

ACADEMY NOTES

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

Today's Newsletter is sponsored by **Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts!**



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

MUSER Betsy Wolfe



1:50 PM
MTSU Tucker Theatre

The appearance of Betsy Wolfe throughout the week is made possible by a generous gift from Thane Smith, in memory of Pat Smith.

MORE OF TODAY'S
HIGHLIGHTS ON
THE BACK!

ACADEMY NEWS

TODAY'S SPECIAL EVENTS

TAA ARTS EXPO, VENDOR FAIR, & ARTIST MARKET: Academy participants and all interested arts teachers across the state are invited to attend the TAA Arts Expo, Vendor Fair, and Artist Market in the MTSU Student Union Grand Ballroom from 11:45 AM - 1:45 PM. The Arts Vendor Fair includes display booths from leading music, theatre, and visual art vendors as well as arts-related organizations. Participants will enjoy learning about the many resources, products, and perks offered by the exhibitors. Concurrent with the Arts Expo and Vendor Fair, the TAA Artist Market features art, crafts, and jewelry sold by talented Academy artist-educators. The TAA Carnival helps enliven the proceedings with tuneful music by the Zicky Hart and Daniel Kuk Duo and balloon artistry by Sam Cremeens. Treats to be served include pretzels, popcorn, cookies, fudge, and popsicles.

BROADWAY CARES: Please consider a donation to one of TAA's partner organizations, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. You can donate at the vendor fair in the yellow buckets or at tnartsacademy.org and click **GIVE NOW** in honor of BCEFA.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Alumni Association members and all participants who donated to or won an item in the Silent Auction receive a special invitation to attend this yummy event in the **Student Union Grand Ballroom at 5:15 PM.**

ACADEMY REMINDERS

TAA NYC FUNDRAISER: Don't forget to buy NYC Fundraiser Giveaway tickets today. The winner will receive an all-expense paid weekend trip for two to NYC that includes airfare, hotel, dinner, and a Broadway show of your choice. The drawing will happen tomorrow at the TAA Finale Luncheon!

TAA SILENT AUCTION: Today is the last day to bid on silent auction items. Bidding on these wonderful gifts and collectibles ends at 1:15 PM. Winners will be announced on the app and a physical list will be posted in each break area.

THURSDAY LUNCH: Lunch today will be served in the MTSU Student Union Building. All participants will receive a voucher for a free meal in the Student Union food court, including Panda Express, Nashville Chicken & Waffles, the Farmers' Market (MTSU secondary dining hall), and more!

PHOTOS AVAILABLE: Today is the last day to have your picture made in front of the TAA backdrop. A TAA photographer will be in the MTSU Student Union Building during lunch.

FRIDAY CHECKOUT: Participants staying in on-campus housing need to check out of the residence hall before the first class session at 8 AM. Everything must be removed from the rooms, including all trash. There are dumpsters behind each building. Please take your room keys to your building's front desk where you checked in. Trash left in rooms and failure to return housing keys and key cards may result in fines.

FINALE LUNCHEON: This final special event begins tomorrow at 11:30 AM in the MTSU Student Union Grand Ballroom.

TODAY'S PERFORMANCE



PERFORMANCE

Nashville Children's Theatre
11:20 AM

MTSU Tucker Theatre
Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building

The performance of Seussical the Musical by Nashville Children's Theatre is made possible by a generous gift from Thane Smith, in memory of Pat Smith.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

FINALE LUNCHEON

Friday, July 17
11:30 AM

MTSU Student Union
Grand Ballroom

The TAA Chorale, under the direction of
Thomas J. Standish-Rinn
Alex Shor- Accordionist

TAA AUCTION LAST DAY TO BID!

**GREAT BARGAINS STILL
AVAILABLE!**

Scan Here to
Start Bidding!



Online auction boards start closing at 5:45 pm today. Don't miss your opportunity to win a once in a lifetime Zulu Nyala Safari Trip!

RECAP AND REFLECTIONS



QUOTES FROM WEDNESDAY'S MUSER, MARC SHAIMAN

"When people ask me where I got my talent, I used to just shrug my shoulders, but now I say, "my father." During the last part of his life, he began to carve wood. He was an artist. He would take a block of wood and free the character within." - Marc Shaiman

"I've had so many dream-come-true stories. Just keep showing up and say yes. You never know when that right moment is going to be." - Marc Shaiman

ACADEMY REMINDERS CONTINUED

TAA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: TAA Alumni Association membership is open to all graduates and friends of the Tennessee Arts Academy. Benefits include special invitations and discounted pricing to yearly Academy events, access to purchase Academy materials, eligibility to nominate TAA award honorees, and much more!

TAA EVALUATIONS AND CERTIFICATES: On Friday afternoon, all participants will be emailed the 2026 TAA Summer Institute Evaluation and Attendance Verification Form from support@hanwi.com. Please follow the links to the survey. The evaluation and attendance verification form will not only provide us with much needed feedback about the TAA Summer Institute, but will also give you an opportunity to record the hours you completed during the week. You must complete the survey by Wednesday, August 5, 2026, for TAA to issue a certificate or letter of attendance.

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