**What Is The International Thespian Society?**

 The International Thespian Society has been honoring excellence in the work of theatre students since 1929. Thespian troupes serve students in grades nine through twelve. There are at present active

ITS troupes in more than 3,900 high schools and middle schools, mostly in the United States and Canada. The Society recently inducted its two millionth Thespian. Each troupe is led by a troupe director who is a professional member of the Educational Theatre Association. The troupe director is typically—but not always—the theatre teacher in the school. Students earn an invitation to Thespian

Society membership on the basis of their achievements in the school’s theatre program.

**QUICK FACTS GLOBALLY:**

1. Many famous actors are lifelong ITS members (Tom Hanks, Julia Louis-Dreyfus etc.)
2. ITS has 80,000 active members and over 34,000 new inductees every year
3. ITS presents over $100,000 in scholarships to Thespian members each year

**QUICK FACTS LOCALLY:**

1.ITS was the first Honors Society chartered at Liberty, in 1981.

1. Every Scholarship recipient for the past four years has been an active ITS member.
2. In the past two years, ITS members have received over $20,000 in scholarship money at LHS.

**INDUCTION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Participate in two LHS Drama productions per school year.
2. Keep track of and earn 12 points.
3. Participate in two different areas of theatre for each show.
4. 6 points must come from LHS productions.

**MAINTAINING ACTIVE MEMBERS REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Keep track of an earn points for every season.
2. Maintain a GPA of 2.75 or greater.
3. Earn B’s or better in all Drama Classes.

**BENEFITS:**

1. Participation in the Winter One Act.
2. Participation in the Maryland State Thespian Festival.
3. Highest Scholarship Winners in the Liberty High School Drama Program.
4. Earn pins, medallions, and other honors for graduation.
5. Appears prestigious on college and job applications.

**What Is The Maryland State Festival?**

 Every year, ITS members have the opportunity to travel to Tuscarora High School and compete in various events, see shows, and talk to college representatives from the tristate area. During the two day trip, students have the opportunity to:

* **Compete In A One Act:** Each troupe has the opportunity to perform a one act show. The show that takes places first on the main stage is invited to Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska to perform.
* **Participate In Individual Events:** Students may compete in front of a panel of adjudicators in both performance and design aspects of theatre. Students who receive a rating of ‘superior’ are invited to compete at Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska.
* **Earn Scholarships:** Seniors have the opportunity to compete in front of a panel of adjudicators in both performance and design aspects of theatre to earn college scholarships.
* **Participate In Workshops:** Over 50 workshops and master classes are offered, taught by professionals from all over the world.
* **College Outreach:** Colleges observe students and request interviews based on participation in workshops, Individual Events, and One Acts.

 **Why Should I Attend Nationals?**

 Every June, Troupe #984 attends the National Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska. Throughout the week, students are able to go to workshops, see shows and talk to college representatives. Students have the opportunity to:

* **Perform Their One Act:** The troupe that places first at the state level will be invited to Nationals to perform.
* **Participate In Individual Events:** Students who receive a rating of ‘superior’ at states are invited to compete at the National level and have the opportunity to be a part of a main stage showcase at the end of the week.
* **Earn Scholarships:** Two seniors from each troupe are eligible to compete for scholarships ranging from $10,000 to $20,000.
* **Participate In Workshops:** Over the course of the week, students will on average attend 2-3 workshops a day, taught by college professors and Broadway professionals.
* **College Auditions & Outreach:** Juniors have the opportunity to audition in front of over 50 attending colleges all at once, and receive callbacks from prospective schools. Sophomores are able to interview with colleges of their choice.
* **See Theatre:** Students will see an average of two 2 main stage shows as well as 2-4 one acts a day. Students and chaperones who attend these shows compare the caliber of work to the professional level.