

—— Mission Statement ——

The American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) was developed to allow our nation's drama students to showcase their skills within an international forum. Our Festival provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for participants to travel to Edinburgh, Scotland and experience, first-hand, the world-renowned Fringe Festival through their performances and attendance at other Fringe shows.

AHSTF runs in conjunction with the Fringe Festival – the world's largest performing arts festival. Thousands of actors, directors, writers, producers and other artisans, as well as hundreds of thousands of theatregoers converge in Edinburgh, Scotland each August for the Fringe Festival. AHSTF's commitment to the excitement and importance of art allows America's best drama students to experience this event as performers and audience members. The AHSTF experience also includes two days in London to take in world-class, West End theatre and historic sites.

AHSTF, developed with the help of high school and college drama professionals, is designed to complement high school drama programs and is dedicated to the lessons that drama teaches our youth. We believe that performing internationally at the Fringe Festival provides a valuable learning experience for all who participate. Upon completion of the Festival, participants will know theatre as never before and will gain a new appreciation of the many art forms theatre encompasses.

To this end, it is our belief that this unique opportunity should be made available to as many students as possible. To promote diverse participation, AHSTF does not allow participating school to represent their state in consecutive years. Further, we recommend that participating schools perform shows that allow an average of 30 participants to take advantage of this experience as cast, crew or chaperone. Not only do the students benefit, but it also ensures that the United States is well represented in Edinburgh.

AHSTF is committed to providing each member of our American contingent a positive and memorable theatre experience.

