

# ACADEMY NOTES

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

Today's Newsletter Is Sponsored By **THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**



## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



Kandy Lopez, *Hispaniola*, 2024.

### TAA PARTICIPANT PREVIEW 11:30 AM - 1:05 PM

Summer Institute participants will visit *The Myth of Absence*; *Best of the Best Student Art Exhibition*; *Connections: Tennessee Art Education Association Member Exhibition*; *STARS: The State of Tennessee Art Review and Showcase*.



### MUSER

Chaz Guest  
1:20 PM

### MTSU Tucker Theatre

The appearance of Chaz Guest is made possible by the generous gift from the Hays Foundation, established by Marlene and Spencer Hays.

## ACADEMY NEWS

### TODAY'S SPECIAL EVENTS

**THE REEL DEAL: FOOD, FILM, & FILMMAKERS:** Unwind with a special TAA evening event featuring "Classic Cinema" today at 6 PM in the MTSU Tucker Theatre. This unique experience includes the screening of *Searching for Bobby Fischer*—a gripping film that delves into the world of chess, competition, and personal growth. After the film, we're thrilled to bring you a virtual Talk Back session with none other than the film's director, Steven Zaillian. With an impressive career that spans some of Hollywood's greatest films—including *Awakenings*, *Gangs of New York*, *Moneyball*, *The Irishman*, and the Oscar-winning *Schindler's List*—Steven Zaillian is sure to offer fascinating insights into the world of filmmaking. Pizza, popcorn, and pop will be served at 6:00 PM. The movie starts at 6:30 PM. Enjoy tasty snacks, connect with lively conversation, and let the film spark new ideas for your own creative work!

*The Reel Deal is generously sponsored by Solie Fott and Michael Meise.*

**ART EXHIBITIONS:** *The Myth of Absence*, *Tennessee's Best of the Best Student Art Exhibition*, *Connections: Tennessee Art Education Association Member Exhibition*, and *STARS: The State of Tennessee Art Review and Showcase* are all open for exploration in MTSU Todd Hall in the Todd Art Gallery and the first floor galleries.

### STUDENT AND TEACHER ARTIST RECOGNITION CEREMONY AND

**RECEPTION:** Today is Visual Art Recognition Day at the TAA Summer Institute! Help congratulate our talented student and teacher artists by joining us today at 5:00 PM in MTSU Todd Hall, first floor galleries for a recognition ceremony and reception.

*The Myth of Absence by Kandy Lopez is co-sponsored by the Middle Tennessee State University College of Art and Design and is made possible by generous gifts from Rena Ellzy, Solie Fott, and the Tennessee Arts Academy Foundation. All works are Courtesy: ACA Galleries, New York.*

*Best of the Best and Connections exhibitions are co-sponsored by the the Tennessee Art Education Association and the Tennessee Arts Academy and are presented in partnership with the Middle Tennessee State University Department of Art and Design.*

*The STARS exhibition at the Tennessee Arts Academy is sponsored and organized by the Tennessee Art Education Association and co-sponsored by the Tennessee Arts Academy. The exhibition is presented in partnership with the Middle Tennessee State University Department of Art and Design.*

*Special thanks to Jimmy Mumford, MTSU Department of Art and Design Chair; Eric Snyder, MTSU Gallery Coordinator; Rick Rishaw, MTSU Gallery Preparator; and to Jim Dodson, the founder and creator of the Best of the Best and Connections exhibitions.*

## COMING ATTRACTIONS



**Triple Play: Cumberland County Playhouse Presents!**  
**Wednesday, July 16**  
**11:30 AM**  
**Tucker Theatre**

*The performance by the Cumberland County Playhouse is made possible by a generous gift from Thane Smith, in memory of Pat Smith.*



**WEDNESDAY**  
**Bravo! Banquet with**  
**Norm Lewis**  
**6:30 PM**

**Student Union Grand Ballroom**  
*Appearances of Norm Lewis throughout the week are made possible by a generous gift from Thane Smith, in memory of Pat Smith.*

**USE THE QR CODE BELOW**  
**OR THE TAA APP TO SIGN UP FOR**  
**BRAVO BANQUET SEATING**

Bravo Seating  
Banquet Sign-Up



Scan Here  
To Sign-Up!

## RECAP AND REFLECTIONS



### QUOTES FROM OUR MONDAY MUSER, RICKY IAN GORDON

"I pulled from Mrs. Fox's bookshelf a book about opera and opened it. It was as if a light went off inside me! It was so inexplicable. My memory of it was as if I opened the book and there was smoke and light behind it."-Ricky Ian Gordon

"The map of my life was always there, I just didn't know it at the time. Somehow I was constructing an aesthetic in my head. This is very important: what are you drawn to? If you are an artist, you are somehow collecting the seeds of your aesthetic that will explode in your body of work."- Ricky Ian Gordon

### ACADEMY REMINDERS

**BRAVO BANQUET SEATING — SIGN UP BY LUNCH!** Today at lunch is the last day to sign up for Wednesday evening's Bravo Banquet and Performance table seating. You may do so at the TAA Office table, using the QR code to the left, or on the app.

**TAA NYC FUNDRAISER:** Don't forget to purchase a ticket for the Tennessee Arts Academy NYC Fundraiser! The winner will receive an all-expense paid weekend trip to NYC for two that includes airfare, hotel, dinner, and a Broadway show of your choice.

**TAA SILENT AUCTION:** Bidding for the silent auction, featuring items like gift baskets, gift cards, and handcrafted goods by TAA artisans begins today during lunch and will continue through lunch on Wednesday and Thursday.

**PHOTOS AVAILABLE:** A TAA photographer will be available today through Thursday in a specially designated area during lunch. Photos taken today will be posted in the TAA photo gallery on the TAA website and on TAA social media.

**ACADEMY JOURNAL:** You received a TAA journal yesterday that we hope you'll use to write down thoughts about your experience during this intense week of arts immersion. What connections can you make to your past, present and future? How can you transfer Academy experiences into your classroom?

**TODAY'S INTERMEZZO SPONSOR IS MUSIC FIRST**

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