

AHSTF Edinburgh 2009 FAQs

Q: What is the American High School Theatre Festival program?

A: AHSTF is a student travel program run by WorldStrides, a student travel organization based in Charlottesville, VA. For more than a dozen years, they have brought high school theatre troupes to Edinburgh, Scotland, to participate in the largest international arts festival in the world: the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Our group will have a chance to perform 4 times at the Fringe as well as to see other performances by high school groups from around the US and other Fringe artists and to tour London, Edinburgh, and the surrounding countryside.

Q: How much will this cost?

A: Approximately \$6,000 per participant. This includes travel, lodging, 2 meals per day at our residence hall, and free admission to all AHSTF fringe shows as well as production costs.

Q: Are there extra expenses beyond the fee?

A: You will be responsible for one meal per day, tickets to any non-AHSTF fringe shows you attend, and any tourist activities not coordinated by AHSTF. Don't forget souvenirs. There are also additional expenses for us as a group, such as promotional material and production rentals and hopefully a few tourist activities and group meals at restaurants. We will try to cover these group costs through fundraising.

Q: How can we pay our fee?

A: You will pay your fee directly to St. Stephen's. We will then pay the travel company for the whole group. You may pay in a lump sum or arrange monthly payments through the business office. Your entire fee will need to be paid by July 1, 2009.

Q: What if we can't afford the whole fee?

A: Theatre faculty, parents, & students will be actively fundraising throughout the year to cover a portion of the fee for participants who need financial assistance. We will work together to make sure that every student who wants to go can go. Please communicate on a confidential basis with Ms. Ludwig about the amount of financial assistance you think you will need.

Q: When will we travel?

A: Our travel dates are August 4 – 17. We will fly into London, spend two days sightseeing & theatre-going, and then travel by train to Edinburgh for the rest of our stay.

Q: What additional time commitment will there be?

A: We will plan to rehearse and re-mount the show during the week prior to our departure, beginning on July 28.

Q: Will we be back in Austin before school starts in the fall?

A: Yes. However, this may be a consideration for graduating seniors whose college orientation may start earlier.

Q: What are we performing?

A: We will be taking our spring production, *Red Noses*. A pdf file of the script (which will be significantly cut to fit into the 90-minute time limit) can be viewed at <http://spartans.sstx.org/~mludwig> by clicking the "Productions" link.

Q: Who will be going?

A: Any Theatre Focus student who wants to participate may do so as either a performer or a technician. Because we have many more performers than technicians in TF, any tech theatre student will also be invited to participate as a member of the tech team. We hope to bring 5-7 chaperones including Ms. Ludwig, Mr. Whyburn, Ms. Horn, Ms. Green, and several parents.

Q: When do I need to make a decision about going?

A: Ms. Ludwig needs to know as soon as possible if you intend to go, as we have a deposit due by September 13. You must make a commitment with signed registration by **October 1, 2008**. Please keep in mind that performers will commit to the program before casting, but every performer will be guaranteed a role.

Q: Why should I go?

A: Because you love doing theatre. Because you love seeing theatre. Because you love traveling. Because you want to meet other high school theatre students from around the country and see them perform. Because AHSTF has a top-notch team who have the details of the program down to a science. Because ensuring your safety and providing you with an amazing learning experience are their top priority. Because you will be a better theatre artist and better collaborator having gone. Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate as a global artist-citizen in the largest international arts festival in the world. Why *not*?

~Please contact Ms. Ludwig with any additional questions!~