

Each troupe may submit one (1) senior Thespian for the Kathleen Conner Scholarship.

A successful applicant will...

- Demonstrate their commitment to theatre with their resume and personal statement.
- Enroll in a college or university; the Kathleen Conner Production and Management Scholarship **does not** require scholarship recipients to enroll in performing arts or arts-related major or minor for the Fall term.
- Articulate how their selected course of study supports their long term career goals in film/tv or theatre production & management.
- Be recommended by their Troupe Director.
- Be a Thespian in good standing with current troupe, with a current Thespian ID number
- Have a current email address which they check regularly; all correspondence will be conducted via email.
- Submit all required application materials via Open Water by date indicated on CA Thespian website.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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Application Materials - Kathleen Conner Production & Management Scholarship

The following items will need to be uploaded with your application, so please prepare them in advance. Please refer to the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for important information on avoiding personal information in your application materials.

1. **Resume:** one page (8.5 x 11) resume which includes: performance and technical theatre experiences, training/related courses, special talents, club affiliations, honors, awards, and other theatre-related or relevant information.
2. **Personal Statement:** 500-600 word typed personal statement which includes:
 - The major/minor that you intend to pursue
 - Your reasons for selecting this program of study and how your theatre experience will support this choice
 - Your aspirations and goals for your future
 - What benefits you have received from your theatre experience, and
 - How your involvement in Thespians has influenced the pursuit of your goals
3. **Recorded slide deck presentation,** no longer than 5 minutes, that answers any or all of the following questions:
 - As a theatre manager, what is your management style?
 - What skills have you acquired, as a theatre manager, that will apply to your life now and in the future?
 - What are your strengths?
 - What are your weaknesses?
 - What do you see yourself doing in five years regarding theatre management?
 - Tell how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work/projects.
 - Give an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help you as a theatre manager for that particular project?
 - Tell about a problem you encountered and how you handled it?

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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UNDERGRAD SCHOLARSHIP

CA Thespian Undergrad Scholarships provide support for non-senior Thespians to attend extracurricular theatre or theatre-related programs, usually during the summer, with the intention that they will implement their new skills and knowledge for the good of their troupe.

Each troupe may submit one (1) or two (2) freshman, sophomore, or junior high school Thespians.

A successful applicant will...

- Be able to demonstrate passion for theatre, preparedness for their chosen summer program, and a plan for implementing their new skills & knowledge for the good of their troupe.
- Enroll in an extracurricular theatre or theatre-related program.
- Be a freshman, sophomore, or junior high school Thespian.
- Be recommended by their Troupe Director
- Be a Thespian in good standing with current troupe, with a current Thespian ID number
- Have a current email address which they check regularly; all correspondence will be conducted via email.
- Submit all required application materials via Open Water by date indicated on CA Thespian website.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

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Application Materials - Undergrad Scholarship

The following items will need to be uploaded with your application, so please prepare them in advance. Please refer to the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for important information on avoiding personal information in your application materials.

1. **Resume:** one page (8.5 x 11) Resume which includes: performance and technical theatre experiences, training/related courses, special talents, club affiliations, honors, awards, and other theatre-related or relevant information.
2. A link to the intended summer program.
3. A short explanation of how the funds would be used.
4. **Personal Statement:** 400-600 word typed personal statement which includes:
 - What you have gained by being a Thespian
 - What you hope to gain by attending this summer program
 - How you plan to share this experience and new knowledge with your troupe.
5. **Recorded presentation**
 - Applicants have up to 5 minutes to demonstrate their passion for theatre, preparedness for their chosen summer program, and/or plan for bringing new skills & knowledge back to their troupe. Some suggestions are listed below:
 - Performance: 1 piece or 2 contrasting solo pieces, at least one of which is a monologue
 - Portfolio of technical theatre or design work
 - Presentation of troupe involvement & leadership
 - Teaching demo (or footage of previous teaching)
 - See FAQ for presentation guidelines.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

ELLIS JORDAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Ellis Jordan Scholarship awards outstanding sophomore and junior Thespians by financing their attendance at the International Thespian Festival, with the intention of supporting their personal growth and strengthening their Troupe.

The Ellis Jordan Scholarship is awarded to sophomore and junior high school Thespians who have never attended the International Thespian Festival. This scholarship covers the basic registration fee to attend this festival and does not cover transportation costs. CA State Thespians does not register the student for the festival, which is solely the recipient's responsibility.

Each troupe may submit one (1) or two (2) sophomore or junior Thespians.

A successful applicant will...

- Be able to demonstrate passion for theatre, preparedness for the International Thespian Festival, and a plan for implementing their new skills & knowledge for the good of their troupe.
- Register for the International Thespian Festival.
- Be a sophomore or junior Thespian.
- Be recommended by their Troupe Director
- Be a Thespian in good standing with current troupe, with a current Thespian ID number
- Have a current email address which they check regularly; all correspondence will be conducted via email.
- Submit all required application materials via Open Water by date indicated on CA Thespian website.
- Submit a 250 word written or 2 minute video response to attending International Thespian Festival by **September 1st** of the year awarded.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

Application Materials - Ellis Jordan Scholarship

The following items will need to be uploaded with your application, so please prepare them in advance. Please refer to the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for important information on avoiding personal information in your application materials.

1. **Resume:** one page (8.5 x 11) Resume which includes: performance and technical theatre experiences, training/related courses, special talents, club affiliations, honors, awards, and other theatre-related information.
2. **Personal Statement:** 400-600 word personal statement answering the prompt:
“Why I want to attend the International Thespian Festival and how I plan to share my experience with my Troupe Director and Thespian Troupe.”

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

CA THESPIANS UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIP RUBRIC

Judges will consider each scholarship application holistically, and give each application a score of 4-16 points based on the rubric below. Judges will also rank applications from strongest to weakest. Applicant scores will be averaged, and scholarships awarded to the highest scoring applicants.

Skill	4 Superior	3 Excellent	2 Good	1 Fair	0 Not Present
<i>Excellence in Theatre Practice</i>	Proves to be skilled in areas specific to the scholarship. Work is carefully selected, crafted and nuanced. Presentation is effective for the desired audience. Work, thought process, and professional presence is well above average for the grade/age level.	Well prepared for skills presentation in an area specific to scholarship. Work is appropriate and meets general expectations. May lack some level of sophistication. Work is strong, but may not be fully detailed or leave some area lacking. Professional presence appropriate to grade/level is developing.	Meets all basic criteria for skills presentation in an area specific to scholarship. Prepared but does not present high level, nuanced work. Meets some expectations but others need more attention to detail. Professional presence is emerging.	Does not meet criteria for skills presentation in an area specific to scholarship. Work is in the developing phase. Presentation lacks clarity or focus. Thought process not clearly communicated. Professional presence is below average for the grade/age level.	No evidence is presented that demonstrates excellence in theatre practice.

<i>Ensemble and Collaborative Mindset</i>	Explicit understanding about the importance of ensemble / collaborative mindset in theatre work is demonstrated. Provides clear examples of this work. Passion for the work is clear in the submission.	Clearly addresses ensemble / collaborative mindset. Suggests an example of this work but does not support it with details. Writes about the work with strong interest.	Mentions ensemble / collaboration. Does not provide sufficient evidence of ensemble/collaborative mindset. Interest level/passion about work is not sufficiently communicated or is average.	Lacks clear statement about ensemble / collaboration. No specific examples of ensemble / collaboration. Attitude towards work is not clearly expressed or is inconsistent.	No evidence is present that demonstrates ensemble and collaborative mindset.
<i>Community & Troupe Engagement</i>	Provides five or more specific examples of community engagement (or 1-2 per year of troupe involvement), extracurricular activities and/or leadership work that represent going above and beyond in service to their Thespian Troupe and theatre program.	Provides at least three to four specific examples of community engagement (or 1 per year of troupe involvement), extracurricular activities and/or leadership work service to their Thespian Troupe and theatre program.	Provides at least two specific examples of community engagement (or fewer than 1 per year of troupe involvement), extracurricular and/or leadership work in service to their Thespian Troupe and theatre program.	Provide at least one example of community engagement, extracurricular and/or leadership work in service to their Thespian Troupe and theatre program, or provides examples that are unclear or not connected to their troupe/community..	No evidence is present that demonstrates community & troupe engagement.

<i>Theatre Advocacy Potential</i>	Provides a clear plan & vision for lifelong involvement in the entertainment arts. Explicitly addresses how they want to share knowledge and support Thespians in the future. Strongest potential to be an advocate for Thespians & theatre arts.	Suggests a plan & vision for lifelong involvement in the entertainment arts. Clearly addresses how they want to share knowledge and support Thespians in the future. Strong potential to be an advocate for Thespians & theatre arts.	Hints at a plan & vision for lifelong involvement in the entertainment arts. Mentions that they want to share knowledge and support Thespians in the future, but lacks a strategy. Some potential to be an advocate for Thespians & theatre arts.	Unclear plan or vision for lifelong involvement in the entertainment arts. Does not address how they want to share knowledge and support Thespians in the future. Low or questionable potential to be an advocate for Thespians & theatre arts.	No evidence is present that demonstrates theatre advocacy potential.
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GAI JONES CA SENIOR HONOR THESPIAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Gai Jones Senior Honor Thespian Scholarship rewards the excellence of senior Thespians who have achieved the rank of Honor Thespian according to the bylaws of their troupe and/or the [guidelines of the International Thespian Society](#).

Each troupe may submit one (1) senior Thespian for the Gai Jones Scholarship. Senior Thespians who apply to other Senior Scholarships are eligible to *also* apply for the Gai Jones Scholarship.

A successful applicant will...

- Have a record of service and leadership within their troupe, school, and community - locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- Be recommended by their Troupe Director
- Be a Thespian in good standing with current troupe, with a current Thespian ID number
- Have a current email address which they check regularly; all correspondence will be conducted via email.
- Submit all required application materials via Open Water by date indicated on CA Thespian website.
- Note that auditions and presentations will be pre-recorded by the applicants and submitted virtually.

To avoid disqualification, be sure to follow the guidelines in the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

Selection Criteria

Gai Jones Senior Honor Thespian Scholarship applications are scored on the following attributes.

- Service within Troupe & Community (local, national, and/or international)
- Leadership within Troupe & Community (local, national, and/or international)
- Embodiment of & Reflection on Thespian Qualities
- Thespian Advocacy Potential

Application Materials - Gai Jones Senior Honor Thespian Scholarship

The following items will need to be uploaded with your application, so please prepare them in advance. Please refer to the [Scholarship FAQ and Style Guide](#) for important information on avoiding personal information in your application materials.

1. **Resume:** one page (8.5 x 11) Resume which includes
 - Theatre courses taken at school
 - Junior & senior year productions
 - Thespian troupe offices held
 - Thespian and theatre-related awards
 - School- or troupe-based leadership projects
 - State or national leadership projects & experience
2. **Personal Statement:** In a written 1,000 word statement, audio recording up to 5 minutes, or video presentation up to 5 minutes, please address the following questions in any order:
 - Reflect on one or more aspects of your service to school, troupe and community.
 - Reflect on one or more aspects of your leadership within your school, troupe and community.
 - In your future, you will face challenges. What quality(ies) did being a Thespian develop in you that will sustain you through these challenges?
 - i. Consider the Thespian pledge for inspiration: “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.”
 - How has being a Thespian affected your future plans?

GAI JONES SENIOR HONOR THESPIAN SCHOLARSHIP RUBRIC

Judges will consider each scholarship application holistically, and give each application a score of 0-16 points based on the rubric below. Judges will also rank applications from strongest to weakest. Applicant scores will be averaged, and scholarships awarded to the highest scoring applicants. In the event of a tie, judges' ranks will be used as tie breakers.

Skill	4 Superior	3 Excellent	2 Good	1 Fair	0 Not Present
<i>Service within Troupe & Community (local, national, and/or international)</i>	Provides five or more specific examples of Troupe & community service engagement (or 1-2 per year of troupe involvement), and/or extracurricular activities that represent going above and beyond in service to their Thespian Troupe and community.	Provides at least three to four specific examples of Troupe & community service (or 1 per year of troupe involvement), and/or extracurricular activities in service to their Thespian Troupe and community.	Provides at least two specific examples of Troupe & community service (or fewer than 1 per year of troupe involvement), and/or extracurricular activities in service to their Thespian Troupe and community.	Provides one example of community engagement, and/or extracurricular work in service to their Thespian Troupe and community, or provides multiple examples that are unclear or unconnected to their troupe and community.	No evidence of service within Troupe & Community is present.

<i>Leadership within Troupe & Community (local, national, and/or international)</i>	Provides five or more specific examples of leadership within Troupe & community (or 1-2 per year of troupe involvement), extracurricular activities and/or leadership work that represent going above and beyond in service to their Thespian Troupe and community.	Provides at least three to four specific examples of community engagement (or 1 per year of troupe involvement), extracurricular activities and/or leadership work in service to their Thespian Troupe and community.	Provides at least two specific examples of community engagement (or fewer than 1 per year of troupe involvement), extracurricular and/or leadership work in service to their Thespian Troupe and community.	Provides only one example of community engagement, extracurricular and/or leadership work in service to their Thespian Troupe or community.	No evidence of leadership within Troupe & Community is present.
<i>Embodiment of, and Reflection on Thespian Qualities:</i> • <i>Excellence as Ideal,</i> • <i>Accepting praise & criticism with grace,</i> • <i>Cooperating for the good of the Troupe</i> • <i>Sharing love of Theatre</i>	Demonstrates explicit understanding of the ideal qualities of a Thespian. Provides clear examples of growth in at least 2 specific areas. Passion for the work is clear in the submission.	Clearly addresses ideal qualities of a Thespian. Suggests an example of growth in at least 1 area. Writes about the work with strong interest.	Mentions ideal qualities of a Thespian. Does not provide sufficient evidence of growth in these areas, or evidence is inspecific. Interest level/passion about work is not sufficiently communicated or is average.	Lacks clear statement about ideal Thespian qualities. No specific examples of growth in these areas. Attitude towards work is not clearly expressed or is inconsistent.	No evidence of embodiment of Thespian qualities is present. No reflection on Thespian qualities is present.

<i>Thespian Advocacy Potential</i>	Provides a clear plan & vision for lifelong involvement in the entertainment arts. Explicitly addresses how they want to share knowledge and support Thespians in the future. Strongest potential to be an advocate for Thespians & theatre arts.	Suggests a plan & vision for lifelong involvement in the entertainment arts. Clearly addresses how they want to share knowledge and support Thespians in the future. Strong potential to be an advocate for Thespians & theatre arts.	Hints at a plan & vision for lifelong involvement in the entertainment arts. Mentions that they want to share knowledge and support Thespians in the future, but lacks a strategy. Some potential to be an advocate for Thespians & theatre arts.	Plan or vision for lifelong involvement in the entertainment arts is unclear or lacking. Does not address how they want to share knowledge and support Thespians in the future. Low or questionable potential to be an advocate for Thespians & theatre arts.	No evidence of Thespian advocacy potential is present.
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THE NICK ROBINSON FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The Nick Robinson Fellowship Award highlights and honors Thespians who are creative problem solvers, willing to dream big and think outside the box to accomplish whatever needs to be done.

The Nick Robinson Fellowship Award includes a monetary award as well as a mentorship opportunity with members of Nick's Thespian Tech Community. The specific mentorship opportunity will be determined based on the awardee's skills, talents, and interests.

The Nick Robinson Fellowship Award is a two-step process, beginning with a teacher-nominated and submitted application, followed by a Zoom interview for those students who make it past the first round screening.

Teachers (troupe sponsors/directors, and/or technical directors) may nominate one (1) applicant per troupe. Junior and senior inducted Thespians are eligible for this new award; recipients do not need to attend State Festival to receive this award.

A successful nomination application will record a video or write a 500-word description that...

- Highlights the nominee's creative problem-solving acumen.
- Describes how the nominee created a system, solved an issue, or demonstrated some other innovation that improved a production or the troupe.
- Explains how the nominee may be considered a "non-traditional" theatre maker. This award is not (necessarily) for the "best" technician, but rather, the person who makes you think "we couldn't do this without them."
- Is submitted via Open Water by date indicated on CA Thespian website.

After the initial screening of the teacher nominations, finalists for the award will be invited to participate in a Zoom interview.

[APPLY HERE](#)